BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Guide to the Fall 2023 Bicycle Friendly Community Report Card

The League released a major update of its Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) application in 2022, after nearly a year of research, focus groups, listening sessions, and other outreach.

The updated BFC application includes a new section on *Equity & Accessibility*, several new subsections under existing categories such as Regional Coordination (under *Engineering*), Inclusive Education (under *Education*) and Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning (under *Evaluation & Planning*), as well as many other smaller changes including new and revised questions and answer options throughout the entire application.

> Please visit the League's blog to learn more about these application updates, and you can find several webinar recordings focused on different aspects of the updates, at bikeleague.org/community.

Every community that applies to the BFC program receives a **Bicycle Friendly Community Report Card**. In tandem with our updates to the application, the report card is also undergoing updates. As of Fall 2023, the updated Bicycle Friendly Community **Report Card** is still in its **beta version** as we continue to refine our new scoring system for the updated BFC application. Updates to the report card are part of our work with communities and local advocates to develop a greater understanding of how to convey new information and awards criteria.

If your community applied to the BFC program in a previous round, you may find the guide to your report card linked here: Spring 2023 Guide, or Fall 2022 Guide, or 2014-2021 Guide.
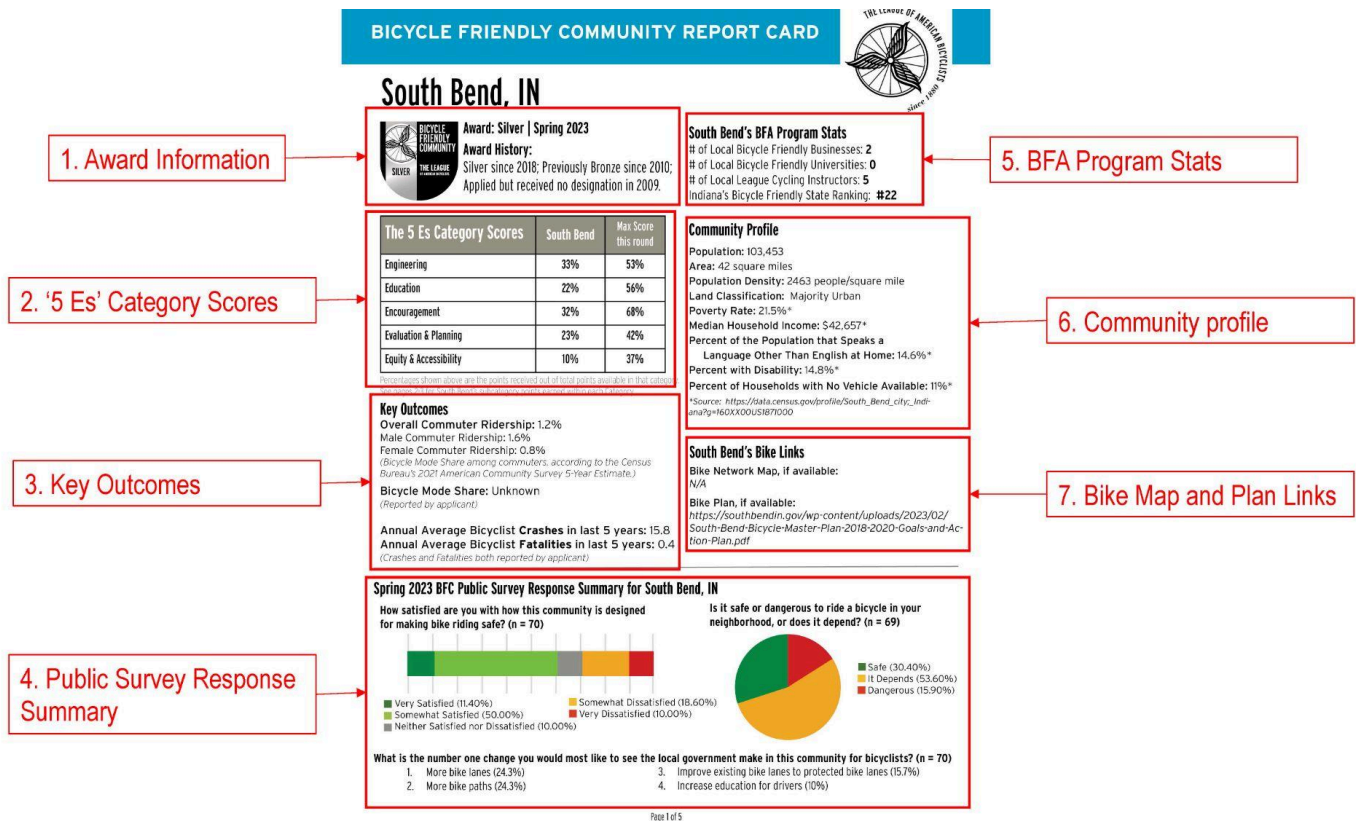

