



State of Wisconsin Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council

Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council

Wednesday December 17th, 2025

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
Christine Anderson, Dept. of Public Instruction
Scott Peterson, Public Member
Jessica Wineberg, Public Member

Others in Attendance

Justin Sargent, Senator Larson's Office
Chris Morgan, National Park Service
John Hartig, Great Lakes Institute
Holly Fulkerson, Dept. of Transportation
Colleen Hoesly, Dept. of Transportation
Kathleen Spencer, Dept. of Transportation
Kate Sand, Dept. of Transportation

Cassandra Mordini, Dept. of Tourism
Andrew Hanson, Dept. of Natural Resources
Kirsten Finn, Wisconsin Bike Fed
Mike Ridgeman, Wisconsin Bike Fed
Leslie Walker, City of Milwaukee
Chris Stindt, Member of Public
Jen Walker, Member of Public

Meeting was called to order by Andrew Potts at 9:35am.

September Minutes Approved

- Andrew Potts moved to approve the September 2025 minutes, and the motion was seconded by Sarah Rigelman. Minutes were approved.

Legislative Initiatives

- Representative Snodgrass
 - Legislative Updates: Senator Stafsholt and Representative Green introduced their "DNR Revenue Stream Refresh" package on November 19th, containing 5 bills. The package is aimed at creating new sources of revenue for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through new fees to certain recreators utilizing DNR properties. The bills would include new fees for those looking to hike, ski, bike, canoe or forage on state land. Overall response to these bills has been very negative. It has yet to be referred to a committee. Rep. Snodgrass will share a link to the bill with the Council. Though they are probably dead-on-arrival, the negative chatter has given the Representative ammunition to promote their causes.
- Senator Larson's Office: Senator Larson's Office Chief of Staff Justin Sargent
 - Legislative Updates - Justin Sargeant: Democratic efforts to improve bicycling in Wisconsin are not moving forward, Republicans are not providing hearings for any purpose. Proposals for the renewal of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program are also not moving forward, and both sides are at an impasse. Rep. Snodgrass adds that 6 out of 240+ bills that were introduced had a Democratic author, and zero bills that were introduced had a Democrat as the first author.



State of Wisconsin Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council

Open Records and Ethics Training: Holly Fulkerson, Esq. Office of General Council at WisDOT

- Holly Fulkerson presented Open Records Training to the Council.
- The Council is subject to Wisconsin's open records laws, specifically Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81–19.98 (Open Meetings) and Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31–19.39 (Public Records), as the council was created by Executive Order and serves as an advisory body to the Executive.
- Wisconsin's Open Records laws are very broad and start with the premise that government is open, and records should be made available. Exceptions include things like lawyer-client privilege, and confidential information.
- If any requests are received: 1) Do not respond individually, 2) Preserve all related records, 3) Immediately forward the request to OGC, and they will handle the response.
- If members have questions about whether information needs to be disclosed, please contact Holly Fulkerson with your questions.

Department of Tourism Update: 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](#).

Dr. Robert Schneider, PhD, AICP (University of WI – Milwaukee) Presentation:

- Bob Schneider presents key findings from his research report, "Analysis of Geographic, Temporal, and Socioeconomic Shifts in Pedestrian & Bicyclist Traffic Injuries." (January 2026)
- The key findings are also displayed in a StoryMap, linked [here](#).
- The report isn't published yet but should be published in the next couple of weeks.

Creating a US Great Lakes Waterfront Trail: Chris Morgan (National Park Service) and John Hartig

- Chris Morgan and John Hartig share a presentation on the ongoing effort to create a Great Lakes Waterfront Trail.
- The Council of State governments, Midwestern Office, is exploring the creation of a US Great Lakes Waterfront trail.
- The trail would build upon existing trails and could potentially be over 5,000 miles long and generate billions of dollars in revenue for the Great Lakes Region. It would be a collaborative effort between the 8 Great Lakes States.
- The trail would mirror the existing Canadian Great Lakes Waterfront Trail, which is located entirely in the province of Ontario. The Canadian Great Lakes Waterfront Trail website is linked [here](#).

Update on Annual Report: Chris Squires

- Chris Squires led a review of the draft version of the 2025 Annual Report of the GBCC with council members. Council members were sent the final draft version to review prior to this meeting.
- Once finalized, the report will go to the Governor's Office by January 2026. The 2025 Annual Report will also go on the council's webpage.
- Members discussed the Future Goals and Initiatives section of the report and made minor amendments to this section. After the discussion, Sen. Larson moved to approve the finalized 2025 Annual Report, and David Spiegelberg seconded the motion.



State of Wisconsin Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council

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 March 2026 council meeting.

Agency and Partner Updates

- Dept. of DOT: Chris Squires
 - The Active Transportation Plan is under review, and the final review by the Steering Committee will occur in 2026. Following the final review, it will go to 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 2026.
 - 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.
 - Chris welcomes Kathleen Spencer to the council, representing BOTS and replacing David Dahms. Kathleen greets the council and thanks everyone for welcoming her to the council.
- Dept. of DNR: 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 DHS: Lexi Davis
 - On Sept 30 DHS started the 3rd year of funding for the CDC State Nutrition Program
 - Last month, they put out grant opportunities to bring new community partners on board to increase plans or policies related to active transportation and physical activity.
 - Recently applied to bring a Walkability Action Institute into Wisconsin and will have more to share after the new year.
- DPI: Christine Anderson (updates provided via email)
 - Following Michael Morgan's retirement, DPI will be opening a hiring for his position in the new year.
 - DPI also share's a link to their reorganization webpage at DPI, linked [here](#).
- Bike Fed: Mike Ridgeman
 - Week of Jan 5 Bike Fed will be opening registration for 2025 Ride Across Wisconsin.
 - The Healthy Community Summit is in April in Wausau, and the webpage is linked [here](#).
- Upcoming agenda items:
 - Bike Toolkit update
 - E-Bike and E-Moto discussions

Motion to Adjourn: Chris Squires moves to adjourn. Sarah Rigelman moves to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:06 am.