

Dear Wisconsin Legislator,

The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, Wisconsin's bicycle industry, and thousands of bicycle supporters from every corner of the state thank you for your efforts to make Wisconsin a better place to bicycle.

We ask you to continue to support Wisconsin's important bicycle assets through the following legislative actions:

1. Support the passage of SB 431: Wisconsin's Vulnerable User Law

Motorists who injure or even kill vulnerable roadway users are often charged with minor offenses that impose minor penalties, if there is any penalty at all. In most cases, unless a motorist is intoxicated or flees the scene, civil or criminal penalties are rare. SB 431, Wisconsin's Vulnerable User Law, will help address this issue. SB 431 was authored by Sen. Schultz, introduced by Sens. Schultz (R), Cullen (D) and Taylor (D) and is co-sponsored by Representatives Zepnick (D) and Hulsey (D).

SB 431 defines a class of "vulnerable highway users" and provides an enhanced set of penalties for motorists who are at fault in a crash that seriously injures or kills a vulnerable user. In general, vulnerable users are people on or near the roadway who are not protected inside a motor vehicle. This bill specifically defines pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, farm implement operators, people in animal-drawn vehicles, emergency responders and law enforcement officials, and equestrians as vulnerable users.

SB 431 defines penalties for traffic infractions that seriously injure or kill a vulnerable user. These penalties range from doubling the current fines associated with many traffic infractions, to significant fines or prison sentences for more flagrant violations. These penalties are appropriate given the tremendous responsibility that driving carries and the significant consequences that can result from a crash.

SB 431 is supported by members of both parties in the Legislature and is strongly supported by the Bike Fed. The bill offers prosecutors and judges the *option* to impose significant penalties on drivers who through carelessness or recklessness have injured or killed bicyclists, pedestrians or other vulnerable roadway users.

2. Support dedicated and consistent funding in the state budget for bicycling

Bicycling is a critical piece of a well-developed transportation network and provides users with an affordable, simple and convenient transportation option for short trips. Currently, Wisconsin lacks a dedicated and consistent funding source for bicycle infrastructure. In a time of constrained budgets, bicycling infrastructure provides a tremendous bang for the buck: bicycle lanes and paths can be built for a fraction of the cost of roadways. At the same time, bicycle infrastructure projects create more jobs per million dollars spent than roadway projects do.

As the 2013 – 2015 biennial budget is developed, please keep in mind that support for bicycle facility funding is an investment in job creation and economic growth, while providing citizens with an affordable transportation option.



Fatal crashes involving
Bicyclists and Pedestrians

12%



Bike/Ped percent of
Transportation Budget

1.5%