

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009



The Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation has put forward an ambitious and successful agenda in 2009--with our lobbyist in Jefferson City and work with Missouri's Congressional delegation in Washington, DC., and other programs to support local, state, and national advocacy.

Thanks to the help and support of thousands of Missourians who bicycle, walk, run, and use trails, key actions by our elected representatives, and strategic action by many bicycling, walking, running, and trails organizations across the state, our issues now have visibility far beyond what most of us would have dreamed of just a few years ago:

- 🚲 The **Tour of Missouri** has brought internationally renowned pro bicycle racing teams, worldwide attention, over 400,000 bicycle fans, 22 million TV viewers, and over \$26 million in economic impact to Missouri. When funding for the 2009 Tour was threatened we were able to mobilize thousands of supporters like you to write or call Governor Nixon and let him know how important bicycling is to our state--and convinced him to allow the 2009 Tour to move forward as planned.
- 🚲 MoDOT has received funding to **complete three new major Missouri River crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians**--two in Kansas City and one to connect Jefferson City and the state capitol with the Katy Trail. For decades there has been *no* safe way to walk or bicycle
- 🚲 The new **Missouri River bridge at Hermann** includes a bicycle/pedestrian path that will connect the Katy Trail with the city of Hermann.
- 🚲 State officials have announced the start of work on the **connection between the Katy Trail and the Kansas City metro area**.
- 🚲 The Department of Natural Resources has nearly **completed the final 11 miles on the eastern end of the Katy Trail**, between St. Charles and Machens.

## Building a world class network

*Over the next 5 years, we will support and encourage the development of bicycle and pedestrian planning in communities across Missouri. We will work for better roads, trails, and facilities for walking and bicycling. We will work to create complete, connected networks of walkable, bicycleable routes throughout our communities and our state.*



- 🚲 MoBikeFed was represented in Washington, DC, at the **National Bike Summit** in 2007, 2008, and 2009. The connections the Missouri delegation made with our **Missouri members of Congress** have been invaluable in moving local, state, and national issues forward.
- 🚲 The third annual of **Bicycle Day at the Capitol** brought dozens of MoBikeFed supporters to Jefferson City to make personal contact with state lawmakers and policy leaders. These personal visits, backed up by hundreds of messages, made a big impression on Missouri lawmakers, and the result is we have been able to move small, but key, pieces of pro-bicycling, pro-walking, and pro-trails legislation through each year.
- 🚲 MoBikeFed has created a powerful **Vision of Active Transportation in Missouri** that lays out ambitious goals and details exactly what communities across the state need to do to become more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. See [MoBikeFed.org/vision](http://MoBikeFed.org/vision)
- 🚲 Thanks to the work of our **representative in Jefferson City, Jim Farrell**, MoBikeFed has continued to develop relationships with legislators and state officials in Jefferson City. Thanks to the Tour of Missouri, we have worked closely with staff from the Governor's office, Lt. Governor's office, and Division of Tourism on a number of projects.

### Building a movement

In the next 5 years, we will gather thousands of active members from every part of the state of Missouri and work together to create a new movement in support of bicycling and walking. We will build partnerships and coalitions with like-minded organizations to expand our influence.



- 🚲 In 2009, after more than three years of persistent work, we were able to **pass a bill allowing bicyclists to proceed through those annoying traffic signals** when they fail to detect or change for us without fear of receiving a ticket (you have to stop, wait until it is clear the signal won't change for you, then wait until it's safe before proceeding--but if you do that you can't get a ticket for going through that malfunctioning signal).
- 🚲 We also **stopped a "bad trails bill"** that would have created many problems for bicycle and pedestrian use of trails. We were able to work with the sponsor to create a bill that met his objectives while avoiding severe problems for those of you who bicycle, hike, walk, and run on trails.
- 🚲 MoBikeFed is well into the process of bringing a **"Share the road with Bicycles" license plate** to Missouri.
- 🚲 **MoBikeFed members helped PedNet (Columbia) pass the first anti-bicyclist harassment bill in Missouri.** Our members in Columbia are already reporting a significantly improved treatment of bicyclists since the legislation has passed.
- 🚲 MoBikeFed's legislative committee is preparing a powerful line-up of **legislative proposals for the 2010 legislative session**, including proposals for:
  - ❖ **A "Complete Streets" bill for MoDOT**, requiring accommodation for bicycling and walking where it is needed
  - ❖ **A Safe Streets Bill:** Appropriate penalties for motorists whose careless driving injures or kills

These bills and others supported by MoBikeFed made progress in 2009—but ultimately they did not pass. Our goal is to make sure Missouri has the same legal safeguards that other states do—and **get those bills passed in 2010.**

