

# State of Wisconsin Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council

## Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council

Wednesday March 18th, 2026

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting: In-Person at the Wisconsin Capitol and Online via Teams

### Council Members Present

Andrew Potts, Council Chair  
Chris Squires, Dept. of Transportation  
Representative Lee Snodgrass  
Senator Chris Larson  
David Spiegelberg, Dept. of Tourism  
Lexi Davis, Dept. of Health Services

Sara Rigelman, Dept. of Natural Resources  
Erick Blasing, Dept. of Public Instruction  
Scott Peterson, Public Member  
Jessica Wineberg, Public Member  
Kathleen Spencer, Dept. of Transportation, BOTS

### Others in Attendance

Justin Sargent, Senator Larson's Office  
Kate Sand, Dept. of Transportation  
Colleen Hoesly, Dept. of Transportation  
Kirsten Finn, Wisconsin Bike Fed  
Mike Ridgeman, Wisconsin Bike Fed

Kate Thickers, Office of Sen. Wall  
Kim Biederman, ECWRPC  
Jennie Mayer, ECWRPC  
Ryan McFarland, All Kids Bike

**Meeting was called to order by Andrew Potts at 9:34am.**

### **September Minutes Approved**

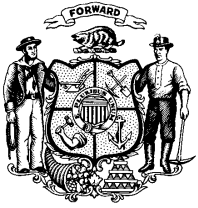
- Scott Peterson moved to approve the December 2025 minutes, and the motion was seconded by Sarah Rigelman. Minutes were approved.

### **Legislative Initiatives**

- Representative Snodgrass: Legislative Updates –
  - The legislature is out of session. As we prepare for the future session, we ask the council to let us know what bicycle and pedestrian issues should be prioritized.
  - Knowles Nelson: There is an ongoing appetite on both sides of the aisle to get something done for Knowles Nelson. The Rep. would like the group to know that a potential "No" vote doesn't mean they don't support Knowles Nelson, but rather they cannot support items attached to it.
- Senator Larson: Legislative Updates –
  - There was no hearing or floor action on bike friendly bills, including the local traffic calming bill. However, there was no hearing or floor action on anti-bike bills either.

### **All Kids Bike – Ryan McFarland**

- Ryan McFarland shares a presentation on the All Kids Bike program.
- The presentation can be accessed through the GBCC website, linked [here](#).
- Ryan started the Strider Education Foundation over 10 years ago. The mission of the Strider Education Foundation is to teach every child in America how to ride a bike in kindergarten in PE class. The philosophy is that if kids feel comfortable and safe riding bikes from a young age, they will continue to ride throughout their lives, promoting health, wellness, and bicycle advocacy.
- The program starts with instructing the teachers from ground zero to being able to teach kids. The bikes are designed for classrooms. The program costs \$9k per school, which comes to about \$10/kid.



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- The presentation is followed by a discussion on funding. Members offer to investigate potential funding sources and report back to the group. Potential funding sources include TA funding, Title 4A federal funding, state agency funding from DOT, DPI, DHS, and private funding.
- Senator Larson would like to investigate where the 22 participating schools are getting funding. It appears that many of the participating schools in Wisconsin are in tax rich districts.
  - Ryan offers to follow up with the group on how the 22 participating schools in Wisconsin get their funding.

### **East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) –**

- Kim Biederman and Jennie Meyer share a presentation on the work of the ECWRPC and other RPCs.
- The presentation can be accessed through GBCC website, linked [here](#).
- Most counties in Wisconsin are represented by an RPC. There are nine RPCs throughout Wisconsin. RPCs operate differently. They were created by state statute in 1972. They were established to promote intergovernmental cooperation for regional planning.
- Each of the nine RPCs has their own program areas. The core program areas at the ECWRPC are regional comprehensive planning, economic development, environmental and transportation.
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) can be established in urban areas designated by the census of over 50,000 people and are represented by the RPCs. The ECWRPC represents three MPOs and is administered by the transportation program area.
- See plans, the ECWRPC Economic Impact Study Report, and other items at the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning page from the ECWRPC website, linked [here](#).

