



## IDAHO WALK BIKE ALLIANCE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Distributed May 2021



## How A Pandemic Changed Transportation

When the Governor issued his stay-at-home order on March 25, 2020, we were all deeply concerned about what this meant. Idaho Walk Bike Alliance temporarily closed its doors and I set up my new office in the front of my home so I could feel connected to my neighbors and the people on my street.

I remember how soothing it was to not hear constant vehicle noise but rather people talking and laughing as they took over the public lands that are our streets. I met some great people too.

I met my neighbor Dave who had knee surgery and his doctor told him the best therapy was walking which he did as much as possible for recovery. I met my neighbors walking their goats toward the foothills, a mom who would run with her two kids down the middle of my street three days a week and

another mom riding horses with her kids without fear of being hit. The air was crystal clear, the sky was blue, and it was amazing. This, I thought, is the silver lining of a pandemic.

On April 2 at 5PM I took a picture of a completely empty Chinden Blvd, (above) also known as US 20-26. It normally is bumper to bumper at this time because it is an east-west connector from downtown to western suburbs. It made me think about the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on widening roads to accommodate more cars and why is this progress?

In the U.S., why do we continue to spend billions of tax dollars on a transportation system that we can't afford to maintain? Shouldn't we design a system that everyone can use that includes transit, sidewalks, and

protected bike lanes so we can have a peaceful and healthy world to live in with less cost, more connections, cleaner air, and safer neighborhoods?

I hope you and your loved ones have weathered the last year and are now getting together as we get vaccinated. I relish the feeling of being physically close to the people I care about. But while this feels wonderful, I also yearn for a peaceful world of safer and quieter streets and neighborhoods because it is attainable if we want it.

You have our word - the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance will continue to create an Idaho where people can travel without the fear of being hit, where transportation is affordable and safe, and where the air is crystal clear.

Cynthia Gibson, Executive Director

Go Places...Safely!

## Legislative Update by Lance Giles, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance lobbyist

Every legislative session, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance is your eyes and ears at the Idaho State Capitol. We closely monitor all legislation that impacts walking and biking in Idaho. We do so by meeting legislators on your behalf and testifying in committees.



We worked closely with insurance companies, law enforcement and others to pass **HB614**. This bill prohibits the use of cell phones and other electronic devices while driving a motor vehicle. Many groups partnered together to enact this bill into law.

We worked closely with Senate Transportation Chairman Brackett to enact **SB1276**, which would have set up a framework to spend future walking and biking infrastructure funds. While we were unsuccessful, our time was not wasted. We strengthened relationships with key legislators and will be in a better position to work with them in future years.

We often ask you to reach out to legislators before key votes in committees or on the House and Senate floors. When we ask our members to reach out to their legislators, we are never disappointed. Your phone calls and e-mails make a huge difference to improve the lives of all Idahoans, especially our most vulnerable road users.

## Letter from Board President Michael David



Imagine living in a small town that depends on a mill for its economic viability. Imagine one day the mill shuts down and all residents must remain in their home except for necessities. This is what we all

experienced in 2020. In Ketchum we had the highest COVID infection rate in the country. Our local ski area shut down operations one month early. Confusion engulfed citizens as COVID numbers from hospitals were announced.

Amidst the eerily silent chaos came positivity. Ski shops quickly transitioned to bike shops; paved pathways bustled with activity. Most fascinating? Cars remained in garages while streets went back to their original owners - people! My town of Ketchum seized on this by closing 4th St. to cars (continued page 3)



### COMPASS Leadership in Motion Award

Idaho Walk Bike Alliance was the proud recipient of the non-profit category because of our Silver Linings video conference series.



### City Light Home for Women Grant

We received a St. Luke's Community Health Improvement Fund grant to purchase helmets, bike locks and bike lights for the City Light Home for Women & Children.

# Silver Lining Webinars

Idaho Walk Bike Alliance began its webinar series when we were isolated during the stay-at-home order and were unable to travel. We were looking for a way to keep in touch with our members statewide, continue our conversations about transportation, and check up on one another as the isolation wore on.

