

Bike Walk Kentucky

FALL NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

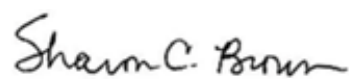
So much has happened in Kentucky in the world of cycling and walking this year!

The Red Bud Ride in London kicked off the **Kentucky Cycling Challenge** in April, with five rides across the state culminating in September with the Limestone Cycling Tour in Maysville.

The Bike Walk Kentucky Summit, held from August 14-16 in Lexington, brought together a diverse group of over 300 leaders from across the state in tourism, transportation, government, recreation, and education. The Summit featured a robust lineup of keynote speakers, including Kentucky Secretary of Transportation Jim Gray, who highlighted the state's ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure and safety measures. Secretary Gray's attendance underscored the importance of state leadership in these initiatives. Additionally, the Summit hosted a series of breakout sessions led by experts in urban planning, public health, and advocacy, providing attendees with valuable insights and strategies for driving change in their communities.

The League of American Bicyclists plan to release their rankings of Bicycle Friendly States this month. Kentucky has made great strides to enhance their infrastructure, policies, and culture around walking and cycling. We eagerly anticipate Kentucky moving up the ranks from its current place at 37th (43rd in 2022). The League also announced some additions to its list of friendly communities and businesses. Let's continue to build on this momentum! As an all-volunteer-run organization, we depend on and appreciate your dedication and support. Please encourage you to support your local walking and cycling advocacy initiatives and of course, Bike Walk Kentucky!

We encourage you to attend the annual meeting of the **Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeways Commission** November 7-8, to continue sharing innovative ideas and best practices (see details in the newsletter) - and, of course, seeing you out there biking and walking!



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Kentucky Cycling Challenge

The dust has settled on another epic **Kentucky Cycling Challenge!** A massive **343 riders from twelve states** signed up to conquer challenging courses while pedaling through breathtaking landscapes.

Congratulations to all participants with special recognition to the **40 cyclists** who earned a free kit by completing all five century or metric century rides. And a standing ovation for the **65 dedicated riders** who earned a free jersey by participating in at least four rides and logging 250+ miles. Another **25 aspiring riders** earned the opportunity to purchase a jersey by pedaling at least 180 miles in three of the events.

A big **THANK YOU** to the five incredible rides and their host communities for showcasing Kentucky's natural beauty with a grand total of **3,556 riders registered for the five events.**

Join us next year for another unforgettable **Kentucky Cycling Challenge!** Look for details on Bike Walk Kentucky's website later this year.

Participating Communities:

- [The Redbud Ride](#) - held April 20, London, KY
- [The Horsey Hundred](#) - held May 24 - 26, Georgetown, KY
- [The Licking Valley Century](#) - held June 22, Alexandria, KY
- [Rock The Crater Ride](#) - held August 3, Middlesboro, KY
- [Limestone Cycling Tour](#) - held September 7, Maysville, KY



Make plans to attend the
KBBC Annual Meeting

November 7 & 8
Morehead, Kentucky

You are Invited!



The Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission Annual Meeting is set for November 7 & 8 at Eagle Trace Golf Course in Morehead, Kentucky.

The theme is "Safer Biking and Walking in Kentucky." The first day of the annual meeting is reserved for KBBC Commissioners. The second day (Nov 8) is open to the public.

Forums Include:

- Office of Highway Safety's Vulnerable Road User programs
- Information about improving the safety of cyclists and pedestrians
- Presentations from communities across KY making significant progress to transform their communities to be more bike and pedestrian friendly.

[TO LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

Celebrating Kentucky's Growth

The League of American Bicyclists' **Bicycle Friendly America Program** has been a catalyst for communities, universities, and businesses to enhance their infrastructure, policies, and culture around cycling. The program awards Bicycle Friendly designations to cities, universities, and workplaces that promote safe cycling, encourage active transportation, and provide opportunities for cycling education and advocacy. Interested in joining the movement? **Reach out to us by clicking here!**

Bicycle Friendly Communities

Bike Walk Kentucky is here to help navigate communities and businesses interested in pursuing these distinctions. This year **Calvert City** was added to the **Bicycle Friendly Communities** beside **Lexington** and **Louisville**. This accomplishment underscores the state's commitment to improving cycling access and safety for residents and visitors alike.

Kentucky's Bicycle Friendly Businesses

Kentucky also has ten Bicycle Friendly Businesses, with the **Central Kentucky YMCA** being the newest to receive this designation this year, further cementing the state's dedication to creating environments where cycling thrives.



