



The Bicycle Alliance of Washington : advocates for bicyclists and a bike-friendly Washington state.

As a statewide advocacy organization, the Bicycle Alliance has a:

- ✓ **Legislative Committee** composed of representatives from supporting bike clubs and communities from all around the state. We meet regularly to develop and pursue a strategy and agenda for each legislative session.
- ✓ **Professional lobbyist** who knows all the players and furthers bicycling interests year-round in Olympia.
- ✓ **Transportation Advocacy Day** each year, bringing 100 bike and transportation choices advocates to Olympia to meet with their legislators on bike-related legislation. Please join us for the next one on Jan. 28, 2010.

We are working with environmental, health and transportation groups to refine past and develop new legislation for 2010. Especially in a bad economy, it's important to invest in efficient and safe transportation and healthy communities. Priorities for 2010:

- **Safe Routes to School:** During this time of economic downturn, our goal is to protect existing funding and find ways to improve the program to better meet the demand from schools around Washington State.
- **Complete Streets:** We want to ensure that roads are designed with all users in mind and to tie grant funding to projects that meet this requirement.
- **Texting and cell phone use:** Currently, using a hand-held cell phone while driving is a secondary offense and can be ticketed only when a motorist is stopped for a primary infraction, like speeding. This bill proposes to make distracted driving a primary offense.
- **Vulnerable Roadway User Bill:** Introduced in the 2009 session by the [Cascade Bicycle Club](#) but not passed into law, this bill would make it easier for prosecutors to hold drivers more accountable in collisions where they kill or seriously injure cyclists and pedestrians. The BAW will again support this bill and offer our assistance to help pass it.
- **Mutual Courtesy and Safety Act:** This attempts to refine existing safe passing laws by defining a minimum safe passing distance and other measures to improve education and enforcement.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education in Traffic Schools:** Many motorists are sent to traffic school for defensive driver training when they receive traffic citations. This initiative would require traffic school curriculum to include approved information for driving safely among bicyclists and pedestrians.

The collaborative approach of the Bicycle Alliance gets results every year. Of the four issues researched and pursued for legislation by the Bicycle Alliance in 2009, two were adopted into law.

Traffic signal activation: 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. Use this law!

Safe Routes to School: Due to the state's budget situation, this bill brought no new funding, but did move policy into law: It strengthens the state's Safe Routes to School Program by placing it directly into statute and providing greater legitimacy and visibility to the program with the Department of Transportation.

More info at: www.bicyclealliance.org