Roadmap to the Fall 2023 BFC Report Card:

Page 1: Cover Page	Pages 2-3: Category and Subcategory Scores	Pages 4-5: Custom Feedback to Improve, and Links to Resources

Page 1: Cover Page

The cover page provides an overview of the BFC's score and key information about the community. Unlike the older version of BFC Report Cards, this cover page does not include key recommendations to improve – those are listed on pages 4-5 of the updated Report Card. Please see below for details on the source of information for each of the following sections of the BFC Report Card's updated Cover Page.

1. **Award Information**
   - This section contains the award seal image (if Bronze or higher) and text name of the community's current BFC award level or application outcome, as well the year/round of this designation.
   - The 'Award History' lists the years in which the community first applied and/or advanced in award levels in the BFC program, as well as the status earned in those years.
   - Once a Bronze or higher award level is earned, communities are required to renew their BFC status by reapplying once every four years.

2. **The 5 Es Category Scores**
   - The first column of the Scores table shows the overall percentage that the community earned within each E Category, weighted against comparable communities in the current round.
     - Population size was the primary metric used to weight scores in the Fall 2023 review cycle, but the League is exploring using other additional metrics to further contextualize and weight Category scores in the future, such as land area size, density, and land use type(s) of the applicant community.
   - The second column of the table shows a comparison to the highest percentage score earned in that category among all communities reviewed in this round.
   - Learn more about the 5 E Categories here: https://bikeleague.org/bfa/5-es/
   - The full breakdown of subcategory scores and their corresponding weights with each category is provided below in this guide.

3. **Key Outcomes**
   - The **Overall** and **Male/Female Commuter Ridership** is from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), from the most recent 5-year estimate at the time of the BFC review process (2022 for the Fall 2023 review cycle).
     - Communities are asked to look up this information via Table s0801 (Commuting Characteristics by Sex) on https://data.census.gov/ and report the figures on their BFC application on Questions A19a, b, and c. League staff verify these numbers before Report Cards are published, and so some report cards may vary from what was originally included on a community's application if a correction was needed.
     - Currently, this data is not provided by the Census with non-binary or other gender options.
   - The **Bicycle Mode Share** figure is the mode share reported by applicants on BFC application Question E15. If the community only provides the ACS number or does not provide a sufficient explanation for how the mode share number was estimated, the report card may list "Unknown."
   - "Average Annual **Crashes** and **Fatalities** in Last 5 Years" are both numbers that communities are asked to report on their BFC application, on Questions E17a and E19, respectively.
     - These numbers often appear as decimals because communities are asked to report these numbers as the annual average from the past 5 years. For example, if there were 2 total fatalities in the past 5 years, the average annual would be (2 fatalities / 5 years) = 0.4

