



Our traffic calming demonstration allowed students and parents to safely cross the street on their way to school.



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IDAHO WALK BIKE ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Distributed June 2020



Celebrating 10 Years!

Idaho Walk Bike Alliance is celebrating Ten Years! This milestone has given us pause to review what we've been up to for the last decade. As it turns out, we've had over \$40,000,000 worth of success. **Yes, \$40 million!**

IWBA was formed when a group of advocates convened for the first ever Statewide Conference on Active Transportation in 2009. At that time, federal funding for trails, sidewalks, pathways and bike lanes was no longer coming to Idaho, which left many communities without funds to complete projects they had been working on for years. This group concluded that with state level advocacy, more was achieved.

Three years after this convening a new

federal transportation bill, MAP-21, was passed. MAP-21 dedicated funds for bike or walk projects under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP.) However, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) had the discretion to move half of the small but critical \$3.8 million/year to roads, so IWBA sprang into action. Within a few months, we successfully encouraged local elected officials, advocates, and school administrators to ask ITD to fully fund this program so unfinished projects throughout Idaho would be completed.

Since that time, TAP has funded over **\$40,000,000** worth of sidewalks, trails, pathways, crosswalks, cycle tracks and bike lanes in every corner of Idaho!

Additionally, our work at the

legislature continues to be rewarding yet challenging. We achieved the following:

- Texting while driving as a first infraction
- Eight years later, a hands free law
- Electric bicycles to be classified as bicycles rather than motor vehicles.
- **Child Pedestrian Safety Program's \$4,000,000** of sidewalk projects in 26 Idaho towns.

These are great accomplishments that we are proud of and we know you are too. **Idaho is a better place today because of those amazing advocates who came together in 2009.** We thank them, we are humbled at their faith in us, and we will continue to work to make Idaho the best state in which to walk and ride a bicycle. It will take time, but we are here for the long haul.

Go Places...Safely!

Walk of Silence

We held Boise's first ever **Walk of Silence** to honor victims of traffic crashes involving vulnerable road users. The walk took place at the same time and location where an elderly couple was killed while crossing the street exactly one month prior.

The **Walk of Silence** honors anyone killed or injured while walking on our public roadways and calls attention to improving safety on our streets for vulnerable road users. IWBA wants to raise awareness to the epidemic of pedestrian and bicyclist deaths nationwide and the rising number of deaths and serious injuries experienced by Idaho pedestrians and bicyclists in recent years. Let us help you hold a **Walk of Silence** in your town.



Letter from Board President Nora Locken



Imagine a neighborhood with a constant stream of walkers, cyclists and runners. Imagine a neighborhood without the morning rush of vehicles. Imagine a neighborhood where it's safe to bike on the street with your young children.

This is what my neighborhood was like during the recent months of COVID quarantine. What brought about the shift away from vehicles, and toward human-powered activity, was unexpected and startling. The Coronavirus pandemic has impacted our state in many ways. I grieve for the lives lost, and feel the pain for everyone that has been negatively affected by the pandemic.

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Bike to School Day

One of our favorites! We walked and biked to Anser Charter School with Garden City Council members, legislators, ITD, students and families on a beautiful spring morning.



National Park(ing) Day

Demonstrating our roads are public land to be shared by everyone. We would love to help you show that space given to cars belongs to all people in your community.

Traffic Calming Project at Longfellow Elementary

Thanks to an **AARP Community Challenge** grant, we created a temporary traffic calming demonstration at five different intersections around an elementary school. We partnered with Ada County Highway District to install curb extensions to shorten crossing distances for students and parents while slowing down motor vehicles to improve safety.



Vehicle speeds slowed dramatically during this short yet effective demonstration which is exactly what we envisioned. This project was a collaboration with our partners **Treasure Valley Safe Routes to School** and **Idaho Smart Growth**. We intend to replicate this project frequently throughout the state.



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During these times, it helps me to look for the silver lining. I love that during these unusual days it is more common to hear the birds chirping and kids playing, than to hear engines revving. My family and I soak up having our young kids home from school and watching them become confident as they explore our neighborhood on foot. This is made possible and safe by the sidewalk connectivity that we enjoy in **Moscow**.

