» Continue to expand and improve the low-stress bike network and ensure that your community maximizes safety and comfort for bicyclists of all ages and abilities by following a bicycle facility selection criteria and design guidelines that increase separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume. Identify gaps and add new facilities that complete and expand the bicycle network, and work to upgrade existing facilities, such as by converting wide paved shoulder into bike lanes or protected bike lanes.

» Take advantage of Lee's Summit's 400 miles of streets that are at or below 25 MPH by developing a network of bike boulevards/neighborhood greenways to encourage and optimize bicycle travel on low-stress corridors. Diverters, wayfinding, chicanes, and other treatments can be effective at reducing vehicle speeds and promoting the bicycle-oriented nature of a bike boulevard. Lower speed limits on residential streets to 20 mph or less to further increase comfort and safety on these neighborhood bicycle boulevards.

» Continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community, and to upgrade the quality of existing bike parking to meet APBP standards. (See www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions) Adopt a bike parking ordinance for new and existing buildings that specifies the amount and location of secure, convenient bike parking available.
Expand bicycle safety education to be a routine part of education for students of all ages, and ensure that schools and the surrounding neighborhoods are particularly safe and convenient for biking and walking. Work with the school district, local bicycle groups, and interested parents to create Safe Routes to School programming for all K-12 schools.

Expand bicycle education opportunities for adults. Consider ways to target demographics who currently do not feel safe riding with classes or events that address their concerns and create an inclusive, welcoming environment.

Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar or sponsoring a City staffer or local bike advocate to attend an existing seminar elsewhere. Having several active instructors in the area will enable you to expand cycling education for youth and adults, recruit more knowledgeable cycling ambassadors, deliver Bicycle Friendly Driver education to motorists, and have experts available to assist in encouragement programs. Visit bikeleague.org/ridesmart for more information.

Develop more education and encouragement outreach methods and programs that specifically target families, women, seniors, low-income, and non-English speaking communities, in addition to general non-targeted outreach and media campaigns that discuss current and new bicycle facilities, safe driver and bicyclist behavior, and events related to walking and biking. Explore ways to partner with the City’s new Diversity and Inclusion Commission on these efforts as well as to build more equitable outreach and engagement practices into all future bicycle Evaluation & Planning efforts.

Lee’s Summit could be well-served by a bike co-op or non-profit community bike shop. In communities your size, co-ops have had major success in building a culture around youth/family cycling and coupled with after-school programming, job training and a connection point with local clubs/advocacy, this can be win-win-win.

Your application indicated that your community is currently updating a bicycle master plan. This is a great step to improving conditions for bicycling and institutionalizing processes for continual improvement. Your Bicycle Master Plan update should take advantage of best practices that are applicable to a community of your size, including the use of separated bike lanes, targeted education programming, and demonstration projects to help the community understand possible bicycle facilities. Ensure that the new Plan includes specific and measurable goals, a strong implementation plan, and dedicated funding or an annual budget to ensure its success.

Adopt a target level of bicycle use (percent of trips) to be achieved within a specific timeframe, and ensure data collection necessary to monitor progress.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community: https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources
- Building Blocks of a Bicycle Friendly Community: https://bikeleague.org/content/building-blocks-bicycle-friendly-communities
- The Five E’s: https://bikeleague.org/5-es
- Smart Cycling Program: https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart
- Advocacy Reports and Resources: https://bikeleague.org/reports
- Bicycle Friendly Business Program: https://bikeleague.org/business
- National Bike Month: https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth