



Chico, CA



2024 BFC Award: Gold

Award History: Gold since 2016, previously Silver since 2012 and Bronze since 2004.

Chico's BFA Program Stats

- # of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **1**
- # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
- # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **6**
- California's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#4**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Chico	Max Score this round
Engineering	37.85%	79.26%
Education	32.95%	83.25%
Encouragement	43.74%	90.86%
Evaluation & Planning	28.95%	75.73%
Equity & Accessibility	24.21%	75.47%

Scores are determined by points earned in each 'E' Category, weighted against comparable communities in the 2024 BFC round. See pages 2-3 for your full subcategory points in each Category.

Key Outcomes

Overall Commuter Ridership: 2.3%

Male Commuter Ridership: 3.2%

Female Commuter Ridership: 1.4%

(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2022 or 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)

Bicycle Mode Share: 5.4% (no source listed)

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 185

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 1

(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 101,475

(Size classification for weighted scoring: Medium)

Area: 34.62 square miles

Population Density: 2,931.10 people/square mile

Land Classification: Mostly Suburban

Poverty Rate: 21.8%*

Median Household Income: \$65,021*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 17%*

Percent with Disability: 14.3%*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 0.8%*

*Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/Chico_city,_California?q=160XX-00US0613014

Chico's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:

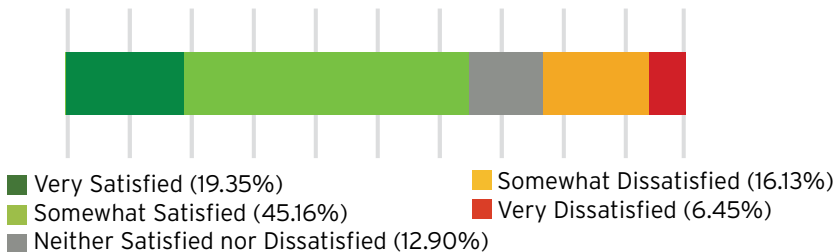
<https://chico.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=9eff098233ea481997ecbc6174cce544>

Bike Plan, if available:

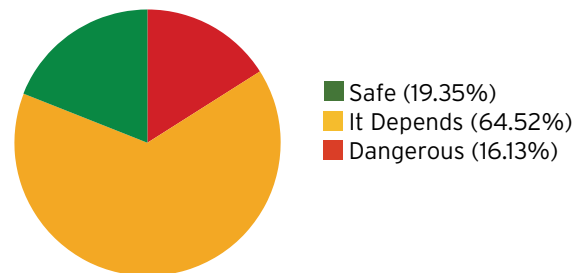
<https://chico.ca.us/Departments/Engineering/index.html>

2024 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Chico, CA

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 31)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 31)



What are the top 1-3 changes you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 31)

1. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (54.84%)
2. More bike lanes (35.48%)
3. Reduce speeds through traffic calming and/or road diets (29.03%)
4. More bike paths (25.81%)
5. Increase education for bicyclists (22.58%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Chico in the 2024 Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) submission 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 League updated its Bicycle Friendly Community application and awards criteria in 2022, after nearly a year of research, focus groups, interviews, listening sessions, and other outreach. The updated application includes a new section on Equity and Accessibility, and other changes throughout. As such, **this Bicycle Friendly Community Report card is a beta version** as we refine our new scoring system and develop a greater understanding of how to convey new information.

All 2024 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are significant changes to the points system after the next round of BFC applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

ENGINEERING	<i>Chico earned a weighted score of 37.85% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Chico earned in each subcategory within the Engineering section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Chico's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	10.3 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	7.8 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	45.3 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	7.5 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	8.9 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 24 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	2.5 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	3.8 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	2.1 / 10 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>Chico earned a weighted score of 32.95% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Chico earned in each subcategory of the Education section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Chico's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	13.3 / 68 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	18.4 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	3.5 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	5.0 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	7.2 / 26 pts
Education Bonus Points	0 / 7 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Chico earned a weighted score of 43.74% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Chico earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Chico's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	4.1 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	4.8 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	40.0 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	8.5 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	2.0 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	3.8 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Chico earned a weighted score of 28.95% in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Chico earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Chico's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	13.5 / 35 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	8.5 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	11.1 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	7.3 / 25 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	5.4 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	(7.4) / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	4.3 / 15 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Chico earned a weighted score of 24.21% in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Chico earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Chico's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	7.3 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 27 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	2.6 / 21 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	2.0 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	12.3 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	12.8 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	6.6 / 51 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	0 / 9 pts	



Chico, CA

2024 BFC Award: Gold | Award History: Gold since 2016, previously Silver since 2012 & Bronze since 2004.

FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

To maintain and improve on Chico's Gold-level Bicycle Friendly Community award, BFC Reviewers recommend...

