

Bike Walk Kentucky

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The past year was an exciting one for Bike Walk Kentucky!

It was a particularly significant year as the state rolled out the Complete Streets policy adopted in September 2022. The policy manual itself won a national award, as did Keith Lovan, Kentucky Bike Ped Coordinator and 2023 Vice President of Bike Walk Kentucky. You can read more about Complete Streets and other initiatives in the following 2023 annual report, including:

- Kentucky Cycling Challenge
- Share the Road Campaign
- Campaign for a Bicycle-Friendly Kentucky
- Paula Nye Grant and outreach initiatives

In addition, in 2023 Bike Walk Kentucky engaged in its second fundraising campaign through the [Good Giving Challenge](#). Many thanks to our many donors for your support totaling over \$8,500, enabling us to continue building on this momentum.

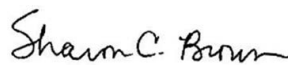
While we look back, we must also look forward to 2024, especially toward the statewide Bike Walk Summit, which will be held August 15 and 16 at Transylvania University in Lexington. The last summit in 2018 instigated the creation of Bike Walk Kentucky. We are excited that Bike Walk Kentucky is now able to host the next statewide gathering of bike walk advocates.

And we welcome our new board member, Katie Rowe (Louisville), who began her term in 2024.

We particularly thank our outgoing officers, all whom have served in crucial roles during Bike Walk Kentucky's formative first three years. As the first president of Bike Walk Kentucky, Mike Sewell provided critical leadership. Likewise, Keith Lovan has been an invaluable Vice President. (Both Mike and Keith served on the 2019 strategic planning team that paved the way for the formation of Bike Walk Kentucky.) And Alice Harris has been indispensable as our treasurer and often secretary. Though passing the leadership baton, we are grateful that all three will remain on the board of directors.

As an all-volunteer-run organization, we depend on and appreciate their dedication and leadership. And we depend on your support! We welcome donations all year long. And another way to support us is to order some Bike Walk Kentucky SWAG! Help spread the word by purchasing a t-shirt or sweatshirt from our [Online shop](#).

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



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KENTUCKY COMPLETE STREETS ROLLED OUT, WINS NATIONAL AWARD



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

Having advocated for a statewide Complete Streets policy, Bike Walk Kentucky was elated that in September 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.

Throughout 2023, Bike Walk Kentucky disseminated information about Complete Streets at community events and professional conferences.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet held training workshops across Kentucky and will continue offering new workshops through 2024. In addition, bike-ped staff are now located in all twelve KYTC highway districts.

With Complete Streets, Kentucky is again proving itself as a national model for developing safer and more inclusive infrastructure. Kentucky's new Complete Streets, Roads, and Highways Manual earned a National Recognition Award in the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) 2023 Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition—the "Academy Awards of the engineering industry."

For his work, Keith Lovan also received an American Council for Engineering Companies of Kentucky (ACEC) Engineering Excellence Award. Keith was the vice president of Bike Walk Kentucky, as well as the project manager of Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) Complete Streets, Roads, and Highways Manual.

We also commend Katie Rowe, transportation engineer with Gresham Smith and new Bike Walk Kentucky board member, for her work on 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.

A premier challenge with routes across Kentucky since 2013, Bike Walk Kentucky organized the Kentucky Cycling Challenge again this year to promote cycling and support local cycling events.

Over 3,500 cyclists visited five Kentucky communities from almost every U.S. state and at least three countries, toured the beautiful environs and left feeling inspired by and connected to these communities, all while making an economic impact.

The 2023 KCC had 25 cyclists complete all five rides and earned a jersey and bib, 37 cyclists completed 4 rides and earned a jersey, and 30 cyclists completed at least 3 rides.

Thank you to all those who participated this year!

Register now for the 2024 Kentucky Cycling Challenge and follow the Challenge on Facebook!

The 2024 Challenge featured five rides:

- Redbud Ride - London
- The Horsey Hundred - Georgetown
- Licking Valley Century - Alexandria
- Rock the Crater - Middlesboro
- Limestone Cycling Tour - Maysville

All participating rides are independent fundraisers in their respective communities. Each event features multiple route distances, making the events welcoming for a wide variety of cycling enthusiasts.





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.

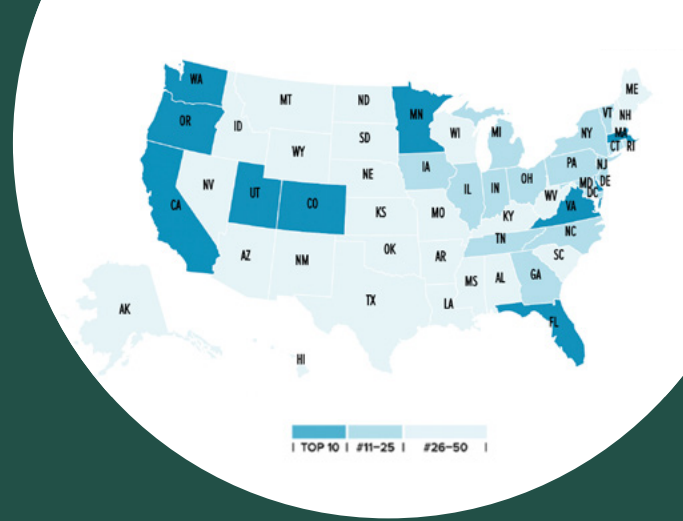
The grants are awarded by the [Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission](#), which are funded by the Share the Road license plates in Kentucky.

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 third city to the list of Bicycle Friendly Communities!

Congratulations to Calvert City! In their first attempt for recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community, Calvert City received the Bronze designation. Less than half of all first time submissions receive even an honorable mention. This is an amazing achievement for Calvert City, which joins Lexington and Louisville as the only cities in Kentucky that have received a medal designation from the [Bicycle Friendly American Program of the League of American Bicyclists](#).

Frankfort and Pikeville received Honorable Mentions last year. Lexington renewed their status last year hoping to improve its ranking but received a renewal of the Bronze classification.

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.

The 2024 deadline to apply is June 25. 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

5  BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

9 BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

4 BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES



OUTREACH INITIATIVES

We hit the road this year advocating for a safer Kentucky.

With new outreach, handouts and exhibit materials, Bike Walk Kentucky now exudes a more professional, inviting and informative public presence. Thanks to a Paula Nye grant from the Kentucky Bike and Bikeway Commission, across the state, we have already been sharing new informational materials for Bike Walk Kentucky, Complete Streets, and the Share the Road Campaign, all at a portable exhibit that includes floor and tabletop displays.

In addition to events in Lexington, Bike Walk Kentucky displayed and presented at several statewide conferences, including Kentuckians for Better Transportation, the Kentucky League of Cities, and the Kentucky Bike and Bikeway Commission Annual Meeting.

Do you know of an outreach initiative Bike Walk Kentucky can be a part of? Let us know!



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 including rails-to-trails.

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 including rails to trails.

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.