Idaho Walk Bike Alliance's Silver Linings virtual presentations have become a bright spot in our work as we have continued this series for over a year. We have had amazing speakers present on a variety of topics including: open streets in Ketchum and Boise; collaboration in small communities in Teton County; road diets with Idaho Transportation Department; Boise State University Transportation Study; Mayor's Walking Challenge with Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation and many more topics.

We recorded every webinar and created a playlist of Silver Lining videos on our Idaho Walk Bike Alliance YouTube channel.



### FINDING THE SILVER LINING

A Lighthearted Discussion on Ideas to Stay Active While We All Remain Healthy



Lance Giles presents on the 2020 Legislative session



(continued from page 2)

and opened it up to people for the summer. Automobile users decreased while bikers and walkers took over the streets.

Initial reaction to this street closure was positive as everyone enjoyed the haven of these two blocks of car-free streets to walk and ride their bicycles or skateboards. The city put tables, chairs, and umbrellas out to instantly create a two-block passive and recreational park for people. Surveys monitored the public's opinions of this street closure, and the results showed strong support for this concept.

As cars started to re-emerge and businesses slowly reopened, a vocal minority opposed this closed-to-cars concept. The city responded by reducing the 4th St. closure by a block and allowed cars to return. While many expressed disappointment at this decision, the experiment continued throughout the summer, hopefully laying the groundwork for more street closures in the future.

Now as we enter the final chapters of this pandemic, IWBA is committed to looking at this new environment in which we live to determine how we most effectively advocate for the safety of people on Idaho streets. We will continue to advocate with our legislators for bike/ped infrastructure funding and inform local and state officials about the situation in their communities. We will always work for you and yours. We are all pedestrians. Every day.

Michael David is IWBA's Board President. He resides in Ketchum.

## World Day of Remembrance



Idaho Walk Bike Alliance partnered with Boise Bicycle Project, Idaho Smart Growth and Idaho Sierra Club to hold a World Day of Remembrance memorial on November 15 at the Idaho State Capitol to honor the 619 Idahoans seriously injured or killed while walking and biking in the last five years.

This event issued two calls of action:

- Request that transportation agencies work with advocates to design roads and write policy to slow motor vehicles and;
- No longer say "accident" when speaking about traffic violence because these "crashes" are 100% preventable.



### Counter Loan Program

We have partnered with LHTAC to offer bike/ped counters to help communities collect bicycle and pedestrian count data on streets or greenways. Contact us if you are interested.



### Filmed By Bike

We went green in 2020 thanks to Treefort loaning us metal reusable cups to eliminate plastic waste. The Audience toasted to **zero plastic waste** in 2020 while enjoying great bike movies together.

# 2020 TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE



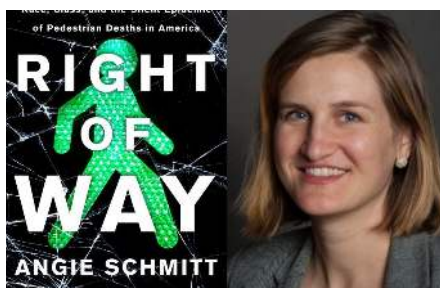
This two-day virtual conference included multiple presentations, panels, and discussions focused on the critical importance of improving walking and biking throughout Idaho.

Topics included how a school siting impacts taxpayers and students; legislative and industry issues; public transit opportunities and challenges;

creating accessible communities; planning for people with disabilities; how to engage elected officials; families for safe streets and how canals can connect communities.



Legislative Panel: Lance Giles, Senator Nelson, Senator Crabtree, Rep David, Rep Kauffman



Keynote Speaker Angie Schmitt

The event allowed Idaho Walk Bike Alliance to strengthen relationships with transportation organizations with whom we don't normally engage. It allowed IWBA to connect with policy, industry and other transportation leaders from across the transportation spectrum. Additionally, legislators and other policy makers had the opportunity to hear directly from Idaho Walk Bike Alliance members and partners.

