Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council
2022 Annual Report

Background

The Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council (Council) was originally created under Governor Patrick Lucey in June 1977 and re-created by subsequent Governors including Governor Tony Ever's Executive Order #6 (January 28, 2019). The Council includes 17 members that represent the general public, the legislature, and state agencies. The Council considers all matters relating to unifying and coordinating the efforts of state agencies in encouraging the use of the bicycle as a form of transportation and recreation, promoting bicycle safety, education and regulation; promoting bicycling as a tourist and recreational activity; and disseminating information on available state and federal funding for bicycle related activities and facilities to counties and municipalities; and reviewing bicycle related programs of state agencies and making recommendations to assure a coordinated state program.

In 2022, the Council met quarterly to discuss statewide bicycling issues and various related initiatives.

Council Members: Andrew Potts (Chairperson), Craig Heywood, James Miller, Brenda Maxwell, Scott Peterson, Jessica Wineberg, Christopher Squires representing WisDOT (replacing Jill Mrotek Glenzinski as of May 2022), Michael Schwendau representing WisDOT's Bureau of Transportation Safety, Brigit Brown representing the Secretary of WDNR, David Spiegelberg representing the Secretary of Tourism, Brian Dean representing the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (vacant as of November), John Bowser representing the State Department of Health Services, Stephanie Bradley Wilson, Senator Melissa Agard and Representative Kristina Shelton. Vacant appointments from the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly have not been filled since Senator Luther Olsen and Representative Keith Ripp left office.

Work Activities

Work of the Council and state agencies for 2022 can be divided into the following pursuits:

Legislative Initiatives

- The Council continues to work with legislative representatives on the council and looks forward to those efforts as vacant appointments are filled.
- The Council was kept informed on several legislative initiatives, including:
    - 2021 Senate Bill 805: Relating to the use of condemnation authority for recreational trails
    - 2021 Assembly Bill 853: Relating to requiring vehicles to stop for pedestrians at certain intersections and crosswalks.

State Agency Initiatives

Department of Health Services

- *Ongoing efforts to promote, encourage and expand programs for active transportation.* The Council supports and encourages local community efforts to increase health through active transportation such as all forms of bicycling. For example, the Council shares information about health programs, studies, and initiatives such as Safe Routes to School with communities and groups that council members represent.
- *Planning projects.* The Council was updated regarding the publishing of the Wisconsin Physical Activity and Nutrition Road Map. This resource is intended to serve and support Wisconsin communities and their efforts to create healthier places and spaces that center equity and support optimal health. The Council was also updated regarding efforts to develop priorities for the 2023 Sate Health Improvement Plan.

Department of Public Instruction

- *Provide resources on safe bicycling practices.* Continuing efforts on driver safety education that addresses requirements for bike/pedestrian content. The Council supports and encourages joint agency

efforts in educating and training on safe bicycling practices.

Department of Natural Resources

- *Provide and facilitate recreational opportunities on various state trail and park projects.* The Council received updates on proposals, issues and topics related to biking activities on state trails and parks. This includes new trail proposals throughout the state, trails conditions, and master plan efforts for WI State Parks as well as information from other State Councils where there is shared interest (e.g., mutual topics on bicycling for the State Trails Council or the Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council or the Recreation Stakeholder Council).
- *Planning Projects:* The Council was updated regarding ongoing master planning efforts for the Southwest Savannah Region, as well as new planning efforts for the Western Coulees & Ridges and North Central Forest Area regions.
- *Funding.* The Department submitted a 2023-2025 capital budget under which bridge repair and the resurfacing of trails was a key focus.

Department of Transportation

- *Provide bicycle/pedestrian training courses*. The Council promotes and assists in marketing of Teaching Safe Bicycling, and Bicycle/Pedestrian Law Enforcement training.
- *Bicycle and pedestrian funding programs.* The Council was kept informed on Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) project solicitation and selection processes. Information was also provided on the funding administrated by the Bureau of Transportation Safety for crash data and exposure research.
- *Planning projects.* The Council was updated regarding the Department's commencement of the process to develop an Active Transportation Plan 2050. This plan will update and combined the existing Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan (developed in 1998) and the Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan (developed in 2002).

Department of Tourism

- *Increasing visibility and promotion of biking.* The Council continues to support the increased presence of year-round bicycle activities, in tourism campaigns, on the website, and in print materials.
- *Updates on JEM grants.* The Council was informed on Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) grants that were awarded to local communities for the promotion of bicycle marketing events. The Council shared information on the availability of these grants with communities and group affiliates. The JEM Program funded 2 major events in 2022: the Winter Fat Bike Championships in New Richmond, and the Ride Across Wisconsin.

Successful Initiatives

- The Council provided feedback to the DNR regarding the closure and repair options for the Stewart Tunnel on the Badger State Trail.

Future Goals and Initiatives – 2023

- Stay informed on and advocate for improvements to state bicycle policies and programs.
- Explore equity in cycling and barriers to access. Support the promotion of bicycling in underrepresented communities.
- Support increased funding for bicycle infrastructure and programming.
- Support statewide bicycle planning efforts.
- Consideration of a tax credit for bike purchases
- Work with partners to promote Bike to School Day (Wednesday, May 3rd)
- WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety and Technical Services presentation on bike/ped safety assessment for behavioral programs