- » BFC Reviewers strongly encourage decision makers in Chico to review your BFC subcategory scores on pages 2-3 above, as well as the recommendations below, and consider where gaps in your 2024 BFC application can be addressed before your next BFC renewal in order to maintain the Gold-level BFC designation.
- » Continue to improve and expand the low-stress bike network for all ages and abilities, and 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.
- » Improve the City's on- and off-street bikeway maintenance practices to ensure that all bicycle facilities remain safe and usable year-round. Frequent sweeping, vegetation maintenance, re-painting, and surface repairs are important to maintaining these facilities in useable condition for the safety and convenience of your riders. Partner with Chico Velo's Trailworks program to identify where the City's investments are needed most, and consider developing a dedicated funding mechanism and regular maintenance schedule to ensure consistent maintenance practices of bike facilities across Chico. Consider also adopting a 311 website/app or similar city-wide reporting mechanism, and encouraging cyclists and other roadway/pathway users to report hazards they see in real time.
- » Ensure that your 2011 Complete Streets policy is followed for all projects, and that compliance is tracked. Ensuring compliance with a Complete Streets policy is an important and often low-cost way to add to your bicycle network. Striping bicycle lanes as part of repaving operations can save 40% of the cost of adding a bicycle lane. If necessary, revisit your Complete Streets policy and process to ensure better compliance.
- » Lower speed limits -- and designed speeds -- on residential streets to 20 mph or less. Introduce road diets and traffic calming measures to ensure compliance. Develop a system of bicycle boulevards, utilizing these quiet neighborhood streets, that creates an attractive, convenient, and comfortable cycling environment welcoming to cyclists of all ages and skill levels. Use the Bicycle Boulevards section of the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide for design guidelines.
- » Develop community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards to ensure that APBP-compliant bicycle parking is available in areas near transit and urban activity centers. Without secure and convenient bicycle parking it is difficult for a person to choose to ride their bicycle for transportation or utilitarian trips.
- » Consider launching a bike share system that is open to the public. Bike sharing is a convenient, cost effective, and healthy way of encouraging locals and visitors to make short trips by bike, make bicycling more accessible to all, and to bridge the 'last mile' between public transit and destinations.



Chico, CA

2024 BFC Award: Gold | Award History: Gold since 2016, previously Silver since 2012 & Bronze since 2004.

FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages by incorporating more on-bicycle education opportunities and by expanding the program to all K-12 schools. Providing bicycles in schools for on-bike education ensures that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household. Work with the school district, local bicycle groups, and interested parents to expand and improve the Safe Routes to School program.
- » Work with local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) to offer Bicycle Friendly Driver training to motorists in Chico, particularly to professional drivers and fleet operators. Learn more at <https://bikeleague.org/bfd>.
- » Develop a community-wide trip reduction ordinance/program, commuter incentive program, and a Guaranteed Ride Home program to encourage and support bike commuters in Chico.
- » Encourage more local businesses, agencies, and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business program. City Hall or other municipal buildings could apply to the BFB program as an employer to lead by example among other local employers. Work with Sierra Nevada to host “BFB Happy Hours” where other local employers are invited to come and learn about the benefits bicycling can bring to their business and how to become a BFB.
- » Your Bicycle Friendly Community application reported that ACS data shows a gender gap in bicycle modeshare (3.2% of male commuters bike to work, compared to 1.4% of female commuters, according to ACS data). Explore how the City could provide additional focused outreach around bicycling education, encouragement, and engagement to build on the existing efforts of Women on Wheels and Chico Velo and bring more women to bicycling for transportation in Chico. Consider how local data collection efforts may be able to further inform your work by capturing gender in other bike use and modeshare counts, as well as identifying gender disparities in perceptions of safety and barriers to bicycling.
- » Congratulations on adopting the 2023 Active Transportation Plan. This plan will be a blueprint for improvements and has many great recommendations for a more connected network of safe and comfortable bicycle facilities.
- » Adopt a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries and support this goal with a formal Vision Zero policy to commit the City to specific strategies to reduce traffic crashes and deaths for all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. Your policy should be informed by the most recent Local Road Safety Plan and high injury network analysis available. Introducing low stress bikeway facilities and lowering vehicle speeds through traffic calming treatments are important engineering components for addressing roadway safety.
- » Continue to build on your existing partnerships with local, regional, and statewide public health



Chico, CA

2024 BFC Award: Gold | Award History: Gold since 2016, previously Silver since 2012 & Bronze since 2004.

FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

agencies and organizations that can support efforts to create more opportunities for bicycling and increase physical activity through community design. To further show your community's commitment to health and wellness through active transportation, work with local elected officials to pass an Active People, Healthy NationSM Proclamation this year. Active People, Healthy NationSM is a national initiative led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027. Learn more about Active People, Healthy NationSM Proclamations at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/active-people-healthy-nation/php/data-research/proclamations.html>.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-2024>
- » **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 (BFS) 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>
- » **National Bike Month Resources:** <https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth>
- » **More 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>