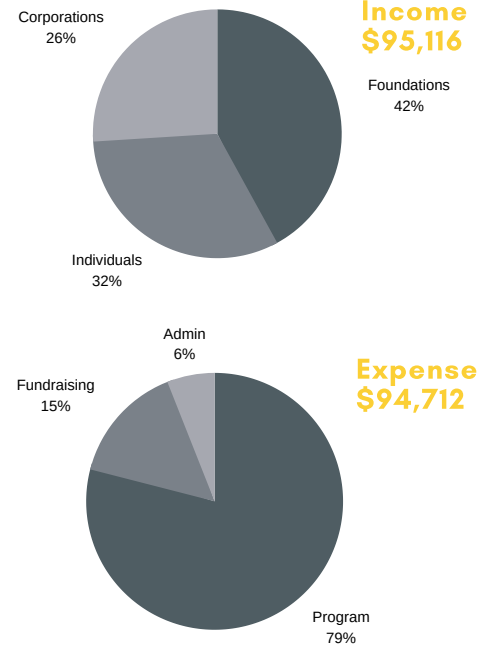
The conference kicked off with Angie Schmitt, author of Right of Way: Race, Class and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths which lays out why pedestrians are being killed by motorists in record numbers throughout the U.S. All sessions are archived and available on the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance YouTube channel.

# Advocates Circle

These generous supporters gave \$500+ in 2020.

- |                              |                                      |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| AARP Idaho                   | Idaho Conservation League            | PRECO Electronics / Sensata Technologies |
| AJ and Susie Balukoff        | Idaho Department of Health & Welfare | POWER Engineers                          |
| Cathleen and Jim Bethea      | Idaho Falls Community Pathways       | Race to Robie Creek                      |
| BikeBOI                      | Idaho Mountain Touring               | J. Patrick Riceci                        |
| Bill's Bike and Run          | JIGGS                                | Stephanie Rose and Bill Bauer            |
| Boise Brewing                | Nora Locken and Arjan Meddens        | Saint Alphonsus Health System            |
| Boise GreenBike              | Julie and Steve Meyer                | Shu's Idaho Running Co.                  |
| Campbell Company             | Mountain West Bank                   | Chris Staley                             |
| Century West Engineering     | Nancy and David Nelson               | St. Luke's Health Foundation             |
| Clif Bar Family Foundation   | Bruce and Kelley Olenick             | Teton Toyota/Teton VW                    |
| Melissa Davis                | Molly O'Reilly and Steve Lockwood    | The Bike Shop                            |
| Jennifer and Jamie Forese    | Precision Engineering                | United Way of Treasure Valley            |
| Cynthia Gibson and Jim Byrne |                                      |  |
| Jeanne and Joseph Groberg    |                                      |  |
| HDR                          |                                      |  |

# 2020 Financials



## Become a Monthly Strider!

Monthly donations **help you** spread out your giving over the course of the year. And the stability of year-round funding **helps us** do our work consistently each month. A win-win for both of us. Who doesn't love that?



## Consider a Legacy Gift

Pass on your passion for safer streets through a bequest of money, securities or personal property. Visit our website [idahowalkbike.org/legacygifts](http://idahowalkbike.org/legacygifts) to learn how.

## 2020 Board of Directors

- Michael David (Ketchum) **President**
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- Chris Staley (Idaho Falls) **Treasurer**
- Bruce Olenick (Pocatello) **Secretary**
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- Molly O'Reilly (Sandpoint)
- Alexis Pickering (Boise)
- J. Patrick Riceci (Boise)



## Staff

- Cynthia Gibson, **Executive Director**
- Sarah Taylor, **Communications**



## Contribute

**ANNUALLY OR ONE-TIME:** [idahowalkbike.org/donate](http://idahowalkbike.org/donate)  
**MONTHLY:** [idahowalkbike.org/monthly-strider](http://idahowalkbike.org/monthly-strider)

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