4. **Public Survey Response Summary**
   - This section shows the summary of responses to three of the questions on the BFC Public Survey for the community in the latest round.
   - For each question, the report card shows how many responses were received for the community on that question (e.g. "n=153" means there were 153 responses.)
   - The BFC public survey is created by the League and a link is made available to every community (in both English and Spanish, upon request). It is currently optional but highly encouraged for applicants to distribute the survey link as broadly as possible to seek input from current and potential bicyclists in their community.
   - The League also distributes the survey directly to advocacy organizations, bike clubs, and other contacts who are listed on the community's BFC application, as well as to League members and member organizations in the vicinity of the community.
   - [Learn more about the BFC Public Survey here](), and read about recent changes to make the survey [more public]() and [more equitable]() on the League blog.
   - In addition to the BFC Report Card, all BFC applicant communities receive a complete report of their community's anonymized public survey results, including graph summaries of each question and detailed long-form responses from respondents.

5. **BFA Program Stats**
   - This section shows the current number of awarded **Bicycle Friendly Businesses** (BFBs) and **Bicycle Friendly Universities** (BFUs) within the community at the time of the review process.
     - BFBs and BFUs can be looked up on the League's BFA Awards Map, here: https://bikeleague.org/bfa/award-database/
   - The number of local **League Cycling Instructors** (LCIs) is provided by the applicant, on BFC application Question C11, and can be looked up on the League's Local Resources map, here: https://bikeleague.org/map/
   - The most recent **Bicycle Friendly State** Ranking for the state where the community is located can be found here: https://bikeleague.org/bfa/states/ranking/

6. **Community Profile**
   - The details provided under "Community Profile" are reported by the community under the following corresponding questions in the *Community Profile pt. 1* and *Community Profile pt. 2* sections of the BFC application:
     - Population: Question A7
     - Area: Question A6
     - Population Density: Question A8

- Land Classification: Summary of Question A9a-A9e
- Poverty Rate: Question A18
- Median Household Income: Question A17
- Percent of the Population that Speaks a Language Other Than English at Home: Question A15
- Percent with Disability: Question A21a
- Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: Question A20
- Source: A13
  - The source link provided on the Report Card may differ from what an applicant community listed on Question A13 of their application if League staff identify a more accurate Census Profile Link and feel a correction is needed.

7. **Bike Map and Plan Links**
   - Under Question B13 of the BFC Application, communities are given the option to upload a PDF of their community's bike network map, or provide a link to an online bike network map. If an online link is provided by the applicant, it is included on the BFC Report Card.
     - In some cases, communities that provided a PDF map under Question B13 may have provided a link to an online map under Question D4a (under *Encouragement >> Route-Finding Support*), in which case the link from D4a is provided here on the BFC Report Card.
   - Communities are asked to provide a link to their current Bicycle Master Plan or similar section in another planning document, under Question E9b. If a bike plan link is provided on the application, it is included in this section of the Report Card.

Pages 2-3: Category and Subcategory Scores

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by the applicant community in the Fall 2023 BFC awards round. These scores reflect a combination of automatically-generated points earned through the online application, as well as judge-assigned points and bonus points given by BFC reviewers.

The Fall 2023 Report Cards subcategory scores are based on the following questions as shown below. This table also shows the total points available within each subcategory and the relative weight of that subcategory within its "E" parent category.

Subcategory	BFC Application Questions	Total Points Available in Fall 2023	Current Weight within "E" Category
ENGINEERING		331 Total Points	
Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	B1-B7	41	12%
End-of-Trip Facilities	B8-B12	44	13%
Bicycle Network	B13-B24	128	39%
Network Maintenance	B25-B26	32	10%

Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	B27	23	7%
Bike Sharing[1]	B28	24	7%
Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	B29	6	2%
Regional Coordination	B31-B32	23	7%
Engineering Bonus Points	B33-B34	10	3%
EDUCATION		**193 Total Points**	
Youth Bicycle Education	C1-C4	68	36%
Adult Bicycle Education	C5-C7	47	24%
Motorist Education	C8-C9	28	14%
Bicycle Safety Education Resources	C10-C13	16	8%
Inclusive Education	C14-C18	26	14%
Education Bonus Points	C19-C20	7	4%
ENCOURAGEMENT		**171 Total Points**	
Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	D1-D3	17	10%
Route-Finding Support	D4	10	6%
Bicycle Culture and Promotion	D5-D10	91	53%
Access to Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	D11-D14	35	21%
Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	D15	11	6%
Encouragement Bonus Points	D16-D17	7	4%
EVALUATION & PLANNING		**219 Total Points**	
Staffing and Committees	E1-E5	35	16%
Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	E6-E8	35	16%

---

[1] Some communities may have a negative score under **Bike Sharing** if they are a renewing BFC and the community previously had a public bikeshare program that has been discontinued.

