



**WISCONSIN
BIKE FED**

March 22, 2020

Dear Governor Tony Evers:

As life is changing, many non-essential services are being required to close. Local bike shops provide an essential service for residents depending on a bicycle for transportation, as well as for those who ride to exercise and relieve stress. We believe that Wisconsin's 147 bike shops should be allowed to stay open!

Randi Pueschner, owner of Smith's Bike Shop in La Crosse said, "Bicycling can offer a healthy break from day-to-day activities, both physically and mentally. Labeling the bicycling industry as "non-essential" would not only harm the commuters who don't use vehicles to get places like the grocery store, but could severely limit the options we all have to stay healthy through exercise and stress relief."

Like auto repair shops, bike shops must remain open to service essential transportation needs. Especially in densely populated areas, bicycles are safe, solitary methods of transportation that support social distancing. Collectively we need to support all modes of essential transportation and allow safe outdoor activity, including cycling.

Cities like San Francisco and Philadelphia have allowed bike shops to remain open as essential services as well to keep the residents moving safely. The following, or additional steps as each shop may deem necessary, can be taken. Bike shops can conduct business safely by practicing social distancing through adjustments based on physical access and entry points:

- No entry – Only staff will be allowed inside a shop. Staff will bring needed merchandise to a designated hand-off point for customers.
- Sanitization – Before a bike enters a store interior, staff will sanitize contact surfaces on the bike.
- Distance – Bikes may be left at a bike rack outside shops and customers will be asked to step away before bike shop staff come out to sanitize.
- Cashless – To minimize contact, prioritize contactless payment such as Apple/Samsung/Google Pay/PayPal and cash payment ONLY if exact change or credit card as well as cleaning the credit card machine after each use.

Thank you for your support. The Bike Fed will continue to make bicycling better and safer in Wisconsin, even during these unprecedented times.

Stay well,

Kirsten Finn
Executive Director
Wisconsin Bicycle Federation

CC: WisDOT Secretary Designee Craig Thompson
Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
Senator Darling (Co-Chair), Representative Nygren (Co-Chair), Representative Loudenbeck (Vice-Chair),
Senator Olsen (Vice-Chair), Senator Tiffany, Senator Marklein, Senator Stroebel, Senator LeMahieu,
Senator Erpenbach, Senator Johnson, Representative Born, Representative Rohrkaste, Representative
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