Strategies to end fatal bicycle crashes in Iowa

Policy, legislative, and infrastructure solutions

Recommendations from bicycling advocates & researchers to help end deaths and injuries from bicycle crashes in Iowa:

⇒ Legislation requiring vehicles to change lanes to pass bicyclists
⇒ Promote use of lights at night while bicycling
⇒ Improve and expand evidence-based safe bicycle infrastructure in coordination with Iowa DOT
⇒ Improve the share the road with bicycles section of driver’s education
⇒ Protection of bicyclists in crosswalks

Common characteristics of bicycle crashes in Iowa¹:

- Young bicyclists (up to age 19) are involved in more than 50% of crashes
- More than 80% occur during daylight hours
- 60% occur on low speed, local roads
- Over 90% happen in urban areas, within city limits
- 80% of Iowa drivers do not make a complete lane change when passing a bicyclist²

Common characteristics of fatal bicycle crashes in Iowa:

- 70% of crashes occur on roads with speeds higher than or equal to 55 mph
- 74% of fatal crashes happen in rural areas
- 74% of fatal crashes occur during daylight hours
- In 63% of fatal crashes, motorists overtake the bicyclist, causing the bicyclist to be hit from behind

Efforts underway

⇒ Iowa DOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Long-Range Plan
  iowadot.gov/iowainmotion

⇒ Engineering safety design guidelines
  Low traffic speed & volume - shared facilities
  High traffic speed & volume - separated facilities

⇒ Legislation: hand-held electronic device use as evidence of reckless driving passed in 2017 session

⇒ Education and awareness campaigns

⇒ Research: UI Injury Prevention Research Center
  uiprc.org

Share concerns publicly.
Ask for policy and laws that keep all roadway users safe.