

# Strategies to end fatal bicycle crashes in Iowa

## Policy, legislative, and infrastructure solutions

### Common characteristics of bicycle crashes in Iowa<sup>1</sup>:

- 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 bicyclist<sup>2</sup>

### 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](http://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 [uiiprc.org](http://uiiprc.org)

1. Hamann CJ, Peek ASA C, Lynch CF, Ramirez M, Hanley P (2015). Epidemiology and spatial examination of bicycle-motor vehicle crashes in Iowa, 2001-2011. *Journal of Transport & Health*, 2, 2, 178-188. DOI: 10.1016/j.jth.2014.08.006

2. Hamann CJ, Schwarz C, Soniyi O (March 2016). Examination of driver behavior in response to bicyclist behaviors. SaferSim University Transportation Center Technical Report. Available at: [http://safersim.nads-sc.uiowa.edu/final\\_reports/UI\\_1\\_Y1\\_Final%20Report.pdf](http://safersim.nads-sc.uiowa.edu/final_reports/UI_1_Y1_Final%20Report.pdf)

### 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

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