- Broomwagon Coffee & Bikes, Lexington
- Copperhead Consulting, Paint Lick
- Bullhorn, Lexington
- London Laurel Tourist Commission, London
- Gresham Smith, Louisville
- BikeWorld, Inc., Paducah
- West Sixth Brewing, Lexington
- Lexmark International, Inc, Lexington
- YMCA of Central KY, High Street, Lexington

Kentucky's Bicycle Friendly Universities

In addition, Kentucky is also home to three Bicycle Friendly Universities: the **University of Louisville**, the **University of Kentucky**, and **Morehead State University**. These institutions have made significant investments in cycling infrastructure and programs, ensuring that their campuses are safer and more accessible for students and staff who bike.

In 2023, Kentucky was ranked 37th up from 42nd in 2022 in state rankings released by the League of American Bicyclists.



New State Rankings Released in November

Excitingly, the **League of American Bicyclists will release state rankings** this fall, with Kentucky's ranking being eagerly anticipated. Earlier this year, the **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC)** completed a comprehensive survey to provide input for these rankings. Look for the official announcement in November, which will highlight Kentucky's progress and areas for future development. Let's keep up the momentum and continue to support Kentucky's growing bicycle-friendly landscape!



BWKY Advocates of the Year

In the world of active transportation and advocacy, it's often the tireless work of individuals that drives real change. This year, Bike Walk Kentucky is proud to honor three remarkable advocates whose passion and dedication have not only advanced our shared mission but have also inspired countless others. Join us in celebrating Wanda Bertram, Keith Lovan, and Olivia "Liv" Birkenhauer as they receive the Advocate of the Year award.



Wanda Bertram

A champion for community and cycling



Keith Lovan

Engineering a safer future for cyclists & pedestrians



Olivia "Liv" Birkenhauer

Inspiring the next generation of mountain bikers

[READ THE FULL STORY ON BIKEWALK.KY](https://www.bikewalk.ky)

Bike Walk Kentucky Summit 2024

"The central goal of the Summit was to promote ongoing dialogue among stakeholders to ensure safer pathways for Kentucky's residents."

- Sharon Brown
Summit Chairperson



The Bike Walk Kentucky Summit, held from August 14-16 at Transylvania University in Lexington, brought together a diverse group of over 300 advocates, city planners, public health officials, advocates, and community members committed to making Kentucky a safer place to bike and walk.

The Summit featured a robust lineup of keynote speakers and a series of breakout sessions led by experts in urban planning, public health, and advocacy, providing attendees with valuable insights and strategies for driving change in their communities.

A special thanks is extended to Sharon Brown and her dedicated planning committee including Katherine Stone and Ashley Hinton, along with the steering committee, whose hard work and meticulous planning made the summit a resounding success. Their efforts ensured that the event was not only informative but also inspiring, leaving attendees motivated to continue their work toward safer streets across Kentucky.



Key topic areas included:

- Advocacy and Education
- Tourism and Economic Development
- Health and Safety
- Policy and Funding
- Design and Infrastructure
- Prompting Safe and Healthy Access for All

Prompting Safe and Healthy Access for All

The Bike Walk Summit highlighted the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s (KYTC) commitment to reducing bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries. With the theme of “Prompting Safe and Healthy Access for All,” the Summit emphasized KYTC’s strategic approach to enhancing safety on streets, roads, and highways.

This initiative includes revising design standards to prioritize pedestrian and cyclist safety, increasing funding for safety improvements, and launching an educational and safety campaign. These efforts underscore KYTC’s dedication to fostering safer, more accessible transportation options across Kentucky. Secretary Jim Gray, State Highway Engineer James Balinger and Executive Director of KOHS Bill Bell all participated in the Summit.

We’re Recruiting!

Bike Walk Kentucky is seeking passionate and motivated individuals to join its Board of Directors! This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to a healthier, more active Kentucky by supporting initiatives for safer biking and walking throughout the state. If you or someone you know is enthusiastic about making a difference in the community and helping shape the future of active transportation, consider applying for a board position.

To learn more or express interest, please email **Sharon Brown** at your earliest convenience. Help us move Kentucky forward—one step, and one pedal, at a time!

Support Bike Walk KY

Be a Bike Walk Kentucky advocate! Your tax-deductible donation will provide crucial funding for our efforts to continue advocating, building, educating, and promoting all things biking and walking in Kentucky! Stay tuned for the **Good Giving Challenge** set for December 3-6! The Good Giving Challenge is an annual online giving event that makes giving to local nonprofits easy and fun!

DONATE NOW!

