



BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE

ARKANSAS



2018 PROGRESS REPORT

#35

2017 ranking

TOTAL COUNTS
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES 6
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES 29
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES 4

REGION: SOUTH

2018 Progress Report

Arkansas shows some mixed signals in its federal data.

There is a slight upward trend in bicycling to work and a slight downward trend in the rate of bicyclist fatalities, both of which are positive developments.

In terms of federal funding, there is a one year spike that coincided with the worst year for bicyclist fatalities in Arkansas over the last ten years, but otherwise most years have shown rates of spending on bicycling and walking that are less than the national and Southern regional averages.

To capitalize on the positive signals in federal data will likely take more consistent use of federal funds.

Bicycle Friendly Actions ✓ = New Progress in 2018	
Complete Streets Law / Policy	No
Safe Passing Law (3ft+)	Yes
Statewide bike plan in last 10 years	Yes
Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area	Yes
2% or more fed funds on bike/ped (in last five fiscal years)	No

Featured Statewide Member - Local advocates from Bike Northwest Arkansas

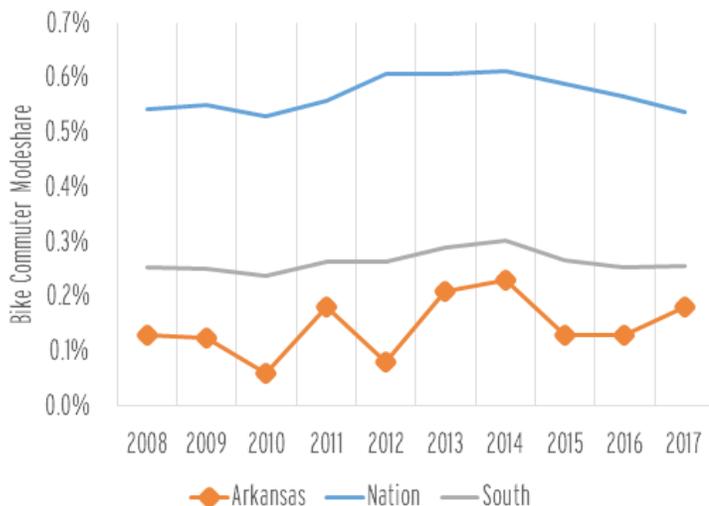


While Bike Walk Arkansas has ceased operations, local advocates in Arkansas report: "The State of Arkansas has made many headlines for its quickly growing soft-surface and hard-surface trails. Mountain biking has exploded across the state with many miles of new trails being built and more under construction. Expansion of paved trails around the state is also underway. There is a lot of positive support from the Governor's Office and the Department of Parks and Tourism.

However, the Arkansas Department of Transportation has not conducted any actions this past year to improve the safety of cyclists or encourage construction of new bicycle infrastructure beyond funding of TAP projects put forth by cities. The newly created statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan has been adopted, but no official actions to implement have occurred, although it has been in place for over a year. ARDOT staff have engaged public members in meetings to discuss creation of a USBRS route across the state and promoted work on cycling HUB communities.

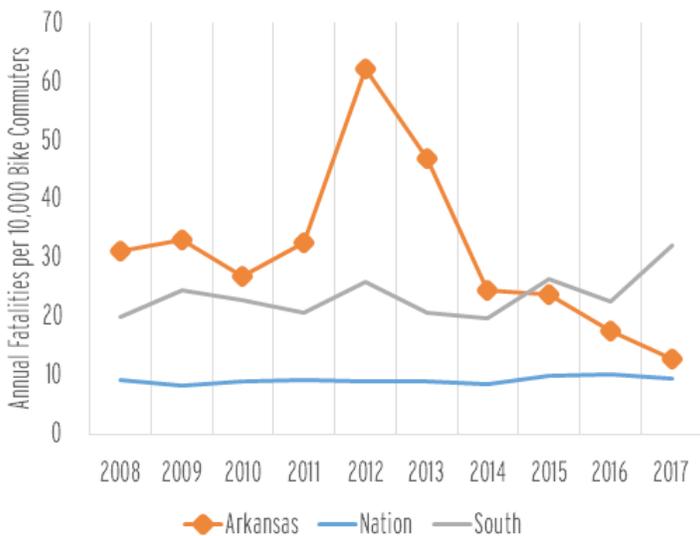
One of the biggest impact areas from the plan is for the state to update their bicycle accommodation policies and design guidance. They continue to be a barrier to local jurisdictions that would like to construct best practice infrastructure as shown in NACTO guidance."

Federal Data on Biking		Ten-Year Trend	Ten-Year Rank
Ridership	0.1% of commuters biking to work	One of 10 largest increases in bike commuting	46/50

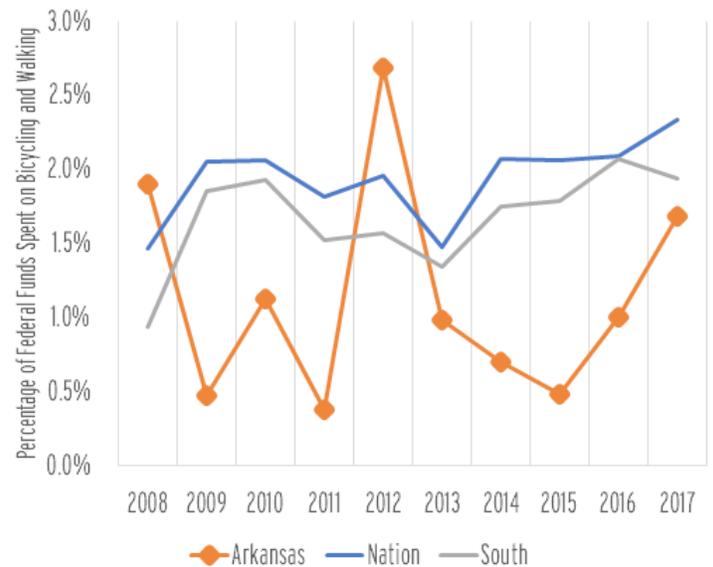


This Progress Report provides an update on Arkansas's efforts related to bicycling. A full report card based upon a comprehensive survey is available at: <http://bikeleague.org/content/state-report-cards>

Federal Data on Biking		Ten-Year Trend	Ten-Year Rank
Safety	31.1 fatalities per 10k bike commuters	One of 5 most more safe	49/50



Federal Data on Biking		Ten-Year Trend	Ten-Year Rank
Spending	1.1% of FHWA spending on biking and walking	Slight decrease in funding	40/50



Featured Agency - Arkansas Department of Transportation (Agency did not respond)

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) adopted a statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan in 2017. That plan included a list of 8 objectives, including "sustain and continue to improve a robust bicycle and pedestrian program in Arkansas," "review of the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation guidelines for Arkansas Highways," and "Develop a Statewide Bikeway Network."

The plan also includes 35 specific strategies to implement the 8 objectives and both objectives and strategies are discussed within the four regions of ARDOT. Some notable strategies include:

- "Within two years of adoption of this plan the State of Arkansas (not just [ARDOT]) has at least 4 FTE ... working on bicycle and pedestrian activities."
- "Consider regular funding cycles for State allocated TAP funds."
- "Consider development of a shoulder width design guidelines ... as part of the Statewide Bikeway Network"
- "Make development of the Trans-America bicycle touring route through Arkansas a top priority...." and
- "Consider the use of Federal Safety program funds toward achieving the bicycle and pedestrian safety goals, that are consistent with the SHSP"



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Every member organization of the League of American Bicyclists gets free access to a powerful advocacy software package. In 2017, the League facilitated over a dozen actions that engaged thousands of people. In New Jersey, these efforts led to a law that requires that drivers are educated about bicyclist and pedestrian safety as part of their driver's license training.

Learn about current actions and how your organization can use our tools at <https://bikeleague.org/TakeAction>