### **E-moto –**

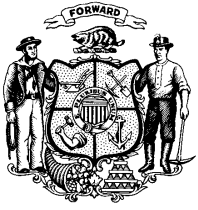
- Chairman Potts: Wisconsin currently has a statute defining e-bikes with three classifications; however, there is no definition of e-moto. The legislature may seek assistance from the council in developing a statutory definition. This would give local governments a tool to regulate e-motos.
- Bike Fed: We would also like to see the legislature regulate the sale of e-motos. And most importantly to preserve the e-bike as its own definition separate from the e-moto. While we don't want to overregulate – like New Jersey – we also don't want to see people going 25 mph on the sidewalk. Bike Fed can work on sending a bill to Senator Larson and Representative Snodgrass and ideally have that ready by summer.
- Rep. Snodgrass: Another important component is the education component and that riders and pedestrians don't always understand the nuances, and once it's defined more clearly there is greater opportunity to educate the public.

### **Bike Event Toolkit Update –**

- Sarah Rigelman: We will add links for trail passes, and event permits.
- After those updates have been made and approved by the group, we will post them to the council webpage.

### **Council Business Items**

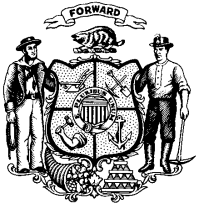
- Council Membership Update: There are no updates.
- Council Members Share Key Highlights and Activities: There are no updates.
- Bicycle Event Toolkit: The council will wrap up the edits to the Bicycle Event Toolkit at the June 2026 council meeting.



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## Agency and Partner Updates

- Dept. of Natural Resources: Sarah Rigelman
  - DNR updates are provided to the council members by Sarah Rigelman, and written updates will be sent out to the council members following this meeting, linked [here](#).
- Dept. of Transportation: Chris Squires
  - The Active Transportation Plan is under review, and went to the division administrator, then will go on to the Secretary's office, and then public comment. Information and updates can also be found on the Active Transportation Plan website, linked [here](#).
  - Work continues on the Multimodal Design Guide update. We are reviewing updated drafts from consultant. We are expecting completion and publication in the WisDOT Facilities Development Manual in late 2026 or early 2027.
  - Staff at the WisDOT Southwest region has applied for designation as a US Bike Route status for the Mississippi River Trail, and the application went to the Special Committee on Route Numbering in November 2025. It was approved by ASHTO as #45.
  - We have been updating methodology for the State Bike Map and received division approval to move forward. It will take time to verify data for county highways.
  - The Statewide Selection Committee is currently reviewing applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program. Anticipate awards in May or June.
- Dept. of DOT: Kathleen Spencer
  - Pedestrian Bicycle Safety grants have been approved, and will start their start deployments in Spring and summer, and continue activities with Bike Fed.
  - In the process of writing the Triennial Highway Safety Plan, that will outline spending for the next 3 years.
- Dept. of Tourism: David Spiegelberg
  - Travel Wisconsin updates are provided to the council members by David Spiegelberg, and written updates will be sent out to the council members following this meeting, linked [here](#).
- Dept of DHS: Lexi Davis
  - DHS is working with new local and regional partners on various projects under the Community Design for Physical Activity work, including working with ECWRPC on their Rural Bike/Ped planning event.
  - DHS was not selected for the Walkability Action Institute program, unfortunately.
  - Continuing to collaborate with 1000 Friends of Wisconsin to support their Community Transportation Academy in Madison. There are a few spots still available. The Community Transportation Academy webpage is linked [here](#).
- Dept. of Public Instruction: Erick Blasing Filling in for Traffic Safety
  - A more permanent council member to represent DPI should be selected in six weeks.
- Bike Fed: Mike Ridgeman
  - The Healthy Community Summit is in April in Wausau, please visit the website and sign up. The webpage is linked [here](#).
  - Bike Week Events: May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>. Reminder to council members: Bike Fed can help put spotlight on events, such as the DNR ribbon cutting events.
  - Bike Fed is working on a Bike Fed license plate. You can go to their website for the design.
  - Bike Fed is working on sending out position surveys for Wisconsin legislatures.



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- Upcoming agenda items:
  - o Bike Toolkit update.
  - o The Greater Madison MPO will tentatively join for a discussion e-bike and e-moto discussions tentatively with the Greater Madison MPO.
  - o NICA will tentatively join for a discussion on middle school mountain bike racing.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Rep. Snodgrass moves to adjourn. Scott Peterson moves to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:59 am.