



Nashville Advances Mobility with Data-Driven Insights

Summary

In 2024, Nashville, the capital city of Tennessee, renewed its Bronze award with the League of American Bicyclists' (League) Bicycle Friendly CommunitySM (BFC) program. It initially earned a Bronze BFC award in 2012. The BFC program assesses and awards communities across the country for how welcoming they are to people who bike, on a scale from Bronze to Platinum.

Throughout spring and summer 2025, the League offered tools, guidance, and technical assistance to representatives from Nashville through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Active People, Healthy NationSM initiative. This work supported efforts towards activity-friendly community design and help create momentum for achieving Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community status in the future.

Challenge/Background

Nashville's population has grown significantly, especially in the downtown area, which saw a [365% increase from 2013 to 2023](#). With an [expected 17.4 million visitors](#) in 2025, the city's streets and transportation systems are under pressure. To create healthier and more convenient ways to get around, the city has been working to improve bikeability and expand access to micromobility devices such as scooters and bikeshare.

After Nashville applied to renew its BFC award in 2024, the League issued a report card with considerations to improve bikeability in the city. Some key opportunities for improvement included:

- improving Nashville's bike ridership and infrastructure data and mapping,
- expanding safe and protected bike routes for all ages, and
- engaging more local businesses and organizations in promoting biking to employees and customers through programs like Bicycle Friendly BusinessSM.



Actions:

After the League issued the city's 2024 Bronze award and report card showing significant room for improvement, Nashville was selected as a focus community to engage in Active People, Healthy NationSM action planning work. As part of this work with Nashville, the League encouraged the Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure (NDOT) to apply for the [2025 Lime Mobility Insights Competition](#). Jointly administered by the League and Lime, a shared micromobility service provider, the competition helps cities "leverage Lime's extensive data to address transportation challenges and enhance safety for all road users." In May 2025, Nashville was named one of three winning cities. An NDOT representative shares, "The data [from the Lime Mobility Insights Competition] tell the story about how micromobility devices aren't just for visitors, but help residents make first- and last-mile connections to transit and other destinations."

This competition provides valuable data to help improve bike lanes, micromobility parking, and downtown connectivity – supporting Mayor Freddie O'Connell's [Choose How You Move](#) transportation improvement program that aims to improve transportation safety on Nashville's streets for everyone. NDOT is also working closely with local partners, including WeGo Public Transit, the Nashville Downtown Partnership, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation, on the City's 2024 [Connect Downtown Action Plan](#): an existing joint effort to improve mobility, reduce traffic congestion, and generally make it easier and safer to move around downtown Nashville.

Results/Accomplishments:

Through the *Connect Downtown* action plan, the *Choose How You Move* program, and supported by new research from the Lime Mobility Insights Competition, Nashville is using real-world data to guide infrastructure improvements and policy decisions. Transit ridership is growing as the city invests in smart service expansions under the *Choose How You Move* plan. New bike lanes, improved signage, and crosswalks are improving transportation safety and reducing conflicts in the busy downtown core. The Active People, Healthy NationSM action planning support provided by the League has helped coordinate these efforts between NDOT's Transportation Demand Management work and *Connect Downtown* program.

In August 2025, NDOT added new separated bike lanes connecting North Nashville (Germantown) and East Nashville – [a project that city leaders say "is a big step in improving connectivity across Nashville."](#) Along with work to improve the built environment in Nashville, the city has invested in building relationships and encouraging local bike culture – deepening engagement with its Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and celebrating Bike Month with community rides and a [Bike Month resolution](#).

Next Steps:

In addition to working toward Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community status, NDOT plans to reapply for Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) recognition as an employer, following the feedback they received to improve on a previous Honorable Mention-status BFB application in 2024. NDOT is also working with other Nashville-area employers in the BFB program to host an information session encouraging more local employers to join the movement.

In the [Connect Downtown action plan](#) (screenshot of proposed connected bike network located above), future developments include the expansion of bike lanes along 12th Avenue South, increasing safety measures for people walking and biking near Tennessee State University, and the installation of micromobility parking “to accommodate approximately [1400 scooters and 375 bikes](#) within [the] downtown area.”

The forthcoming 2025 Lime Mobility Insights Report will feature Nashville’s bike and transit data insights, and will include a League-hosted webinar and a written report provided by Lime. By pairing data-driven insights with cross-sector partnerships, Nashville is well-positioned to foster a transportation network that supports active living for residents and visitors alike.



“In 2024, 16.9 million visitors were recorded [in downtown Nashville]. Micromobility is a popular mode for visitors of our city... Connect Downtown made recommendations to improve the right-of-way by providing dedicated on-street corrals and providing dedicated mobility lanes to accommodate bicycles, e-bicycles, scooters, and other micromobility devices. The research completed in the Mobility Insights Competition will allow NDOT to have more information to support these improvements, as well as provide insights to connectivity throughout our transportation system.

— Meghan Mathson, Transportation Demand Management Program Manager at NDOT

Find out more about Nashville’s Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure at <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/transportation>.

Nashville employers and commuters can learn more about Bike Month, Connect Downtown, and upcoming projects at [NashConnector.org](https://nashconnector.org).

To learn more about the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community program, visit <https://bikeleague.org/community> or contact bfa@bikeleague.org.



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