



April 10th, 2020

Dear Governor Evers, WisDOT Secretary Designee Craig Thompson, and DHS Secretary Andrea Palm;

This Bike Fed applauds you for your comprehensive response to the COVID-19 crisis and your efforts to keep Wisconsinites safe and healthy. We note, in particular, your encouragement of outdoor exercise like biking and hiking while practicing safe social distancing. Wisconsinites have responded. For example, the City of Milwaukee [trail counters have already seen](#) a 58% increase across all trails they track for the month of March in 2020 compared to 2019. Madison trail numbers are also holding steady, even with many of the students moved out. Nationwide reports show trail usage is up [200% across the country](#).

In contrast, Milwaukee County Vehicle Miles Traveled is [down 76%](#). Dane County is down 79%. La Crosse County is down 73%. As the weather warms and families, and people living together or alone, will continue to seek outlets to maintain physical and mental well-being. We fully expect demand for trails to continue to increase. Now that has become necessary to close 40 state trails and parks it is ever more important to provide safe outlets for essential travel and recreation in our communities.

Every Wisconsinite needs safe, immediate access to the outdoors.

Not all neighborhoods in our cities have easy access to safe places to do such activities. We therefore respectfully ask that space for social distanced essential travel and recreation is created in places unevenly affected by the lack of recreational space, as well as those with trail systems that are being overloaded.

Suggested changes and ideas for immediate action:

- Publicly encourage municipalities to create temporary slow zones limiting auto access to residential neighborhood streets to local traffic to allow local residents to safely exercise.
- Emphasize enforcement of traffic laws, to crack down on reckless driving.
- Close City, County, and State parkways to vehicle traffic to allow for proper social distance walking and biking.
- Ask local and state DPWs to take stock of cones and barrels to use to implement closures
- Provide looped "courses" that encourage movement and not congregation.
- Publicize street closures to public and place signage with reminder of Social Distance Requirements at entrances.
- Deactivate "Beg Buttons"

Thank you for your consideration of this request during such difficult times. The Cycling community stands ready and willing to assist your efforts however we can do so; please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Finn".

Kirsten Finn  
Executive Director