



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



BIKE WALK

NEBRASKA

OUR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE



WHAT WE DO

Bike Walk Nebraska catalyzes, collaborates, and leads initiatives and projects across the state within three key areas of focus: advocacy and policy, trails and active tourism, and community education.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to cultivate safe and accessible active transportation in Nebraska through partnerships, education, and advocacy.

OUR VISION

We envision a Nebraska where bicycling and walking are a safe and enjoyable part of the Good Life.



Julie Harris
Executive Director



Cait Dumas-Hein
Associate Director



Taylor Sterba
Communications &
Outreach Coordinator

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been a year of progress for Bike Walk Nebraska. Our staff motto of "relentless incrementalism" continues to serve us well as we celebrate the wins, big and small.

We launched Bike Walk Give, allowing us to fundraise and provide a platform for nonprofits across the state to do the same. These efforts support things like traffic calming initiatives in Blair, youth development programs via the Nebraska Interscholastic Cycling Association, and small trail developments. **The power of these small, incremental things helps make "big" progress overall.**

Also making progress in its expansion was our Adult Learn-to-Ride Classes. The UNL Outdoor Adventure Center became the perfect partner for expanding the program into Lincoln, and Heartland Bike Share and the Riverfront made it possible for us to offer more classes in Omaha. **We are convinced that witnessing the joy of someone learning to ride a bicycle for the first time is the antidote to all of the world's problems.**

At our Bike Walk Summit, we connected advocates with an elementary school bike bus, created a space for statewide attendees to learn and collaborate, and our partners from the Rails to Trails Conservancy hosted a lunch and learn featuring information about the Great American Rail-Trail.

We ended the year preparing for 2025. Our proactive work leading up to the Nebraska Legislative session with Senator Kauth on the Vulnerable Road User bill allowed us to get a head start meeting with key senators to garner support.

We are grateful for your support of Bike Walk Nebraska and cannot do this work without you. We appreciate your help as we work to make active transportation safer and more accessible in Nebraska.

JULIE HARRIS
Executive Director



YEAR IN REVIEW



NATIONAL PARTNERS

In collaboration with the Rails to Trails Conservancy, we hosted over 100 guests of key influencers to raise awareness for the Nebraska section of The Great American Rail-Trail.

CRASH ANALYSIS

Bike Walk Nebraska published its first annual Vulnerable Road User crash analysis, kicking off an advocacy campaign for our safety bill in the 2025 legislative session.



↑70% INCREASE IN PARTICIPANTS

We had over a 70% increase in the number of participants for our Adult Learn-to-Ride classes, hosting five classes and two instructor trainings.



THE PURSUIT OF POLICY

From Washington D.C. to county courthouses, Bike Walk Nebraska spends most of its time lobbying for policies to pave the way for a more bike-and pedestrian-friendly Nebraska.



Federal Policy & Advocacy

We visit Nebraska's federal representatives, advocating for federal funding, federal policy adoption, and being a voice for our constituents.

#48
national rank
(out of 50)

Nebraska is **one of only two states without a statewide Complete Streets policy.**

Nebraska is 48th out of 50 for bike-friendliness in the nation. The rank is based on the state's policies and funding in relation to bicycle infrastructure and safety.

Bike Walk Nebraska outlined a set of recommendations and policy opportunities for addressing gaps in our state's policy, planning & implementation for state and federal leaders.



READ MORE

Scan for the details of the state ranking.



Local Policy & Advocacy

We work alongside regional and local partners to support large-scale projects through government relations and garnering public support.

THE POWER OF YOUR STORY

Throughout the year, we've connect with families of crash victims looking for justice and citizens needing for answers to problems in their communities. **These one-on-one connections are powerful and inform our work more than meeting with representatives.** Thank you for trusting us to be your voice for safety and access.



CONVENING & COLLABORATING

Bike Walk Nebraska firmly believes in the power of collaboration: partnerships pave the way to progress. In 2024, we:



Secured partnerships with UNL Outdoor Adventures & The Riverfront **for Learn-to-Ride programming expansion.**



Reactivated **the cross-sector team making up the Cowboy Trail Coalition to empower and encourage** usage, maintenance, and development of the 200-mile, multi-use trail system.



Presented at the League of Nebraska Municipalities Annual Conference on **the transformational power of trails to nearly 100 city officials.**



Founded Bike Walk Give Day, **a first-of-its-kind collective fundraising event** supporting active transportation organizations across Nebraska.



Hosted the Bike Walk Nebraska Summit, the state's only gathering of active transportation and trail advocates, planning professionals, and community leaders to advance mobility.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sights are set on Omaha. A coalition is forming to create a concerted, collaborative effort on active transportation. Nebraska cannot move forward if its largest metro is statistically moving backward regarding road safety.

READ ONLINE:

Omaha Magazine: 'People Want to Ride', How Bike Walk Nebraska is Making Cycling Safer



SAVE THE DATE



Sept. 30, 2025
Omaha, Nebraska

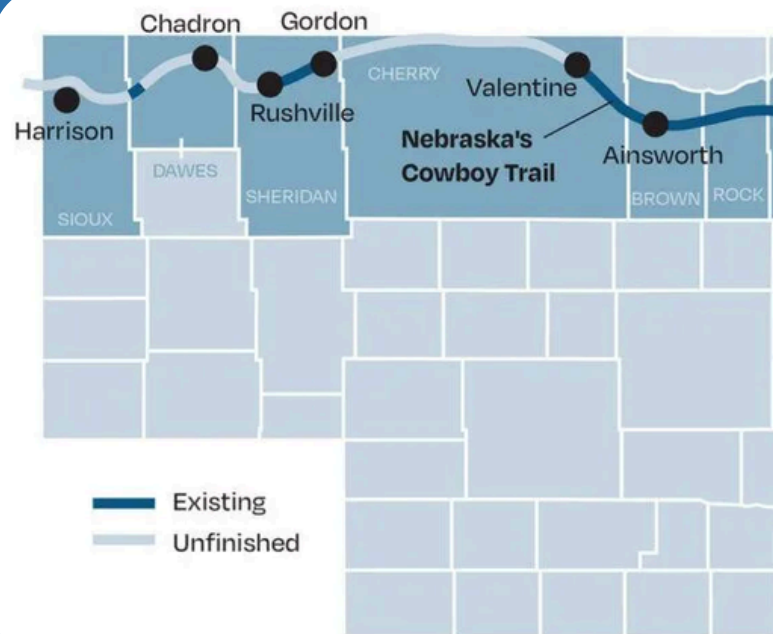


317 MILES OF THE COWBOY TRAIL

The Cowboy Trail is the longest rails-to-trails conversion project in the country, running alongside 29 trail-side communities. Trails have the power to revitalize towns of all sizes, and **we've established programming to support communities harnessing the power of The Cowboy Trail.**



Photo courtesy of Visit Norfolk



Graphic courtesy of Nebraska Public Media

CONVENING THE COALITION

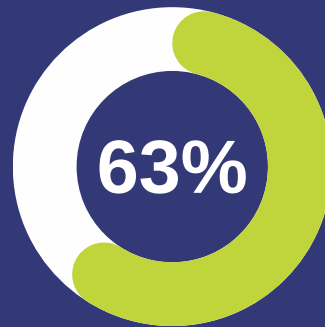
Bike Walk Nebraska convened The Cowboy Trail Coalition in 2024 alongside Nebraska Trails Foundation, Northwest Nebraska Trails Association, Cowboy Trail West Inc, NE Game & Parks, and representatives of trail-side communities.

Large-scale projects take hours of collaboration and coordination. The coalition members each bring something to the table to help us achieve our collective goals.



CONNECTING THE NATION

The Great American Rail Trail is a planned cross-country 3,700 mile trail system from Washington D.C. to Washington State. Nebraska is home to longest section of the trail which includes The Cowboy Trail.



The Cowboy Trail is 63% complete, with a section running from Norfolk to Valentine and an additional 15 miles between Gordon and Rushville.

