

Bike Walk Kentucky

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The past year was an exciting one for Bike Walk Kentucky! Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, our third year in existence was a pivotal one for our state.

It was a particularly significant year in the advocacy arena.

- In the [ranking of Bicycle Friendly States](#), in just one year Kentucky moved up from 43th to 37th.
- [Kentuckians for Better Transportation](#) added Active Transportation to its list of advocacy modes.
- Bike Walk Kentucky advocated for a statewide [Complete Streets](#) policy to key legislators and before the Joint Interim Transportation Committee of the Kentucky State Legislature.
- In September, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet announced it is implementing a Complete Streets policy.

You can read more about these and other advocacy initiatives in the following 2022 annual report, including:

- The Kentucky Cycling Challenge
- Share the Road campaign
- Campaign for a Bicycle Friendly Kentucky
- Ride Spot

In addition, in 2022 Bike Walk Kentucky was awarded a Gold Seal of Transparency by [GuideStar](#). Bike Walk Kentucky then engaged in its first fundraising campaign through the [Good Giving Challenge](#). Many thanks to our many donors for your support, which makes us able to continue building on this momentum.

And we welcome our new board members who began their terms in 2023 - Chris Glasser (Louisville), Caitlin Sparks (Newport), and Katherine Stone (Lexington). And, of course, we thank our outgoing board members - Jessica Blankenship (London) and Natalie Jones (Lexington). As all volunteer run organization, we depend on and appreciate their dedication and leadership.

And we depend on your support! We welcome you to donate at any time. And a fun way to support Bike Walk Kentucky and help get the word out is to [shop our new logo wear](#).

We look forward to seeing you out there biking and walking!



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Advocacy

For many years, Kentucky has lagged in its status as a **Bicycle Friendly State**.

In 2021, Kentucky ranked 43 among the states. In just one year, Kentucky moved up to 37th in 2022. It is the goal of Bike Walk Kentucky to seize this momentum to keep building healthier and more active communities for our state.

As a step in this direction, during the 2022 legislative session, Bike Walk Kentucky volunteers visited key legislators to advocate for bicycle and pedestrian safety and endorse **statewide goals** set forth by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. As a result, Bike Walk Kentucky was invited to present to the legislative Interim Joint Transportation Committee in May. Alongside Jennifer Kirchner (Executive Director of Kentuckians for Better Transportation), Mike Sewell (Board President of Bike Walk Kentucky) advocated the importance for Kentucky to adopt a Complete Streets policy.

In September, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet announced it was implementing a Complete Streets policy and released a comprehensive policy manual. Historically, streets and highways in Kentucky were designed around motor vehicles and did not always consider alternative modes of transportation. This new policy aims to approach roadway development holistically, considering the needs of all users. (See more information in the report below.)

Bike Walk Kentucky also became a member of **Kentuckians for Better Transportation**, which in 2022 added Active Transportation to its list of advocacy modes.

We also began to make our presence better known statewide, presenting, attending and exhibiting at local events and major annual conferences such as those of the Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission, Kentuckians for Better Transportation and Tri-State Trails.



Complete Streets



Having advocated for a statewide Complete Streets policy, Bike Walk Kentucky is elated that in 2022 the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet implemented a Complete Streets policy that aims to approach roadway development holistically, considering the needs of all users.

This policy will have a significant impact on the development and safety of Kentucky's roads and trails.

The Cabinet also created a comprehensive Complete Streets, Roads, and Highways Manual to help communities implement this new policy and develop safe, accessible roads and trails.

In 2023, Keith Lovan, KYTC's bicycle and pedestrian coordinator and Vice President of Bike Walk Kentucky, will soon announce workshops across the state to train people on the policy and the manual.

In addition, watch for a tool kit under development by Bike Walk Kentucky to help guide smaller communities through the policy and the manual.

For more information, visit Bike Walk Kentucky's [Complete Streets web page](#).



Kentucky Cycling Challenge



Bike Walk Kentucky became the lead organizer of the **Kentucky Cycling Challenge** in January 2021. Now in its eleventh year, the Challenge promotes tourism and public health.

In addition, Challenge-related events promoted the Share the Road campaign. Partnering with communities across the state that host cycling events, the Challenge encourages cyclists to complete the century or metric century routes at all or most of the rides to earn a free Challenge jersey and shorts.



The 2022 Challenge featured five rides:

- Redbud Ride - London
- The Horsey Hundred - Georgetown
- Licking Valley Century - Alexandria
- Rock the Crater - Middlesboro
- Bluegrass Century - Owensboro

Over 400 people registered for the Challenge, and 150 completed the Challenge (participating in four of the five rides) and earned a free jersey and bib/shorts. Riders came from 12 different states including Michigan, Illinois, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, Florida and Maryland.

Register for the 2023 Kentucky Cycling Challenge beginning March 1 at [Kentucky Cycling Challenge](#). And follow the Challenge on Facebook!