As I reflect on these unusual times, I cannot help but wonder—where do we go from here? How do we build upon these strange circumstances to help Idaho become an even more supportive place for all those people using a wheelchair, walking or biking? Idaho Walk Bike Alliance prioritizes:

- Improve and expand sidewalks and pathways in our communities
- Reduce vehicle speeds in residential areas
- Encourage Idahoans to continue to take time for outdoor play and human-powered transportation

All of us at Idaho Walk Bike Alliance wish good health and safety for you and your family. We would love to hear your stories of the silver linings in your life during the pandemic and how you view a bright future in this great state of ours. Be well, stay healthy,

Nora Locken

Board President, Moscow Idaho

Remembering Steve Lockwood

Husband of board member and founder **Molly O'Reilly**



We were fortunate to consider Steve a friend, mentor, and IWBA family member.

Sadly, we had to say good-bye to him which was incredibly hard.

We were lucky to know and love Steve for ten years. He always had a grin on his face as he challenged us on land use, transportation, government spending and politics. He was a treasure to everyone who knew him.

Steve's wife, Molly, remains actively engaged on our board; we are so thankful for her time and wisdom. IWBA would not be here without these two special people.

We will forever hold Steve in our hearts.



Bike / Ped Counter Program

IWBA has partnered with Local Highway Technical Assistance Council to start a bike/ped counter lending program. Contact us if your community would like to borrow these counters.



Filmed By Bike

Our fundraising event, **Filmed By Bike**, held annually in Boise and Idaho Falls. IWBA Board member Alexis Pickering is one of many volunteers to make this event such a huge success.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY CONFERENCE



This full-day conference took place at the Idaho State Capitol building in October and included multiple presentations, panels, and discussions focused on the critical importance of improving walkability and bike-ability throughout Idaho.

Topics included a briefing on the upcoming statewide transportation study, legislative and industry issues,

public transit opportunities and challenges, planning and design in congested corridors, autonomous vehicles' interaction with pedestrians and updates on grant opportunities like Safe Routes to School and the Children Pedestrian Safety Program.

The event allowed us to strengthen relationships with transportation organizations with whom we don't normally engage. It allowed us to connect with policy, industry and other transportation leaders from across the transportation spectrum.

Local media ran multiple stories on the conference and on the importance of improving walking and biking infrastructure and policy. Additionally, legislators and other policy makers had the opportunity to hear directly from IWBA members.



Legislative Panel (above): Senator Nelson, Senator Brackett, Rep Erpelding, Rep Palmer



Advocates Circle

These generous supporters gave \$250+ in 2019.

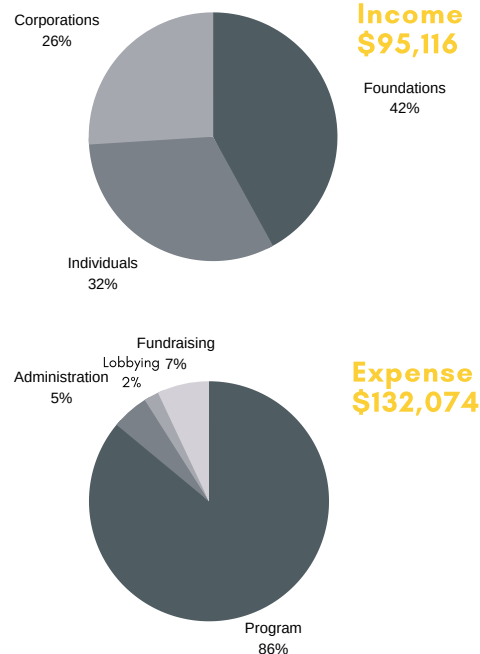
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2019 Financials



Become a Monthly Strider!

Monthly donations **help you** by spreading out your giving over the course of the year. And the stability of year-round funding **helps us** do our work consistently each month.



Youth Lobby Day

Each year we are fortunate to partner with the **American Heart Association** and spend the day with students who fearlessly meet with legislators to explain why Safe Routes to School are critical.

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Board members and staff above from top left to bottom right, Michael David – Ketchum, Patrick Riceci – Boise, Bruce Olenick – Pocatello, Chris Staley – Idaho Falls, Cynthia Gibson – Boise, Molly O'Reilly – Sandpoint, Alexis Pickering – Boise, Niki Richards – Victor. Missing are Nora Locken – Moscow and Sarah Taylor – Boise.

Thank you to our 2019 Donors up to \$249. Idaho Walk Bike Alliance board members and staff are grateful to each of you.

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