

ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021

REIMAGINING OUR WORK | REIMAGINING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE | BUILDING THE FUTURE

DEAR SUPPORTERS & MEMBERS OF THE BICYCLE COALITION.

Annual reports typically allow us to reflect back on the preceding twelve months to put our accomplishments into context of the challenges and opportunities presented during that time period. This report covers April 2020 to March 2021, a very challenging (to say the least) COVID Year, and details how we adapted quickly to reimagine everything from the way we conduct our work, to our annual goals and campaigns.

Keeping our mission in mind—to make bicycling a safe and fun way to get around for anyone in the region—we did our best to support our community during this difficult period. Although it seems like almost a lifetime ago, a few of our most memorable wins from 2020 include: convincing the City of Philadelphia to keep bike shops open as essential businesses; advocating for MLK Jr. Drive to be repurposed as a respite of safe space for those wishing to walk or bike for recreation and exercise; organizing Circuit rallies via Zoom to advocate for trail projects; providing virtual programming and trainings for BCYC youth; and addressing diversity, equity and inclusion issues internally and externally.

As always, thank you for your generous support for the work that we do in leading the bicycling movement in Greater Philadelphia

Sarah Clark Stuart Executive Director

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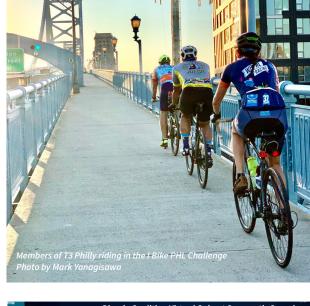
With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, our staff had to deploy every ounce of our creativity and dynamism to continue to safely meet the needs of our community. We surveyed essential workers to find out what resources we could provide, then launched a livestream of free, open-access bike mechanic lessons on Tuesdays through the summer. Our youth cycling athletes rode together on Zwift, had Zoom yoga, cooking classes, and community meetings, and ultimately were able to stay connected to coaches and to each other. The Better Bike Share Partnership created a Learn to Ride video in English and Spanish, taught virtual Urban Riding Basics classes, and started an online meetup series called Changing Gears where folks could learn and share about current topics related to personal wellness, cycling in Philly and COVID-19.

RIDES & EVENTS

Without the possibility of in-person rides, our **RideWithGPS route library** became an even more incredible tool to share our deep knowledge of where to ride your bike! —especially with the many new riders who found cycling during the pandemic. We were able to build and share routes for many free, on-your-own-time rides, including our **Explore the Circuit** ride series, the inaugural **I Bike PHL Challenge**, our **Holiday Lights Ride** and the **Black Histories / Presence / Futures** ride series. When restrictions lessened a bit over the summer, we supported the grassroots-organized, socially-distanced **Solidarity Ride**, which brought over 300 people to the streets in protest of traffic violence and in memory of lives lost. Our first-ever **virtual Gala** allowed 300+ people from all over the region, state and even county to celebrate cycling with us, and to contribute to our BCYC scholarship fund and other education and advocacy work.

RACIAL & SOCIAL EQUITY

In the wake of George Floyd's murder by police and the responding civil uprisings of Summer 2020, the Bicycle Coalition took space to listen to our staff and our community about ways we could / should strengthen our work toward racial and social equity. We formalized a place for continued reflection and interrogation of our work as it relates to anti-racism; we refined our hiring practices to address the barriers constructed by institutionalized racism; we committed to using our platforms to amplify the work of BIPOC folks in our community; we made all of our memberships sliding-scale; and we officially removed police enforcement from our Vision Zero advocacy platform. The work continues, and we're grateful to our community members who have strengthened their support as we more clearly define our ethics and responsibilities.













REIMAGINING OUR INFRASTRUCTUR





MLK JR. DRIVE OPEN TO PEOPLE

On March 19, 2020, during the very first week of the City's COVID-19 mitigation efforts, we called for the opening of MLK Drive to cyclists, pedestrians and other trail users to address the increased demand for safe outdoor space. And on March 20, Mayor Kenney did just that. With a combined trail and road width of 50 feet, MLK has about 4 times the breathing room of the other river trails (Kelly Drive path and Schuylkill Banks), which not only made it a prime spot for social distancing, but also for a wide variety of recreational uses for folks of all ages and abilities. Pictured left: kids on bikes, folks on foot, on scooters, on bikes, and on horses (!)

5000+ USE MLK DRIVE ON WEEKDAYS

According to electronic counts by engineering firm WSP, MLK Drive was used by more than 5,000 people on weekdays and nearly 10,000 on weekends this year. This data establishes MLK Drive as the most-used bike/ped path in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

OUR GUIDE TO MLK DRIVE

In response to the overwhelming popularity of the Drive, we created an interactive map designed to help folks make the most of the connections and amenities MLK has to offer. **A Guide to Access MLK Drive** takes users along the Drive from East Falls to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, highlighting Indego stations, SEPTA transit connections, parking areas, green space and more along the way.

