



# BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE REPORT CARD



10% PERCENT OF STATE IN BFC SILVER+

STATE ADVOCACY GROUP:  
**BIKE WALK MONTANA**

## MONTANA

**#42** NATIONAL RANK (OF 50)

**#12** REGIONAL RANK (OF 13) WESTERN

SEE THE REPORT CARD USE GUIDE

		F	D	C	B	A	
	<b>Infrastructure &amp; Funding</b>				<b>B</b>		Considers the use of federal transportation funding, state transportation funding, and the existence of bicycle infrastructure in the state.
	<b>Education &amp; Encouragement</b>				<b>B</b>		Considers bicycle mode share, advocacy, state goals to increase bicycling, and whether the state sponsors a conference on bicycling.
	<b>Traffic Laws &amp; Practices</b>	<b>F+</b>					Considers traffic laws related to bicyclist safety and practices for automated enforcement and preventing racial disparities in traffic law enforcement.
	<b>Policies &amp; Programs</b>		<b>D</b>				Considers Complete Streets policies and programmatic support for implementing bicycling improvements, including staffing and integrating public health.
	<b>Evaluation &amp; Planning</b>			<b>C</b>			Considers state bicycle plans, safety outcomes, guidance on bicycle facilities, data collection on bicycling and walking, and public engagement of bicyclists.

Based on the information we obtained for Montana, the League of American Bicyclists believes the following actions will improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in Montana.

Adopt a statewide Complete Streets policy or other policy that institutionalizes planning, designing, and building safe places for people to bike and walk as part of the transportation system.

Adopt a safe passing law with a minimum distance of 3 feet to address bicyclist safety. Over the last two decades most states have adopted a safe passing law to protect people biking. Montana is one of 11 states that has not.

Make bicycle safety an emphasis area in your Strategic Highway Safety Plan with identified strategies for engineering improvements.

Spend at least 2% of federal transportation funds on biking and walking improvements. While Montana spends a high amount of federal funds on biking and walking per capita, this reflects how federal funds are distributed to the states more than a priority to improve bicycling and walking.

Montana's 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is a bright spot among Montana's Bicycle Friendly Actions. One strategy identified in that plan is to "provide ongoing training programs for transportation engineers and planners focused on pedestrian and bicyclist needs and accommodations." Institutionalizing best practices for bicycle and pedestrian safety through training and coordination with localities can build upon Montana's high rates of biking to work.

Montana State University, with the support of USDOT grants, is doing leading research on traffic safety culture and rural road safety. The Montana DOT and Montana communities should take full advantage of having this great resource in the state.

A Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) could help the Montana DOT build upon its 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan by facilitating citizen engagement and locality coordination. Montana DOT should establish a BPAC and support it with staff time.

Bicycle Friendly Actions	Progress?
Complete Streets Law / Policy	No
Safe Passing Law (3ft+)	No
Statewide bike plan last 10 years	Yes
2% or more federal funds on bike/ped	No - Lapse
Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area	No

Federal Data on Biking	Rank
Ridership <b>1.17% of commuters</b> biking to work	2/50
Safety <b>2.5 fatalities</b> per 10K bike commuters	2/50
Spending <b>\$6.92 per capita</b> FHWA spending on biking and walking	3/50

SEE THE BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE DATABASE MAP:  
[BIKELEAGUE.ORG/BFA/AWARDS](https://bikeleague.org/BFA/AWARDS)

The Bicycle Friendly State ranking is based on a comprehensive survey—with over 100 data points—completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit [bikeleague.org/states](https://bikeleague.org/states) or contact Ken McLeod at (202) 822-1333 or [ken@bikeleague.org](mailto:ken@bikeleague.org).