OVER **400** REGISTERED FOR THE CHALLENGE

OVER **150** COMPLETED THE CHALLENGE

RIDERS FROM **12** STATES





Share the Road Campaign

Bike Walk Kentucky's Share the Road campaign encourages more people to purchase a Share the Road license plate.

These plates not only raise awareness for safe cycling, but also increase the pool of funds for [Paula Nye Memorial Education Grants](#) that go to Kentucky communities for education on bicycle and pedestrian safety. The campaign also helps inform people about these grants and encourages them to apply for their communities.

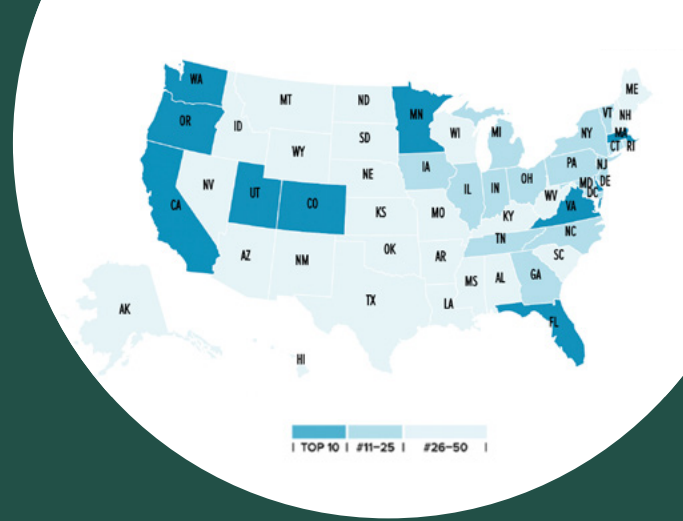
The grants are awarded by the [Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission](#), which are funded by the Share the Road license plates in Kentucky.

Bike Walk Kentucky continues to distribute promotional materials all over the state. If you can help distribute materials, both printed and through websites and social media, contact Sharon Brown at sbrown@transy.edu.

This project is funded by donations made to Kentucky's "Share the Road" specialty plate program administered by the Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission.



Campaign for a Bicycle Friendly Kentucky



Kentucky can add two cities to the list of Bicycle Friendly Communities!

Congratulations to Pikeville and Frankfort for receiving recognition from the League of American Bicyclists with an Honorable Mention. This is particularly significant because this was their first time applying. Only 60% of first time applicants receive any acknowledgement.

This year Bowling Green is applying for a grant from General Motors to fund a two-day workshop that will help in their application process. Good Luck Bowling Green!

Also a major accomplishment, Kentucky jumped its **Bicycle Friendly America** ranking among the states from 43rd in 2021 to 37th in 2022.

Kentucky has four universities and nine businesses that have either a bronze, silver or gold ranking. Lexington and Louisville have a bronze and silver ranking respectively.

For more information on how your community, business or university can be awarded bicycle-friendly status, visit [Campaign for a Bicycle Friendly Kentucky](#) or contact Keith Lovan at keith.lovan@gmail.com.

#37  BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE RANKING

4  BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

9 BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

4 BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES



Ride Spot



Kentucky is home to some of the best cycling opportunities in the world.

Bike Walk Kentucky has partnered with [People for Bikes](#) to create [Bike Walk Kentucky Ride Spot](#) to share great rides and cycling routes across Kentucky. [Ride Spot](#) fits perfectly with our focus areas of health and safety, as well as tourism and economic development.

During our initial year, we reached out to cycling events, clubs and individuals across the state to identify signature routes. We are pleased to currently feature eight great routes from Berea/Richmond, Frankfort, Lexington, London, Louisville and Midway.



People cycle for a wide variety of reasons. And Kentucky has it all. Our goal is to feature Kentucky's unique scenic roads, trails, natural resources and history.

Want the challenge of mountainous road climbing?

Or the luxury of flat serene country lanes and small town cafes?

Feel the dirt or gravel under your tires?

Explore Kentucky's Bluegrass, bourbon trails, BBQ, parks and waterways?

Enjoy scenic trails that are car-free?

We invite you to help identify cycling routes in your area. Contact Randy Thomas at randysthomas@yahoo.com with your favorite routes.



Bike Walk Kentucky

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Our Mission

Our mission is to educate and advocate for safe bicycling and walking across Kentucky.

Our Vision

We envision a healthy and active Kentucky where cycling and walking are safe, accessible and welcoming to all without regard to ability or income through development of bicycle facilities, multi-use paths and trails.

Our Focus Areas

Education

We engage Kentuckians of all abilities, interests, and skills to increase knowledge, acceptance, and understanding of cycling and walking, whether for transportation, recreation, or both.

Advocacy

We work with government officials and other organizations to make cycling and walking more accessible and safer for all.

Health & Safety

By working with government officials and through educational programming, we are working to create a built environment and promote individual behaviors that promote safety.

Tourism & Economic Development

Our commonwealth's natural beauty is one of its greatest assets. Easy access to safe cycling and walking activities will bring people to Kentucky and grow our economy.

