

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
REPORT

**GETTING INVOLVED: A STUDY  
OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN  
ADVISORY COMMITTEES  
AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS**



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## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT:**

### **GETTING INVOLVED: A STUDY OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups have approached VDOT with a variety of proposals and requests for support. In deciding how to respond to such inquiries, the VDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program staff desires to know how other state DOTs interact with advocacy groups.

#### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This report answers questions posed by VDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program staff regarding the relationships of other state DOTs with statewide bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups. Specifically, the report answers the following questions regarding each state surveyed:

1. Has the state established an advisory committee to the state DOT on bicycle or pedestrian policy?
2. If the state does not have an advisory committee, does it maintain a formal advisory relationship with any statewide bicycle or pedestrian advocacy organizations?
3. Does any state provide funding to a statewide advocacy organization to assume the functions of an advisory committee?

#### **METHODS**

For the purpose of this report, an advisory committee is a group formally recognized by the state DOT that includes citizen members, convenes regularly, and provides advice to the DOT. States that have bicycle or pedestrian advisory committees were identified through a survey of state laws, a review of state DOT websites, and a review of the websites of statewide advocacy organizations.

The states without bicycle advisory committees were surveyed via email. The following questions were asked:

1. My research indicates that your state DOT does not have a bicycle and/or pedestrian advisory body. Is this correct? If yes, please continue with the survey. If no, please explain briefly how your advisory committee works.
2. Does your state DOT receive input (policy recommendations, information, planning assistance, etc.) from bicycle or pedestrian advocacy groups? If yes, please list which ones.
3. Does your state DOT maintain a formal, ongoing relationship with any particular bicycle or pedestrian advocacy group(s)? If yes, please explain briefly.
4. Does your state DOT provide any funds to bicycle or pedestrian advocacy groups? If yes, please explain briefly.

The results of the research were arranged in chart format.

## RESULTS

The chart shows advisory and advocacy groups in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Utah did not make information available online or respond to the email survey and follow-up telephone contacts.

State	Advisory Committee	Statewide Advocacy Group(s)	State DOT's Relationship with Statewide Advocacy Group(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature of relationship</li> <li>• State funding</li> </ul>
Alabama	None	None	N/A
Alaska	Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) Citizens Advisory Board: appointed by governor; among other duties, advises DOT on bike/ped accommodation; state also formed informal pedestrian advisory group in 1999 and maintains contact with members via email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juneau Freewheelers</li> <li>• Anchorage Trails and Greenways Coalition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy groups offer input on a regular basis</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>
Arizona	None	Arizona Bicycle Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT takes input only from local bike/ped groups at district level</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>

<b>State</b>	<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Statewide Advocacy Group(s)</b>	<b>State DOT's Relationship with Statewide Advocacy Group(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nature of relationship</b></li> <li>• <b>State funding</b></li> </ul>
Arkansas	None	Arkansas Bicycle Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>
California	California Bicycle Advisory Committee: created in 1992 by Caltrans; includes variety of state, local, and private members	None	N/A
Colorado	Bike/ped advisory committee's mandate expired in 1998	Bicycle Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>• DOT contracts with Bicycle Colorado to consult on specific projects and distribute information</li> </ul>
Connecticut	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: created in 2000 by legislature	Connecticut Bicycle Coalition, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>• No Response</li> </ul>
Delaware	Delaware Bicycle Council: created in 1990 by legislature	No Response	No Response
District of Columbia	District of Columbia Bicycle Advisory Council: created in 1985 by law	Washington Area Bicyclist Assoc.	No Response
Florida	Informal network of state agencies and community members meet annually and have conference calls every other month	Florida Bicycle Association	No Response
Georgia	Statewide advisory committee meets annually and has 150-member mailing list	No Response	No Response
Hawaii	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawaii Bicycling League</li> <li>• Mayor's Advisory Committee on Bicycling for the four counties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>
Idaho	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT takes input from local bike/ped groups only at district level</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>

<b>State</b>	<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Statewide Advocacy Group(s)</b>	<b>State DOT's Relationship with Statewide Advocacy Group(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nature of relationship</b></li> <li>• <b>State funding</b></li> </ul>
Illinois	Illinois Interagency Bicycle Coordinating Working Group: meets quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• League of Illinois Bicyclists</li> <li>• Chicagoland Federation of Bicyclists</li> <li>• Illinois Trails Conservancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>
Indiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad hoc advisory committee: occasionally convened to update bike/ped plan</li> <li>• Trails Advisory Board: created by legislature to deal with all trails, including multi-use paved and unpaved trails</li> </ul>	Indiana Bicycle Coalition (IBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formal relationship</li> <li>• IBC receives funds to do small bike education projects</li> </ul>
Iowa	Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee	League of Iowa Bicyclists	No Response
Kansas	None	None	N/A
Kentucky	Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission: created in 1992 by legislature; DOT provides full staff support and secretary must report annually to legislature	No Response	No Response
Louisiana	Governor's Advisory Committee on Bicycling: advises DOT occasionally	None	N/A
Maine	Maine Bicycle Council: created by DOT to advise bike/ped coordinator; consists only of citizen-advocates	Bicycle Coalition of Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>• No Response</li> </ul>
Maryland	Maryland Bicycle Advisory Committee: created by legislature in 1991 to advise several state agencies	No Response	No Response
Massachusetts	Bicycle Advisory Board: originally created by legislature in 1987 under Department of Environmental Management; moved to DOT in 1999. MassBike designated to recommend appointees to board	Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike)	No Response

