



TOTAL COUNTS
BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES 15
BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES 22
BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES 8

SEE THE DATABASE MAP: BIKELEAGUE.ORG/BFA/AWARDS

ILLINOIS

Summary

Illinois is a standout in Legislation & Enforcement, with strong legal protections for bicyclists and strong laws against dangerous driver behavior, including distracted driving. While Illinois is the #1 ranked state in that category, there is a serious asterisk that falls outside the scope of our survey data.

That asterisk would be the case of Boub vs. Township of Wayne, which in 1998 held that Illinois municipalities are not liable for damages to bicyclists caused by road conditions unless the municipality has designated that the road is intended for bicyclists. This case means that municipalities can avoid legal risk by not planning for or building for bicyclists. Despite amending its law so that bicyclists "shall be granted all of the rights" of vehicle drivers in 2016, the decision in Boub still has not explicitly been overturned and casts a shadow over state and local bicycle planning. Remedying this should be a priority for the state.

Outside of the Legislation & Enforcement category, Illinois is mostly an average state. It's poor performance in the Infrastructure & Funding category may reflect budgetary problems that go far beyond transportation.

Feedback Points

Illinois could improve its data systems in order to report on planned and built bicycle facilities. This could include a Complete Streets Inventory and improved roadway evaluation procedures.

Illinois should update the state's design manuals (BDE for state roads, BLR for local road design approvals) according to the latest industry manuals (including AASHTO 2012, NACTO) in order to improve the state's design and access policies.

Complete streets efforts would be improved by incorporating bicycle (and pedestrian) needs more into internal criteria on which state roads are funded for resurfacing or reconstruction. This could include proactively expanding the scope and budget of resurfacing projects where reasonable improvements can improve bike and pedestrian safety.

Illinois should use both 405 and 402 safety funding to ensure that there are adequate public education opportunities for people to learn about safe bicycling and safely sharing the road with people who bike. With good laws on the books it is important that the public is educated about them.

The Illinois DOT should hold or provide ongoing support for a state bicycle and/or walking conference with opportunities for professional development, contact with elected officials, and networking.

More aggressively implement the Illinois Bike Transportation Plan. Provide public reporting of progress with an implementation dashboard or other system.

STATE ADVOCACY GROUP: RIDE ILLINOIS

Comparison States table with columns: National (Overall), Midwestern Region (out of 13). Rows include Vermont, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin.

Categories table with columns: Categories, Rank out of 50. Rows include Infrastructure & Funding (45), Education & Encouragement (16), Legislation & Enforcement (1), Policies & Programs (31), Evaluation & Planning (17).

Bicycle Friendly Actions table with columns: Action, Status (Progress/New in 2017). Rows include Complete Streets Law / Policy, Safe Passing Law (3ft+), Statewide bike plan last 10 years, 2% or more fed funds on bike/ped, Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area.

Federal Data on Biking table with columns: Metric, Value, Rank. Rows include Ridership (0.6% of commuters, 20/50), Safety (7.5 fatalities per 10k bike commuters, 24/50), Spending (\$2.28 per capita, 29/50).


This figure is based upon the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate.


This figure is based upon fatalities reported over a five-year period according to the National Highway Administration (NHTSA)'s Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the 2015 5-year ACS estimate of the number of bicycle commuters.


FHWA spending is based upon projects coded using any of three project types associated with bicycling and walking projects through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s Fiscal Management Information System. To calculate per capita spending we used a five-year average for fiscal years 2011-2016 and the 2015 5-year ACS state population estimate.





The Category Scores below are aggregated from smaller sub-categories—each of which is sorted in descending order, from the topic with the highest possible points available to least.

 Infrastructure & Funding Ranked 45 th of 50 States	
Design and Existence of Infrastructure Has the state made it easy to build bicycle infrastructure and installed a variety of infrastructure on state facilities?	20/38 pts
State Transportation Funding Does the state report that funding is allocated to bicycling?	0/28 pts
Use of Federal Transportation Funding Does the state take advantage of available federal funding for biking and walking?	8/16 pts
Planned and Recently Built Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities How many lane miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities has the state reportedly planned to build and built?	0/10 pts
State Transportation Funding Restrictions Does the state have any policies that limit the ability to fund bicycling and walking infrastructure?	4/8 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points: 32/100 pts	

