



NEW YORK

TOTAL COUNTS
BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES 4
BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES 17
BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES 11

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

STATE ADVOCACY GROUP: NEW YORK BICYCLING COALITION

Summary

New York is a state of big plans and big vision – exemplified by the recently announced Empire State Trail, a 750-mile trail bike and walking pathway from New York City to Canada and from Albany to Buffalo to be completed by 2020. Unfortunately, these big plans do not always connect to the day-to-day of bicycling, which are more likely to be impacted by the state’s poor performance in the Legislation & Enforcement category and lack of a recent statewide bike plan that provides guidance on all projects related to biking, not just big ones.

Two legal issues are particularly noteworthy:

1. The state lacks a safe passing law that defines a safe distance. This is one of our Bicycle Friendly Actions and has been widely adopted in other states over the last two decades. There are emerging enforcement practices and it has been instrumental to public safety messaging in many states.
2. The state has a defacto ban on electrically-assisted bicycles, which has hampered the ability of these bikes to provide mobility options to New Yorkers and has treated all electrically-assisted bicycles the same rather than allowing targeted enforcement against problematic types of these bikes.

There are ongoing efforts to address both issues and we are hopeful that changes will be made soon.

Feedback Points

Legalize electrically-assisted bicycles in order to resolve the current status of electrically-assisted bicycles in New York state which does not explicitly outlaw such bicycles, but instead requires a registration that effectively does not exist. Current New York state electrically-assisted bicycle regulation is unsustainable and creates unneeded controversy and inconsistency regarding electrically-assisted bicycles.

While the New York State DOT has some bold initiatives such as the Empire State Trail Initiative there has not been an update to the statewide bicycle plan since 1997. There have been many changes to bicycle planning, design, and implementation in the last 20 years and a comprehensive plan would likely help update state DOT processes in a way that makes accomplishing bold initiatives easier.

Adopt a safe passing law with a minimum distance of 3 feet to address bicyclist safety.

» Feedback Continued on Page 3

Comparison States	
National (Overall)	Eastern Region (out of 11)
21. Arizona	7. Maine
22. Rhode Island	8. Rhode Island
23. New York	9. New York
24. Connecticut	10. Connecticut
25. Texas	11. New Hampshire

Categories	Rank out of 50
Infrastructure & Funding	9
Education & Encouragment	13
Legislation & Enforcement	39
Policies & Programs	7
Evaluation & Planning	16

Bicycle Friendly Actions	✓ = Progress ✓ = New in 2017
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		Rank
Ridership	0.6% of commuters biking to work ⁱ	19/50
Safety	8.1 fatalities per 10k bike commuters ⁱⁱ	27/50
Spending	\$2.34 per capita FHWA spending on biking and walking ⁱⁱⁱ	27/50


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


ⁱⁱ 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.


ⁱⁱⁱ 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 9 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?	27/38 pts
State Transportation Funding Does the state report that funding is allocated to bicycling?	23/28 pts
Use of Federal Transportation Funding Does the state take advantage of available federal funding for biking and walking?	10/16 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?	10/10 pts
State Transportation Funding Restrictions Does the state have any policies that limit the ability to fund bicycling and walking infrastructure?	8/8 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points: 78/100 pts	

 Policies & Programs Ranked 7 th of 50 States	
Complete Streets Does the state have a complete streets policy and processes to support its implementation?	50/56 pts
Design and Access Policies Does the state have policies in place to ensure good design and access for people who bike and walk?	15/25 pts
State of Practice Development Does the state support trainings on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and complete streets implementation?	13/13 pts
Sustainable Transportation Policies Does the state work incorporate multi-disciplinary considerations in the development and implementation of transportation projects?	4/6 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points: 82/100 pts	

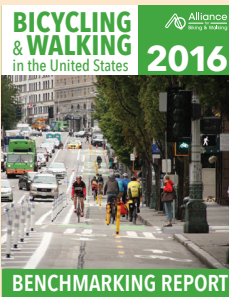
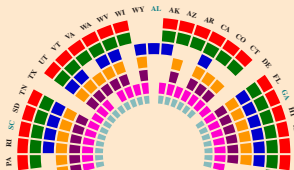

 Education & Encouragement Ranked 13 th of 50 States	
State DOT Education & Encouragement Support Does the state DOT support bicycling and walking events and education materials?	35/35 pts
Mode Share Do many people bike to work and is that number increasing relative to other modes?	11/30 pts
Driver Education 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: 66/100 pts	

 Evaluation & Planning Ranked 16 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?	38/48 pts
Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Has the state made bicyclist and pedestrian safety an emphasis and what does data say about safety?	15/34 pts
Understanding People who Bike and Walk Does the state have programs in place to collect data on people who walk and bike?	9/10 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: 70/100 pts	

 Legislation & Enforcement Ranked 39 th 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?	24/37 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)	11/28 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?	18/25 pts
Laws that influence the built environment Does the state allow speed limits of 20 mph or less?	1/10 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points: 54/100 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)

#23

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Feedback Points, CONTINUED

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Increase state funding for bicycle projects and programs, especially those focused on safety and eliminating gaps and increasing access for bicycle networks.

Repeal the state's mandatory bike lane law. These types of laws ignore the quality and safety of available bike lanes. The best way to get people to use bike lanes is to make them safe, convenient, and connected so that they are appealing and accessible to people who bike.

New York state has the tenth worst rate of bicyclist fatalities per capita in the United States. This rate has not decreased in recent years. Improving bicyclist safety should be a major focus of NYSDOT efforts.



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.

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.

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