<b>State</b>	<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Statewide Advocacy Group(s)</b>	<b>State DOT's Relationship with Statewide Advocacy Group(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nature of relationship</b></li> <li>• <b>State funding</b></li> </ul>
Michigan	Nonmotorized Advisory Commission: referred to in 1998 law, but does not actually exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• League of Michigan Bicyclists</li> <li>• Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</li> <li>• Michigan Mountain Biking Association.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing, informal communication</li> <li>• DOT provides small grants for publishing and distributing bike/ped educational materials</li> </ul>
Minnesota	Minnesota State Bicycle Advisory Committee: created by DOT, but other state agencies represented	No Response	No Response
Mississippi	None	Bicycle Advisory Group of Mississippi (BAGM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAGM has a voting member on state Transportation Enhancement Project selection committee</li> <li>• No Response</li> </ul>
Missouri	Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: created in 1998 by DOT pursuant to state long-range transportation plan	No Response	No Response
Montana	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal, ongoing relationship with advocates, local bike clubs, and local bike/ped staff; DOT also organizes yearly bicycle forum</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>
Nebraska	None	Nebraska Trails Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike/ped coordinator is member of most (local) advocacy groups</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>
Nevada	Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board: created by legislature in 1991	No Response	No Response
New Hampshire	Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Board	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike/ped coordinator is member of most (local) advocacy groups</li> <li>• No state funding</li> </ul>
New Jersey	New Jersey Bicycle Advisory Council: convened in 1999 by DOT commissioner pursuant to state bike/ped master plan	Bike New Jersey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike New Jersey is represented on the Bicycle Advisory Council</li> <li>• No Response</li> </ul>
New Mexico	Bicycle/Pedestrian/Equestrian Advisory Committee	New Mexico Alternative Transit	No Response

<b>State</b>	<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Statewide Advocacy Group(s)</b>	<b>State DOT's Relationship with Statewide Advocacy Group(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nature of relationship</b></li> <li><b>State funding</b></li> </ul>
New York	Statewide Bicycle Advisory Council: established by executive order in 1985; may now be largely inactive	Transportation Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportation Alternatives is represented on the Bicycle Advisory Council</li> <li>No Response</li> </ul>
North Carolina	North Carolina Bicycle Committee: created by legislature; NCDOT also has its own Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force that reviews all bike/ped projects	No Response	No Response
North Dakota	None; an MPO has been asked to submit proposal for one to DOT	None	N/A
Ohio	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ohio Bicycle Federation</li> <li>Rails-to-Trails</li> <li>Ohio-to-Erie Trail, Inc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bike/ped coordinator meets quarterly with the three groups</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>
Oklahoma	None	Oklahoma Bicycle Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>
Oregon	Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: created by legislature in 1973; took on pedestrian role in 1995; advises ODOT and takes public comment	No Response	No Response
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: created by legislature in 1995; law requires representation of specific advocacy groups	Bicycling Federation of Pennsylvania	No Response
Rhode Island	None	Narragansett Bay Wheelmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOT receives informal input from Narragansett Bay Wheelmen</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>
South Carolina	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palmetto Cycling Coalition</li> <li>Walkable South Carolina Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>
South Dakota	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOT receives informal input from national advocacy groups</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>

<b>State</b>	<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Statewide Advocacy Group(s)</b>	<b>State DOT's Relationship with Statewide Advocacy Group(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nature of relationship</b></li> <li><b>State funding</b></li> </ul>
Tennessee	None	Smoky Mountain Wheelmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>
Texas	Bicycle Advisory Committee: adopted by legislature in 1994	Texas Bicycle Coalition	No Response
Vermont	Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: appointed by transportation secretary in 1998	Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition	No Response
Virginia	Bicycle Advisory Committee: created in 1989 by VDOT commissioner; VDOT also has Internal Bicycle Task Force to assist with district and division levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virginia Bicycling Federation</li> <li>BikeWalk Virginia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal, ongoing relationship</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>
Washington	Bicycling Advisory Committee: created by secretary of transportation to advise DOT; law requires WSDOT to consult committee before using raised pavement markers	No Response	No Response
West Virginia	Bike/Ped Task Force: DOT bike/ped coordinator is chair; no permanent citizen members, although citizens occasionally attend	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactive relationship with all citizen groups</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan Advisory Committee: convened in 1997 by secretary of WisDOT to help produce bike transportation plan	Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin	No Response
Wyoming	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOT takes input only from local bike/ped groups at district level</li> <li>No state funding</li> </ul>

## CONCLUSIONS

Twenty-eight states have bicycle or pedestrian advisory committees (Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin). Of these, 11 were created by law (Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas).

Four states have groups recognized by the state DOT that do not fit the paradigm of an advisory committee (Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, West Virginia). Two states formerly had advisory committees that are now defunct (Colorado, Ohio). Finally, 1 state, North Dakota, appears to be in the process of creating an advisory committee.

Twenty-two states do not have bicycle or pedestrian advisory committees (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wyoming). Of these, 5 maintain a formal, ongoing relationship with a statewide bicycle or pedestrian advocacy group (Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi) and 6 maintain such a relationship with other advocacy organizations or individual citizen advocates (Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, South Dakota, Wyoming). Two states reported giving grants to advocacy organizations to conduct bicycle safety and education programs (Indiana, Michigan); however, only Colorado reported that it contracts with the statewide bicycle advocacy organization to consult on specific projects, which have included assisting with bicycle town meetings and a rumble strip design study. No state reported contracting with an advocacy organization to assume the role of a bike/ped advisory committee to the DOT.