Successes & Suggestions

The Bicycle Friendly State report card is based on over 100 data points for each state and input from state agencies and advocates. Based on the information we obtained for Connecticut, the League of American Bicyclists believes the following actions will improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in Connecticut.

The Connecticut DOT has begun to update its Highway Design Manual and Signal Design Manual to include best practices for bicycle and pedestrian design and operation. These are important steps to institutionalize improvements for biking and walking.

Congratulations on finalizing the Connecticut Active Transportation Plan. This plan began in 2015 and with its adoption in 2019 an important step was taken to improve bicycling and walking in Connecticut. With this plan in place, it is important to follow-up on its implementation and design and build the prioritized routes in the plan.

Repeal the state’s mandatory sidepath law. This type of law create conflicts between bicycles and other path users and ignore the quality, safety, topography and connectivity of available paths. Most sidepaths are designed for recreational use and may not be convenient for transportation purposes. Connecticut’s law is particularly bad because it has no standard for the usability of a path or exceptions to the requirement that a sidepath is used where it is available.

Connecticut should take steps to encourage and increase bicycle safety education for all ages and abilities. Recently, places like Illinois and the District of Columbia have made commitments to provide bicycle education for all students in at least one grade of school.

Active transportation is an important part of community health and promotion of physical activity. Connecticut should consider investing more in active transportation where communities have high rates of physical inactivity, obesity, diabetes, or other health issues associated with physical inactivity.

Adopt a goal to increase the prevalence of people biking. More people biking can improve rates of physical activity, reduce emissions, and reduce cost of transportation projects compared to motor vehicle projects.

Adopt a law prohibiting a motorist from opening an automobile’s door unless the motorist is able to do so safely.

In 2017, the FHWA began accepting bicycle and pedestrian counts into the Travel Monitoring Analysis System (TMAS). Connecticut should conduct and support counts in a uniform or standard format that is suitable for TMAS in order to better understand, plan for, and react to bicycle and pedestrian travel needs.

Connecticut has set a safety target that anticipates an increase in the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. While this target may reflect current trends, it is also a statement of goals and Connecticut should set goals that reflect a commitment to improving road safety and reaching zero deaths and serious injuries.

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**Federal Data on Biking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ridership</td>
<td>0.3% of commuters</td>
<td>37/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>biking to work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>7.3 fatalities per 10K bike commuters</td>
<td>25/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spending</td>
<td>$2.80 per capita FHWA spending on biking and walking</td>
<td>28/50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Bicycle Friendly States ranking is based on a comprehensive survey completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit bikeleague.org/states or contact Ken McLeod at (202)-822-1333 or ken@bikeleague.org.
## Connecticut

### Education & Encouragement
- **State DOT Education & Encouragement Support**
  - Does the state DOT support bicycling and walking events and education materials? **A**
- **Mode Share & Advocacy**
  - Do people bike to work and are they organized to advocate for improvements? **D+**

### Infrastructure & Funding
- **Design and Existence of Infrastructure**
  - Has the state made it easy to build bicycle infrastructure and installed a variety of infrastructure on state facilities? **C+**
- **State Transportation Funding**
  - Does the state allocate funding to bicycling or limit state funding for bicycling? **B-**
- **Use of Federal Transportation Funding**
  - Does the state take advantage of available federal funding for bicycling and walking? **C-**
- **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? **B-**

### Evaluation & Planning
- **State DOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans**
  - Does the state have a bicycle and/or pedestrian plan and does that plan follow best practices? **C+**
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety**
  - Has the state made bicyclist and pedestrian safety an emphasis and what does data say about safety? **B-**
- **Understanding People Who Bike and Walk**
  - Does the state have programs in place to collect data on people who walk and bike? **D**
- **Formal User Group Engagement**
  - Does the state have an official Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Advisory Committee and does it follow best practices? **A**

### Legislation & Enforcement
- **Laws That Regulate Driver Behavior and Methods of Enforcement**
  - Does the state have strong comprehensive distracted driving laws and allow photo enforcement? **C+**
- **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? **D**
- **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? **A**

### Policies & Programs
- **Complete Streets**
  - Does the state have a complete streets policy and processes to support its implementation? **C+**
- **Design and Access Policies**
  - Does the state have policies in place to ensure good design and access for people who bike and walk? **B-**
- **State of Practice Development**
  - Does the state support trainings on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and complete streets implementation? **C**
- **Sustainable Transportation Policies**
  - Does the state work incorporate multi-disciplinary considerations in the development and implementation of transportation projects? **C**

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### Additional Information

**SEE THE BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE DATABASE MAP:**
[BIKELEAGUE.ORG/BFA/AWARDS]

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