



ANNUAL REPORT 2025





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 tourism, and community education.**

Thirteen Years. One Vision.

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

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 Executive Director

It was another great year for Bike Walk Nebraska, and we are proud to share our progress with you.

We celebrated a signature legislative win in 2025 with the passage of our Vulnerable Road User Law. This law establishes a statutory definition of ‘vulnerable road user,’ increases penalties for excessive speeding, and provides judges with more sentencing options for drivers responsible for fatal crashes. Further, it upgrades Nebraska’s 3-foot passing law to “change lanes to pass.”

Taylor coordinated our first-ever Lobby Day at the Capitol, with testimonial support for our bill from the families of recent bicycle fatality victims, local advocates, and organizations like AAA. Partnerships will always be key to our advocacy work.

The work being done with the Cowboy Trail Coalition was also a major highlight of the year. Cait has been doing great work with our Trail Towns Accelerator program.

This resulted in the installation of upgraded amenities, the placement of 30 trailhead signs to be installed this year, and an event co-hosted with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission celebrating the trail’s 30th anniversary. The momentum has carried over into this year, and we anticipate even more big wins for the trail system.



Our annual summit sold out this year. We anticipate growth for the event in 2026.

We recently moved into the University of Nebraska Omaha’s Community Engagement Center and are bedelighted to be on campus.

I am so grateful to have the team we’ve built at Bike Walk Nebraska. However, we cannot do this work without your support. We never take that support for granted, and we thank you for helping us move closer to our vision of a state where biking and walking are a safe and enjoyable part of being a Nebraskan.

Stay safe and stay in touch!

Julie Harris





Year in Review

CULTIVATING SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN NEBRASKA

EDUCATION ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP

We envision a Nebraska where safe and accessible walking and biking is a



Safety Bill Passes in the Unicam

During the 2025 Unicameral Session, we worked to pass the Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Bill. The bill adds an additional layer of safety, requiring drivers to pass by changing lanes when able, and fortifies sentencing options for drivers responsible for VRU crashes.



Coordinated Omaha Advocacy

Bike Walk Nebraska re-engaged in Omaha advocacy efforts by convening the Active Transportation Omaha Coalition, bringing together partners and community members alike to coalesce information, capacity and momentum.



Transformative Trail Initiatives

The Cowboy Trail became a primary focus in 2025, with the launch of the Trail Town Accelerator Program, the initiation of an economic and health impact study, the installation of trailhead signage, and the installation of three bike fix-it stations along the trail system (with more to come!).



Our State's Safety

Gov. Pillen Recognizes VRU

The day the Vulnerable Road User Bill was signed into law, we hosted Governor Pillen, Senator Kathleen Kauth, and Dr. Kim Latacha at our offices.

This advocacy effort was over a decade in the making, and this recognition marks a significant achievement in both justice and safety for vulnerable road users.



Download the Analysis

Our 2025 Crash Analysis found an ***82% increase in vulnerable road user fatalities** compared to the average over the last five years. The analysis is **vital in raising awareness** of the safety crisis in Nebraska.

An Upward, Statewide Trend
82%
 increase in fatalities*



Our First Lobby Day!

Nebraskans who have lost loved ones to a crash, were victims themselves, and fellow advocates attended our first-ever lobby day at the Nebraska State Capitol.

They shared their stories, and many testified for the first time in support of the Vulnerable Road User bill.



Working on e-Moto Safety

The proliferation of after-market enhanced e-bikes and scooters, often referred to as e-motos, presents new safety challenges.

Nebraska communities, large and small, have been struggling to keep up.

We are coordinating an effort to develop policy recommendations that balance safety and enforcement while maintaining transportation and recreation options for Nebraskans.

What's Next?



Purposeful Programs

What We Do

This program supports trailside communities in assessing, providing, and planning trailhead access and attractions, as well as community-wide safety improvements.

Trail Towns Accelerator

In support of Cowboy Trail communities.

Active transportation and safety for vulnerable road users often comes in the form of trails for the more rural parts of the state. With **trails as a tool for economic development, public health, job creation and retention**, Bike Walk Nebraska engages trailside communities to better harness the trail as asset and amenity.



Learning to Ride

Free classes support both recreation and transportation access for Nebraskans.

Through key partnerships with The Riverfront and UNL Outdoor Adventures Center, the Learn-to-Ride program continued to reach adults and older teens through Omaha and Lincoln.

Want to offer these classes to your community?



75% of class participants in 2025 were women

77% of class participants are successfully riding by the end of class

75 is the oldest age of class participants in 2025





The Power of a Collaboration



Sold Out Summit

Only statewide gathering bringing cross-sector collaboration for active transportation.

The 2025 annual Bike Walk Nebraska Summit was standing room only, as professionals, advocates, and public officials gathered in September.