Planning, Funding, and Implementation	E9-E11	46	21%
Evaluating the Bicycle Network	E12-E13	25	11%
Evaluating Ridership	E14-E16	20	9%
Evaluating & Improving Safety[2] Outcomes	E17-E28	42	19%
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	E29-E31	15	7%
EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY		**268 Total Points**	
Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	F1-F4	**24**	9%
Equity Data Collection & Goals	F5-F8	**27**	10%
Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	F9-10	**21**	8%
Equity & Accessibility in **Engineering**	B3b, B9b, B12, B22b, B23a, B24, B27, B28	**44**	16%
Equity & Accessibility in **Education**[3]	C1, C2, C3, C5, C10, C14, C15, C16, C17, C18	**52**	19%
Equity & Accessibility in **Encouragement**	D5, D7, D8, D9a, D11, D14	**42**	16%
Equity & Accessibility in **Evaluation & Planning**	E4, E5, E6, E8, E9, E11, E13, E14, E20c, E26, E27, E28, E29	**51**	19%
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	F11-F13	**9**	3%

---

[2] **Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes** - this subcategory currently includes an autoscore based on the applicant community's reported crashes and fatalities, which results in negative scores for some communities with particularly high crash and/or fatality rates. In the future, the League is considering pulling these auto-scores out into a separate stand-alone subcategory score for "Outcomes" which would also include auto-scoring based on other outcome metrics including ridership and public satisfaction rates.

[3] Some communities have negative scores under **Equity & Accessibility in Education** because part of this score is based on judging fields (such as Question C1d under Youth Education) where BFC reviewers are asked to evaluate certain aspects of how inclusive, equitable, and accessible a community's bike education is. Some of the judging fields allow for negative points, where a judge may feel that it is appropriate to lower a community's overall Education score due to the educational offerings only being limited to a small subset of the community, or where little or no efforts have been made to make the education programs inclusive, equitable, and accessible to all.

Pages 4-5: Custom Feedback to Improve, and Links to Resources

Pages 4 and 5 contain customized feedback for the applicant community in response to their Fall 2023 BFC application. The feedback in this section is collectively provided by reviewers who evaluated the community's application, and may also be informed by public survey responses as well as the community's progress toward recommendations from previous BFC Report Cards, if applicable. The recommendations provided on these pages are intended to help guide communities toward the most relevant areas of focus to increase ridership, safety, and cyclist satisfaction.

RESOURCES
Each BFC Report Card includes the following links to additional resources, including programs, reports, and data from the League and our partners, as well as funding resources for local communities. Applicants are encouraged to explore these resources to supplement their custom feedback

League of American Bicyclists: https://www.bikeleague.org

Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Program: https://bikeleague.org/community

Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community: https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources

About the BFC Application Process: https://bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process

The Five E's: https://bikeleague.org/5-es

The BFC Ideabook and Map: https://bikeleague.org/BFCIdeaBook

The League's Benchmarking Project on Biking & Walking Data and Reports: https://data.bikeleague.org

Bicycle Friendly State Rankings and Report Cards: https://bikeleague.org/state

Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) Program: https://bikeleague.org/business

Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) Program: https://bikeleague.org/university

Smart Cycling Education Program: https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart

Advocacy Reports and Resources from the League: http://bikeleague.org/reports

Federal Funding Resources from the League: https://bikeleague.org/federal-funding-resources/

Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities from U.S. DOT Transit, Safety, and Highway Funds:
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf

U.S. DOT Navigator: https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator