



# OPELIKA, AL

TOTAL POPULATION

30,908

POPULATION DENSITY

585.4

TOTAL AREA (sq. miles)

52.8

# OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

0

# OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES

0

## 10 BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

	Average Bronze	Opelika
High Speed Roads with Bike Facilities	20%	12%
Total on- and off-road Bicycle Network Mileage to Total Road Network Mileage	25%	12%
Bicycle Education in Schools	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Share of Transportation Budget Spent on Bicycling	7%	5%
Bike Month and Bike to Work Events	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Active Bicycle Advocacy Group	YES	YES
Active Bicycle Advisory Committee	MEETS QUARTERLY	MEETS AT LEAST MONTHLY
Bicycle-Friendly Laws & Ordinances	AVERAGE	ACCEPTABLE
Bike Plan is Current and is Being Implemented	YES	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
Bike Program Staff to Population	1 PER 154K	1 PER 61.8K

## CATEGORY SCORES

### ENGINEERING

Bicycle network and connectivity

1.43 /10

### EDUCATION

Motorist awareness and bicycling skills

2.24 /10

### ENCOURAGEMENT

Mainstreaming bicycling culture

2.19 /10

### EVALUATION & PLANNING

Setting targets and having a plan

3.25 /10

## KEY OUTCOMES

	Average Bronze	Opelika
<b>RIDERSHIP</b> Percentage of commuters who bike	1.3%	0.12%
<b>SAFETY MEASURES CRASHES</b> Crashes per 10k bicycle commuters	1,093	1,111
<b>SAFETY MEASURES FATALITIES</b> Fatalities per 10k bicycle commuters	20	111



» Adopt a Complete Streets policy and create implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. A Complete Streets policy should prompt the community to consider lane and/or road diets when repaving or otherwise doing major maintenance on roadways. Striping bicycle lanes as part of repaving operations can save 40% of the cost of adding a bicycle lane. Ensure that your community follows a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume.

» Develop a design manual that meets current NACTO standards or adopt the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide. This will make it easier for city staff to propose and implement bicycle facility designs that have been shown to improve conditions for people who bike in other cities throughout the United States.

» Increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community. Conduct a bike parking study or audit to determine current conditions of bike parking, both in terms of quality and quantity. Adopt a bike parking ordinance for new and existing buildings that specifies the amount and location of secure, convenient bike parking available. Develop

KEY STEPS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



# OPELIKA, AL

Spring 2021

## KEY STEPS TO BRONZE CONTINUED

community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards that adhere to current APBP guidelines. (See [www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions](http://www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)).

- » Your application indicated that all roads in Opelika have a posted speed limit above 25 mph. Lower the speed limits on residential and some commercial streets to 25 MPH or lower, and implement road diets and traffic calming measures to ensure compliance.
- » Encourage multi-modal biking by adding bike racks to every bus and allowing residents to practice putting their bike on the bus during community events.
- » Expand bicycle safety education to be a routine part of education for students of all ages, and ensure that schools and the surrounding neighborhoods are particularly safe and convenient for biking and walking. Work with the school district, local bicycle groups, and interested parents to create Safe Routes to School programming for all K-12 schools.
- » Work with local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) to offer Bicycle Friendly Driver training to motorists in Opelika, particularly to professional drivers and fleet operators.
- » Improve Bike Month activities by creating a Bike to Work Day event, Bike to School Day event, and/or a Mayor's Ride. Bike to Work Day events can include competitions for participation between businesses and "energizer" stations

where people can get coffee on the way to work. Bike to School Day events can include competitions related to bicycle use, outreach to parents, and coordination between the schools and the city to create safer routes to schools.

- » Your application indicated that your community is currently creating a new Bicycle/Pedestrian Masterplan. This is a great step to improving conditions for bicycling and institutionalizing processes for continual improvement. Your bike plan should build upon the two Community Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Studies as well as the existing Carver/Jeter Masterplan to create a safe, comfortable, and connected bicycle network. Ensure the new plan includes specific and measurable goals and performance measures to track progress, and is supported by a dedicated budget for implementation.
- » Create a bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection to create an understanding of current bicyclists and the effects of new facilities on bicycling in Opelika. Automated bicycle counters provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points in a community and mobile counters can provide periodic or before/after data related to a change in your community's road or bicycle network. Observational counts and surveys can supplement automated data in order to collect demographic information and examine social equity goals.

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### MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » League of American Bicyclists: <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » Guide to the BFC Report Card: [https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/Guide\\_to\\_the\\_Bicycle\\_Friendly\\_Community\\_Report\\_Card.pdf](https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/Guide_to_the_Bicycle_Friendly_Community_Report_Card.pdf)
- » Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community: [https://bikeleague.org/BFC\\_Resources](https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources)
- » Building Blocks of a Bicycle Friendly Community: <https://bikeleague.org/content/building-blocks-bicycle-friendly-communities>
- » The Five E's: <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » Smart Cycling Program: <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » Advocacy Reports and Resources: <https://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » Bicycle Friendly Business Program: <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » National Bike Month: <https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth>