### Increasing safety and reducing crashes

*In the next 5 years, we will reduce the rate of pedestrian and bicycle crashes and injuries per trip around Missouri by one third. We will promote and encourage motorist education programs and activities and work with law enforcement to encourage appropriate enforcement activities to promote safety for all road users.*



- 🚲 MoBikeFed has had a series of meetings with representatives of the Missouri Transportation Alliance--which is **working to set future transportation policy and find transportation funding for MoDOT and for cities and counties across the state**. We are working to make sure that, as we build Missouri's 21st Century transportation system, people can safely bicycle and walk throughout their communities.
- 🚲 A strong movement towards better bicycling and walking accommodations is literally **sweeping through cities in Missouri**. Just a few examples of what local organizations and local advocacy has been able to accomplish in Missouri recently:
  - ❖ The **Bike St. Louis** system is expanding beyond the initial 20-mile "starter system"; TrailNet is working with a whole group of **St. Louis metro area** cities and counties to create city and county bicycle plans; a coalition of St. Louis area groups including TrailNet, the St. Louis Regional Bicycle Federation, and MoBikeFed recently worked with the city to apply (and then re-apply) for Bicycle Friendly Community status.
  - ❖ The new federally funded "**GetAbout Columbia**" pilot project, which is investing about \$20 million into programs and facilities designed to help make Columbia a better, safer place to walk and bicycle, has showed amazing results. In just 12 months, the amount of bicycling is 2.5 times what it was, and the amount of walking is up 50%. Overall, the amount of automobile trips to work or school is down 15%. What that means for you--even if you don't live in Columbia--is we now have one city in Missouri where bicycling and walking is starting to become the norm: a regular, accepted, and normal part of the city's fabric.
  - ❖ **Kansas City** has hired a new Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator and a Trails Coordinator, is (finally!) implementing its bicycle plan and creating a citywide trails plan, started a new Bicycle/Pedestrian Action Committee with representatives from each council district, and is working hard to reach Platinum-level Bicycle Friendly Community status by 2020.

### Encouraging activity

*In the next 5 years, we will promote, encourage, and conduct programs and campaigns throughout the state that increase active transportation for all users. We will help communities develop and implement these efforts.*



- ❖ **Springfield** recently adopted a well-thought-out bicycle plan, has an active and effective bicycle advocacy committee, is working hard on its application for Bicycle Friendly Community status, and continues to expand one of the most comprehensive trail systems in the state.
- ❖ **Cape Girardeau** is moving forward with a bicycling and walking plan and working towards incorporating ideas from Complete Streets and the Bicycle Friendly City program.
- ❖ **St. Joseph** has created a new group, Quad States Trails of St. Joseph, to work towards an interconnected regional trails system. St. Joseph is one of the few Missouri communities with a Complete Streets policy. Area mountain biking enthusiasts recently unveiled a seven mile mountain biking trails system in St. Joseph's Krug Park.
- ❖ **Warsaw** has built an impressive mountain biking trails system and is working to implement a complete bicycle plan throughout the city.

🚲 Will Governor Nixon and Lieutenant Governor Kinder be able to work out an agreement to **continue the Tour of Missouri in 2010 and beyond?**

🚲 The Tour of Missouri is putting Missouri out on an international stage as a great place to live and to bicycle. **Will our state leaders now follow up with some of the simple, logical steps to actually make Missouri a better place to bicycle?** How about a state bicycle map, information resources to help residents and tourists find our best trails and routes, marking the four national bicycle routes that cross Missouri, and adopting bicycle-friendly street design standards across the state?

🚲 Although the deal to **Complete the Katy Trail** has been signed and DNR has made a commitment to build the trail with all possible speed, like any deal it's not done until it's done—until the trail is on the ground. Until then, there is the possibility of **delay, objections, or unforeseen difficulties**. We have already seen some of that happen.

🚲 We hear reports the **MoDOT's new Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Melissa Anderson, is doing an excellent job** of implementing top-notch bicycle and pedestrian engineering standards to MoDOT. But will MoDOT really make the high- and low-level changes it needs to incorporate the needs of people like you who walk and bicycle into every project? It remains to be seen.

🚲 Recently the verdicts in the Gaunt double fatality (driver ran over two bicyclists in broad daylight, was charged with two counts of manslaughter but acquitted of all charges), the Susan Brewer case (driver strayed in to the shoulder and killed the bicyclist; received a \$200 fine), the Michael Katz case (an inattentive driver with a long list of traffic violations left his lane and killed the bicyclist; the driver was given fines and probation), and several other high-profile cases have shown that **Missouri bicyclists and pedestrians are not receiving the legal protection they need**. MoBikeFed has a positive plan to address these issues and make the roads safer for everyone. **But we need your help to make our plan a reality.**

**With a groundswell of walking and bicycling across the state, now is the time for those of us who walk and bicycle to stand up together and ask for streets, trails, and communities that are safe and inviting for walking and bicycling.** It's happening in cities across the U.S. and it can happen here in Missouri, too.



