



Portsmouth, NH



2024 BFC Award: Bronze
Award History: Bronze since 2015.

Portsmouth's BFA Program Stats
of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: 1
of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: 0
of Local League Cycling Instructors: 6
New Hampshire's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#31**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Portsmouth	Max Score this round
Engineering	36.28%	79.26%
Education	45.33%	83.25%
Encouragement	44.31%	90.86%
Evaluation & Planning	33.94%	75.73%
Equity & Accessibility	12.09%	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.

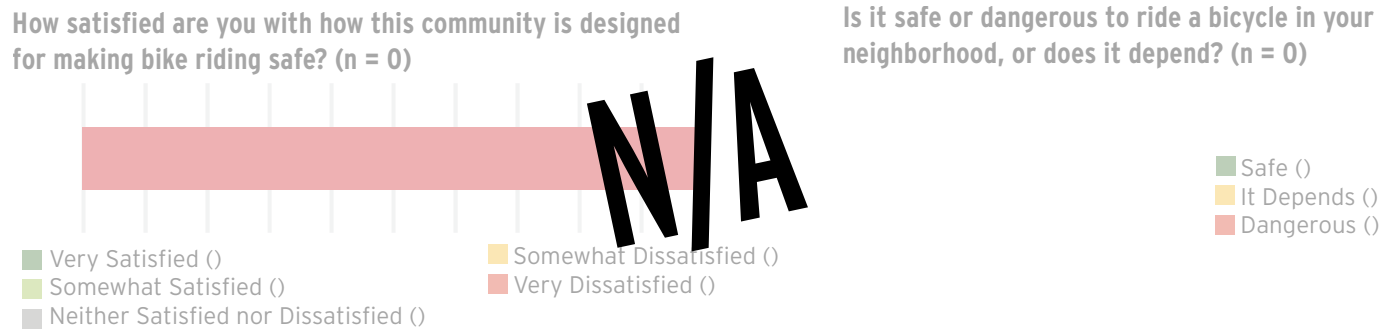
Key Outcomes
Overall Commuter Ridership: 0.7%
Male Commuter Ridership: 1%
Female Commuter Ridership: 0.4%
(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2022 or 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)
Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown
(Reported by applicant)
Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 2
Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0
(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Community Profile
Population: 21,956
(Size classification for weighted scoring: Small)
Area: 15.6 square miles
Population Density: 1,407.40 people/square mile
Land Classification: Mixed Suburban/Urban
Poverty Rate: 6%*
Median Household Income: \$100,169*
Percent of the Population that Speaks a Language Other Than English at Home: 8.7%*
Percent with Disability: 11.2%*
Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 3.2%*
**Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/Portsmouth_city,_New_Hampshire?g=160XX00US3362900*

Portsmouth's Bike Links
Bike Network Map, if available:
PDF available upon request.
Bike Plan, if available:
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planportsmouth/bicycle-pedestrian-plan>

2024 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Portsmouth, NH

Note: Portsmouth did not receive any responses to the BFC public survey in 2024. The League strongly encourages BFC applicants to distribute the public survey as widely as possible the next time your community applies to the BFC program, to get input from as many cyclists – and potential cyclists – as possible.



What are the top 1-3 changes you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 0)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Portsmouth 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>Portsmouth earned a weighted score of 36.28% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Portsmouth 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	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	9.2 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	14.5 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	31.9 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	16.0 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	8.1 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	-5.0 / 24 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	0.3 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	3.8 / 23 pts
	Engineering Bonus Points	3.1 / 10 pts

EDUCATION	<i>Portsmouth earned a weighted score of 45.33% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Portsmouth 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	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	24.6 / 68 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	22.1 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	10.8 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	1.2 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	0.5 / 26 pts
	Education Bonus Points	2.5 / 7 pts

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Portsmouth earned a weighted score of 44.31% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Portsmouth earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	1.3 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	7.8 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	39.2 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	5.5 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	0 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	3.1 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Portsmouth earned a weighted score of 33.94% in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Portsmouth 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	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	3.0 / 35 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	12.5 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	9.9 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	5.4 / 25 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	1.8 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	12.2 / 42 pts
	Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	5.0 / 15 pts

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Portsmouth earned a weighted score of 12.09% in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Portsmouth 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	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	9.1 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 27 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	0 / 21 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	2.3 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	-1.5 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	3.0 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	6.3 / 51 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1.0 / 9 pts



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Continue to improve and expand the low-stress bike network for all ages and abilities, and to follow a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume.
- » 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.
- » Continue to 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. Update your Bicycle Parking Standards to fully adhere to current APBP guidelines. (See www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)
- » Work to re-launch a new public bike share system to replace the system that ceased operations during the pandemic. 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.
- » 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. Appoint or hire a dedicated Safe Routes to School Coordinator to lead these efforts.
- » 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. Encourage Lonza to renew and maintain their BFB status as well.
- » Create an official Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to create a systematic method for ongoing citizen input into the development of important policies, plans, and projects. Ensure that the members of the committee reflect the diversity and ability levels of cyclists in your community.
- » Your application indicated that your community is currently updating a bicycle master plan. This is a great step to improving conditions for bicycling and institutionalizing processes for continual improvement. Your Bicycle Master Plan update should take advantage of best practices that are



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

applicable to a community of your size, including the use of separated and protected bike lanes, targeted education programming, and demonstration projects to help the community understand possible bicycle facilities. Ensure that the new Plan includes specific and measurable goals, a strong implementation plan, and dedicated funding or an annual budget to ensure its success.

- » Continue to develop a bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection including automated bicycle counters to provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points and mobile counters to provide periodic or before/after data related to changes 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.
- » Engage the city's internal DEI Working Group in bicycling and planning activities to result in more equitable and inclusive bicycle planning, outreach, engagement, and programming efforts.

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>