5000+ SIGN THE PETITION

Around the 1-year anniversary of MLK opening to people, **5,274 people signed our petition** (officially our most popular petition of the decade) asking the City to reimagine the future of the space as one that prioritizes active, equitable transportation and recreation. Pictured left: Policy Director Randy LoBasso & Executive Director Sarah Clark Stuart hand-delivering the signatures to Mayor Kenney's office on March 26, 2021.

MLK DRIVE TRAIL REHABILITATION PROJECT

The \$1.4 million project to overhaul the 50-year-old MLK Drive Trail broke ground in January 2021. The start of construction caps the Bicycle Coalition's long history of advocating for the repair of this path—we asked Mayor Nutter to make it a priority as early as 2008! Since then, we raised it with agency officials at every opportunity, and in 2019, we secured Representative Donna Bullock's support of the City's application for state grant funding for the project. The rehabilitation includes new signage, on-trail pavement markings, improved crosswalks and ADA accessible ramps, increased trail and ramp widths, and something folks who've ridden the old version of the MLK Drive Trail will be particularly excited about: a trail design that avoids conflict with existing tree roots and provides a safe, smooth surface.

NEW TRAILS & TRAIL FUNDING

2020-2021 saw more progress on many long-awaited trail and infrastructure projects, including the **Grays Ferry Bridge** bike lanes and sidepath, the **Schuylkill River Trail in Chester County**, the **Route 130 Bypass**, and the **Upper Bucks Rail Trail**. Circuit Action Teams also successfully advocated for significant new trail funding in New Jersey, and DVRPC approved **\$4 million in funding for 17 Circuit Trails projects**, a major step toward our goal of 500 miles of Circuit Trails by 2025 (more about this campaign on the next page).

NEW & IMPROVED BIKE LANES

Philly got its first raised protected bike lane this spring with the completion of the federally-funded American Street Improvement Project. The 1.3 mile corridor from Fairhill to Northern Liberties is median protected—rare for bike lanes in cities around the world—and the new medians even have green stormwater infrastructure! Construction was also completed on protected bike lanes on 22nd Street, and commenced on bike lanes on Parkside, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 8th and 10th streets. All of these projects and upgrades were a long time coming, and the result of planning, advocacy and community meetings (most of which took place before the pandemic).

















CIRCUIT ACTION TEAMS & RALLIES

As of Summer 2020, the Circuit consisted of about 340 miles of completed trail. In order to get the remaining 160 miles built, we worked with Circuit Coalition partners to create 9 Circuit Action Teams. These teams each focus on advancing a specific trail and organize efforts in their counties. In December, we held a series of virtual rallies and Zoom meetups that brought Action Team members together to learn about and discuss priority projects for the future of the Circuit.

MOVING THE CIRCUIT FORWARD

As part of our work with the Circuit Coalition on our 500 Miles by 2025 campaign, we published a report identifying the 170 miles of trail segment projects that will allow the region to reach this goal. The report also includes policy recommendations that, with the help of our Action Teams, we've been advocating for to county and local governments.

COUNTY HIGHLIGHT: MERCER ADVOCACY

In January 2021, the Circuit Coalition's Action Team and bicyclists and trail users in Mercer County organized to improve the safety of the Whitehead Road crossing on the D&R Canal Trail. Over 60 people and organizations submitted their redesign ideas, Research Director John Boyle drew up the suggested site improvements (left), and we got positive feedback from the designers of the new trail crossing, especially about the addition of a pedestrian refuge.



includes cumulative in-kind donations, restricted gifts, event support, and unrestricted giving.

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\$10,000+

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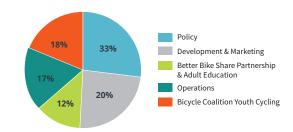
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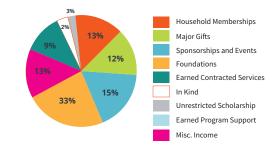
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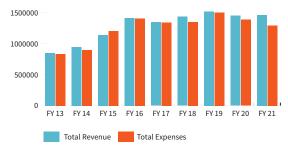
FY21 EXPENSES \$1,292,265



FY21 REVENUE \$1,460,257



GROWTH OVER TIME



BCYC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

During the 2020-2021 year, \$44,000 was contributed by generous donors, a portion of which were dedicated to the memory of Russell Meddin and matched by Jerome & Julie Jacobs, founders of the scholarship program. The 2020 scholarship awardees were Jahmiel Jackson, Nia Pressley, Maurice Grant, Emir Johnson, Devin Liles, Marc Darden & Scottie Williamson. The 2021 scholarship awardees are Jahiem Williams, Sasha Catledge & Byron Holley Jr.



We thank our corporate & philanthropic supporters

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