## Legislative Platform

One of MoBikeFed's top priorities is to support law and policy that promotes safe bicycling and walking--and work to change any existing law or policy that works against that goal.

Thanks to support from members like you, MoBikeFed has been increasingly successful in moving our legislative platform forward--as the following summary of Legislative Platform Planks that have become law shows.

### LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM PLANKS THAT HAVE BECOME LAW

2009

- 🚲 **Ban on texting while driving** passed; applies only to young drivers
- 🚲 **Dead Red law:** Allowing motorcycles & bicycles to proceed through a red light after waiting a certain period that makes it obvious the motorcycle/bicycle is not triggering the traffic signal. This addresses a situation commonly faced by bicyclists, where the traffic signal simply will not change because the equipment does not recognize a bicyclist as it should.
- 🚲 **License plates** - a new law creates a system for us to apply for a Missouri "Share the Road" license plate that will raise funds for bicycle-related education/outreach; we will apply soon.
- 🚲 **"No passing on solid yellow line"** law disadvantageous to bicyclists and pedestrians was stopped and did not move forward in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 (we opposed the law as written and proposed a more bicycle-friendly compromise, which was accepted by the bill's sponsors but not yet passed into law; we are happy to see the bill move forward in the bicycle-friendly compromise version or simply stall and not move forward at all)
- 🚲 **Equestrian Trail Bill**--we were able to stop a version of an equestrian trails bill that would have been very disadvantageous to bicyclists, hikers, walkers, runners, and other pedestrians who use trails, and support a version of the bill the encourages development and maintenance of equestrian trails while have no negative effects for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- 🚲 **Bike Month resolutions** in House & Senate, **Governor's Proclamation** for Bike to Work Week

*We will work to create safety and justice for nonmotorized users through Missouri's traffic law.*

*We will work for funding and policies to create better roads, trails, and facilities for walking and bicycling.*



## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM PLANKS THAT HAVE BECOME LAW (CONTINUED)

### 2008

- 🚲 **Bike Month Resolution and Governor's Proclamation**
- 🚲 **Walk/Bicycle to School Month/Day Resolution**
- 🚲 \$18 million from AmerenUE settlement for **Katy Trail Connection** to Kansas City appropriated to DNR; construction on the Katy Trail Connection can now move forward

### 2007

- 🚲 A measure to **encourage recreational trails/mountain biking trails** in state parks and conservation areas by allowing/encouraging greater participation by nonprofit organizations in state parks (as proposed by Rep. Sutherland in 2006)
- 🚲 **Bike Month resolution**
- 🚲 **Tour of Missouri Month proclamation & resolution**

### 2006

- 🚲 **Clutch's Law**—increased penalties & driver license points for those who fail to yield right-of-way and cause an accident

### 2005

- 🚲 **Allow right turn signaling with the right arm**; allow intermittent signaling when arms/hands are needed to control bicycle
- 🚲 **Regulate bike lane usage**
- 🚲 **Clarify that bicyclists riding on the road shoulder** is not illegal
- 🚲 **Update the definition of a bicycle** to include tricycles and quadracycles
- 🚲 **Safe passing provision for motorists passing bicyclists**

### 2004

- 🚲 Legislation to address **liability concerns of landowners** adjacent to trails

### 1995

- 🚲 **Repeal sidepath law**: Repeal the law that required bicyclists to ride on path adjacent to road if such a path is available
- 🚲 **Improve, clarify, and update Missouri's basic bicycle law**

*MoBikeFed's current Legislative Platform can be found online at [MoBikeFed.org/platform.php](http://MoBikeFed.org/platform.php)*



## THE MISSOURI BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FEDERATION

The Missouri Bicycle Federation is a coalition of bicycling, walking, running, and trails organizations representing over 15,000 Missourians and speaking for the 2 million Missourians who bicycle regularly and the 5.8 million who walk.

The Missouri Bicycle Federation is working to realize its vision of active transportation in Missouri by creating a world-class bicycle and pedestrian network in Missouri, building a movement around walking and bicycling, encouraging more walking and bicycling, and increasing safety for all road users.

Find out more or join the Federation at [MoBikeFed.org](http://MoBikeFed.org)

### JOIN OUR MOVEMENT!

*Help us make Missouri a place where more of your friends and neighbors feel safe and comfortable walking and bicycling.*



#### MISSOURI BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FEDERATION

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