 Policies & Programs Ranked 31 st of 50 States	
Complete Streets Does the state have a complete streets policy and processes to support its implementation?	32/56 pts
Design and Access Policies Does the state have policies in place to ensure good design and access for people who bike and walk?	0/25 pts
State of Practice Development Does the state support trainings on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and complete streets implementation?	6/13 pts
Sustainable Transportation Policies Does the state work incorporate multi-disciplinary considerations in the development and implementation of transportation projects?	2/6 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points: 40/100 pts	

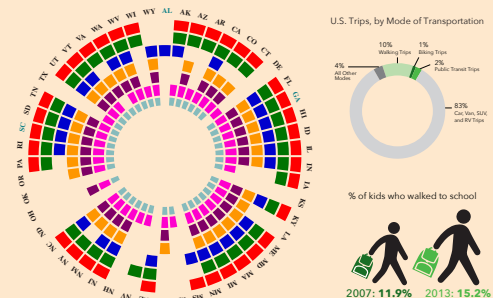
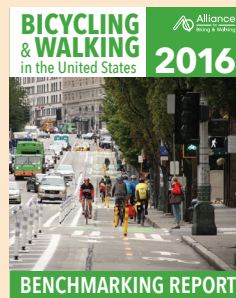
 Education & Encouragement Ranked 16 th of 50 States	
State DOT Education & Encouragement Support Does the state DOT support bicycling and walking events and education materials?	30/35 pts
Mode Share Do many people bike to work and is that number increasing relative to other modes?	11/30 pts
Driver Education Requirements Does the state require drivers to answer questions about bicyclist safety as part of the driver's licensing test?	5/20 pts
Advocacy Does the state have a bicycle advocacy group that is a member of the League of American Bicyclists or was identified by the state?	15/15 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points: 61/100 pts	

 Evaluation & Planning Ranked 17 th of 50 States	
State DOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans Does the state have a bicycle and/or pedestrian plan and does that plan follow best practices?	25/48 pts
Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Has the state made bicyclist and pedestrian safety an emphasis and what does data say about safety?	29/34 pts
Understanding People who Bike and Walk Does the state have programs in place to collect data on people who walk and bike?	7/10 pts
Formal User Group Engagement Does the state have an official Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Advisory Committee and does it follow best practices?	8/8 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points: 69/100 pts	

 Legislation & Enforcement Ranked 1 st of 50 States	
Laws that regulate driver behavior and methods of enforcement Does the state have strong comprehensive distracted driving laws and allow photo enforcement?	29/37 pts
Laws that restrict the behavior of people who bike and walk How does the state unnecessarily restrict the behavior of people who bike and walk? (low points = more restrictions)	27/28 pts
Laws that create protections for people who bike and walk Does the state have laws that provide specific protections for people who bike and walk?	25/25 pts
Laws that influence the built environment Does the state allow speed limits of 20 mph or less?	7/10 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points: 88/100 pts	

Dig into the data: Robust interactive report + Downloads

The Bicycle Friendly State survey used to create this ranking is also the basis for a biennial report. Explore tons of bicycling, walking, & health data on states and cities at bikingandwalkingbenchmarks.org.





BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE REPORT CARD



STATE RANKING OVERALL (OUT OF 50)

#16

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STATE ADVOCACY GROUP: RIDE ILLINOIS

SMART CYCLING RESOURCES



Bike Safety Education is a key component to keeping roadways safe for all users. Having League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your state creates more opportunities for bike safety education to be shared. LCIs are certified by the League through an intense 3-day seminar focused on how to effectively deliver the Smart Cycling curriculum. To host a LCI seminar in your state, contact education@bikeleague.org.

Visit bikeleague.org/ridesmart to access Smart Cycling videos, Smart Cycling Quick Guides (available in English & Spanish), and Smart Cycling manuals.



ABOUT THE LEAGUE & MEMBERSHIP

Support the League by becoming a member today and add your voice to the bicycling movement! **Over 75% of our funding comes from individuals.** Members support our time-tested programs like Bicycle Friendly America, Smart Cycling and Federal Advocacy. As a member, you'll enjoy valuable perks like *Bicycling Magazine*, discounts at dozens of national bike retailers and manufacturers, and exclusive pricing to the National Bike Summit. Together, let's advance bicycling on Capitol Hill and in your community!

WE BELIEVE

Bicycling brings people together. When more people ride bikes:

- » Life is better for everyone;
- » Communities are safer, stronger and better connected;
- » Our nation is healthier, economically stronger, environmentally cleaner and more energy independent.

OUR VISION

is a nation where everyone recognizes and enjoys the many benefits and opportunities of bicycling.

OUR MISSION

is to lead the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. As leaders, our commitment is to listen and learn, define standards and share best practices to engage diverse communities and build a powerful, unified voice for change.

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