\$109,400

raised in 5 years for the Cowboy Trail

Knowing a barrier to development is maintenance for The Cowboy Trail, Bike Walk Nebraska worked with Senator Hilkemann in 2020 to establish the “The Good Life is Outside” license plates. **A portion of each sale goes to the Game & Parks trail maintenance fund.**





COMMUNITY OVER COMPETITION

This year brought the launch of Bike Walk Give, a 24-hour online giving event for Nebraska's walking and biking-related non-profits, hosted by Bike Walk Nebraska.



For Biking & Walking

Every participating organization has a demonstrated record of service in pursuing biking and walking in Nebraska.



Accelerating Efforts

Raising funds to directly accelerate grassroots, regional, and statewide biking and walking initiatives and projects.

\$24,041

raised for active transportation in the 2024 and 2025 Bike Walk Give Day event.



Photo courtesy of Strong Towns Blair

A Success Story:

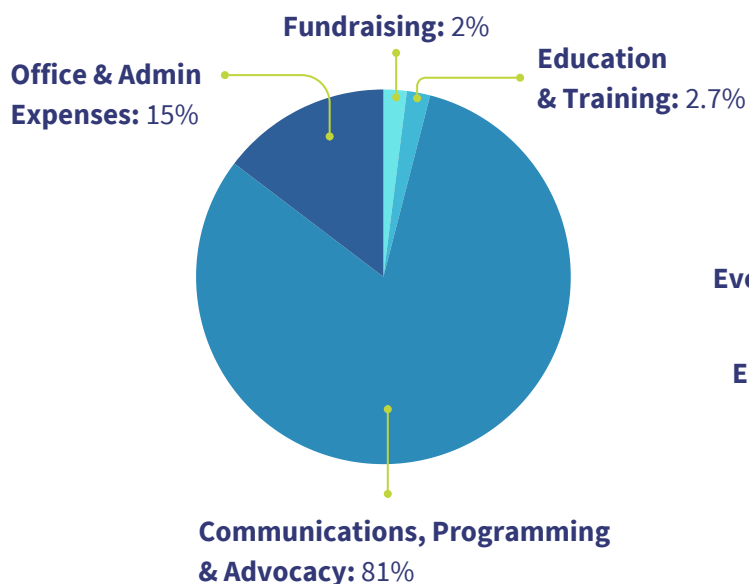
GRASSROOTS CHANGE

Strong Towns Blair used the Bike Walk Give platform to raise funds for a public engagement event to create and get feedback on a temporary, painted curb bump-out in their community.

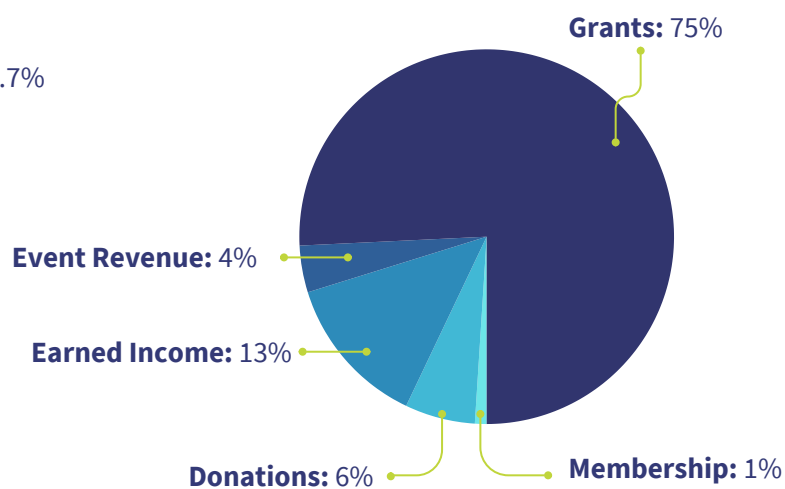


FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES



INCOME



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**Cultivating safe and accessible active
transportation in Nebraska.**

108 N. 49th Street, Suite 206
Omaha, Nebraska 68132

www.bikewalknebraska.org

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