



# BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE REPORT CARD

## NEW JERSEY

RANKED

12

OF 50

STATE ADVOCACY GROUP:  
NEW JERSEY BIKE + WALK  
COALITION

## 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 New Jersey, the League of American Bicyclists believes the following actions will improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in New Jersey.

New Jersey is currently updating its Strategic Highway Safety Plan. This is a great opportunity to consider who bicycle and pedestrian safety can be emphasized, and Vision Zero goals pursued. Historically, New Jersey has struggled to spend Highway Safety Improvement Program funding on bicycle and pedestrian safety and that should be addressed in the update.

Congratulations on the record authorization of \$23 million in federal funds to 31 bicycle and pedestrian projects in 2018. New Jersey has a history of low obligation rates for federal funds on bicycle and pedestrian projects. Hopefully the newly established Local Aid Resource Center will ensure that those authorized funds result in successful projects.

New Jersey's funding decisions and project implementation have resulted in low rates of federal spending on bicycling and walking and higher rates of bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities. New Jersey should continue to attempt to find better ways to allocate resources to high risk areas and ensure that projects are built to address inequities in safety and mobility.

Congratulations on updating the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and recommitting to five goals: 1) Improve safety; 2) Enhance Accessibility, Mobility, and Connectivity; 3) Achieve Healthy, Equitable, Sustainable Communities; 4) Foster a Culture Shift toward Complete Streets; and 5) Facilitate Coordination and Integration. Ensure that these goals are guiding the work of New Jersey DOT and that enough resources are being allocated to accomplish them.

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

Adopt a safe passing law with a minimum distance of 3 feet to address bicyclist safety. The League has a white paper that provides examples of how other states have adopted and implemented this type of law: [https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFS\\_WP-Safe\\_Passing\\_law-07\\_2018.pdf](https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFS_WP-Safe_Passing_law-07_2018.pdf)

Active transportation is an important part of community health and promotion of physical activity. New Jersey 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.

New Jersey has set a safety target [[https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/spm/state\\_safety\\_targets/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/spm/state_safety_targets/)] 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 New Jersey should set goals that reflect a commitment to improving road safety and reaching zero deaths and serious injuries.

Adopt a vulnerable road user law that increases penalties for a motorist that injures or kills a bicyclist or pedestrian.

	Infrastructure & Funding	B-
	Education & Encouragement	C
	Legislation & Enforcement	D+
	Policies & Programs	B+
	Evaluation & Planning	B+

Get the full breakdown of each category and grade average on the next page.

Bicycle Friendly Actions <a href="https://bikeleague.org/bicycle-friendly-actions">bikeleague.org/bicycle-friendly-actions</a>	Action Taken?
Complete Streets Law / Policy	✓
Safe Passing Law (3ft+)	
Statewide bike plan last 10 years	✓
2% or more federal funds on bike/ped	
Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area	✓


Federal Data on Biking		Rank
Ridership	0.3% of commuters biking to work	35/50
Safety	12.5 fatalities per 10K bike commuters <sup>ii</sup>	33/50
Spending	\$0.63 per capita FHWA spending on biking and walking <sup>iii</sup>	50/50


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


<sup>ii</sup> 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.


<sup>iii</sup> 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.


# Category Breakdown: NEW JERSEY

 <b>Infrastructure &amp; Funding</b> Ranked 17 of 50 States <span style="float: right;">B-</span>	
<b>DESIGN AND EXISTENCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Has the state made it easy to build bicycle infrastructure and installed a variety of infrastructure on state facilities?	B-
<b>STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING</b> Does the state allocate funding to bicycling or limit state funding for bicycling?	B-
<b>USE OF FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING</b> Does the state take advantage of available federal funding for biking and walking?	D+
<b>PLANNED AND RECENTLY BUILT BICYCLE &amp; PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES</b> How many lane miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities has the state reportedly planned to build and built?	A

 <b>Policies &amp; Programs</b> Ranked 5 of 50 States <span style="float: right;">B+</span>	
<b>COMPLETE STREETS</b> Does the state have a complete streets policy and processes to support its implementation?	B
<b>DESIGN AND ACCESS POLICIES</b> Does the state have policies in place to ensure good design and access for people who bike and walk?	B
<b>STATE OF PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT</b> Does the state support trainings on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and complete streets implementation?	A
<b>SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION POLICIES</b> Does the state work incorporate multi-disciplinary considerations in the development and implementation of transportation projects?	B+

 <b>Education &amp; Encouragement</b> Ranked 29 of 50 States <span style="float: right;">C</span>	
<b>STATE DOT EDUCATION &amp; ENCOURAGEMENT SUPPORT</b> Does the state DOT support bicycling and walking events and education materials?	A
<b>MODE SHARE &amp; ADVOCACY</b> Do people bike to work and are they organized to advocate for improvements?	D

 <b>Evaluation &amp; Planning</b> Ranked 11 of 50 States <span style="float: right;">B+</span>	
<b>STATE DOT BICYCLE &amp; PEDESTRIAN PLANS</b> Does the state have a bicycle and/or pedestrian plan and does that plan follow best practices?	A
<b>BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY</b> Has the state made bicyclist and pedestrian safety an emphasis and what does data say about safety?	C-
<b>UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE WHO BIKE AND WALK</b> Does the state have programs in place to collect data on people who walk and bike?	D+
<b>FORMAL USER GROUP ENGAGEMENT</b> Does the state have an official Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Advisory Committee and does it follow best practices?	A

 <b>Legislation &amp; Enforcement</b> Ranked 45 of 50 States <span style="float: right;">D+</span>	
<b>LAWS THAT REGULATE DRIVER BEHAVIOR AND METHODS OF ENFORCEMENT</b> Does the state have strong comprehensive distracted driving laws and allow photo enforcement?	B-
<b>LAWS THAT RESTRICT THE BEHAVIOR OF PEOPLE WHO BIKE AND WALK</b> How does the state unnecessarily restrict the behavior of people who bike and walk?	D+
<b>LAWS THAT CREATE PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO BIKE AND WALK</b> Does the state have laws that provide specific protections for people who bike and walk?	F

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

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

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