The agenda focused on holistic systems, specifically addressing Nebraska's unique barriers and opportunities to safer biking and walking, transportation access, and mobility.



SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 22, 2026
Omaha, NE

I thought that the Thinking Beyond the Trail: Urban Development & Connectivity discussions were particularly interesting as it had a very emotional appeal to why active transportation issues are important.

A Rising Tide

Bike Walk Give celebrates a record-breaking year.

The 24-hour online giving day accelerates local, regional, and statewide initiatives across Nebraska.

Success stories include:

- After-school programming growing into a formal 501(c)3 status.
- A pedestrian traffic-calming pilot project.
- Thousands raised for volunteer-managed trail system.

The Impact **\$33,000** raised from 2024 - 2026

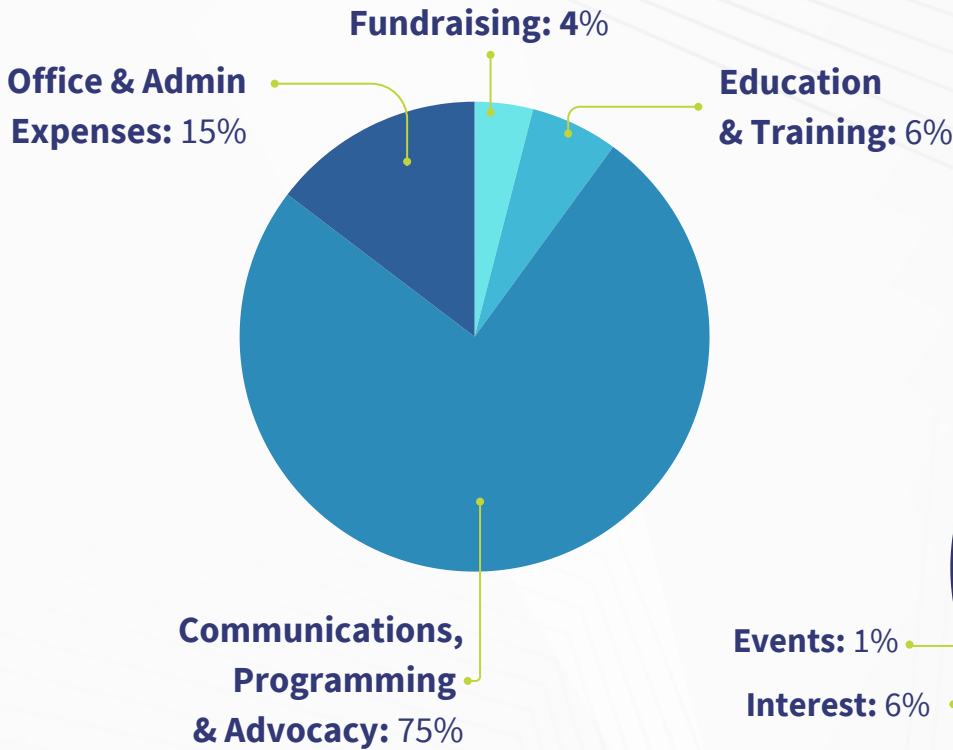
29 participating biking & walking non-profit organizations

57% of organizations who have participated are volunteer-led

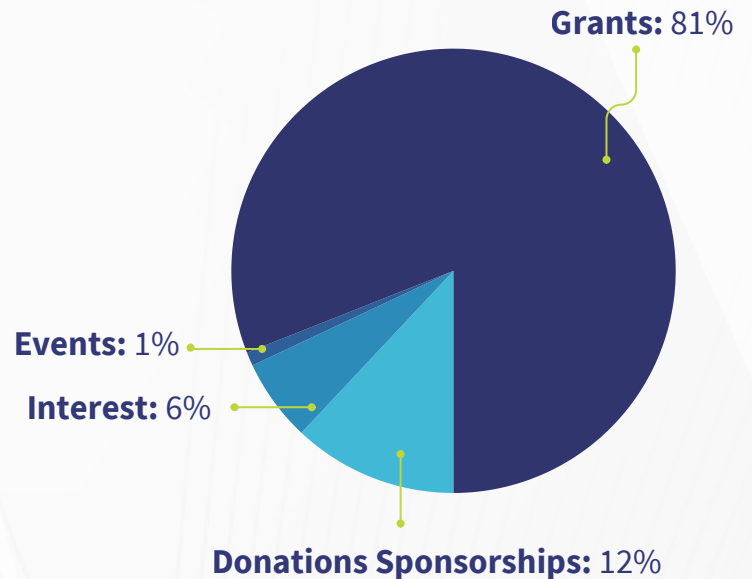


Financial Report

Expenses



Income



Board of Directors

Brent Davis

President, Lincoln

Anna Allen

Secretary, Fremont

Benny Foltz

Treasurer, Omaha

Clarice Dombeck

Omaha

Bob Toy

Omaha

Brittany Helmbrecht

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