

Bicycle Alliance of Washington

2008-2009 Accomplishments

Safe Routes to School

- We continued our partnership with Feet First in the Center for Safe Routes to School in Washington State. We provided trainings and technical assistance in communities around the state to encourage safe walking and biking to school.
- In partnership with the Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, we got Safe Routes to School Policy into statute, providing greater legitimacy and visibility to the program.

Road Safety Education Pilot Program

- The state legislature set aside funds to develop, implement, and evaluate the Road Safety Education Pilot Program in the Moses Lake, Bainbridge Island, and the Oak Harbor school districts. This will demonstrate that by teaching students road safety and mobility skills, they will be more confident and safer.

Washington State Department of Transportation

Both urban and rural state highways are very important to cyclists. They can either be a great way to travel or a major barrier.

- We worked on the development of the State Bicycle Facilities and Pedestrian Walkways Plan, adopted in 2008 with our comments, focused on making the plan both accurate regarding current conditions and actionable for future improvements.
- We work with WSDOT to ensure the proper installation of rumble strips so they are not a hazard to bicyclists.

Safe Passing

- We succeeded in getting a safe passing law, then amended it to apply to oncoming cars. We will continue to work to improve the law by defining a safe distance as a minimum of 3 feet.

Drivers Education

- Thanks to our efforts, both public and private traffic safety education courses must include information on bike safety and bike laws are included in the Driver's Manual and related questions appear on the driver's license test.

Rails to Trails

- The Bicycle Alliance has been a major supporter of trail efforts in both eastern and western Washington. We continue to be a watch dog to ensure the state does not make it harder to turn abandoned rail corridors into trails and have successfully opposed bills that would have done so in each of the past few years.

Traffic Signal Detectors

- Our traffic signal bill, which becomes law this July, requires that all new traffic signals and substantially upgraded ones must be capable of being triggered by bicycles and motorcycles. Jurisdictions must also set up a procedure for recording signal complaints and prioritize those most in need of detection improvements if funding becomes available.

Bikestation Seattle

- The Bicycle Alliance has taken over management of the Bikestation and increased customer benefits. These include lockers, a work stand and tools. The number of subscribers has increased and we are frequently asked for advice on setting up and managing, indoor secure bike parking.

Commuter Connection

- We assisted the City of Bellevue in establishing and now help operate the Commuter Connection, a secure bike parking facility at the Bellevue Transit Center. This successful partnership is an example of how we can help organizations establish a program and then sustain it on their own.