

Lee County Board of Health: *Live Healthy Lee County helps Motorists Watch for Bikers*

Summary: The Live Healthy Lee County coalition began seeing a need for some bike awareness and bike safety after there were several accidents involving bikers being hit. The coalition has also seen an increase of bicyclists due to several biking clubs. A coalition member and avid biker began highlighting routes along county roads he knew of that bikers took, and that motorists needed to proceed with caution.

Challenge: After some discussion, the coalition decided that to move forward we would need the help of the county secondary roads department to install the signs to improve awareness that the roads are also being used by bicyclists.

Solution: The CTG Wellness Coordinator and the Coalition member researched some “Share the Road” signs that would best fit the needs of bikers and motorists. It was decided the best county road to start with was J40 from Ft. Madison to West Point. It has several hills and curves, and if not prepared a driver could come upon a biker very quickly. The plan is to put signs about every mile, and by hills and curves. The coalition would like to continue to add signs to the county roads to help increase awareness of those that bike.

Results: A presentation was given on the need for 20 “Share the Road” signs, and potential collaboration from the county road department to the Lee County Board of Supervisors. The board approved the purchase of the signs and the help from the county roads department.

Further Direction: The Live Healthy Lee County coalition not only plans to continue to add signage to other county roads, but would like to map out some safe bike routes. These routes would be promoted through the LHLC website, local chamber of commerce, tourism offices, and camp grounds.