



Thief River Falls, MN



Award: Bronze | Fall 2022

Award History:
First-time applicant.

Thief River Falls' BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **2**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **1**
 Minnesota's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#5**

| The 5 Es Category Scores | Thief River Falls | Max Score this round |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Engineering | 20% | 62% |
| Education | 44% | 60% |
| Encouragement | 35% | 61% |
| Evaluation & Planning | 26% | 64% |
| Equity & Accessibility | 17% | 57% |

Percentages shown above are the points received out of points available in that category. See pages 2-3 for Thief River Falls' subcategory points earned within each Category.

Key Outcomes

Commuter Ridership: 1%

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

Overall Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 0.8

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0

(Reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 8,749
 Area: 5.92 square miles
 Population Density: 1477 people/square mile
 Land Classification: Rural/Rural Town
 Poverty Rate: 13.1%*
 Median Household Income: \$52,168*
 Percent of the Population that Speaks a Language Other Than English at Home: 5.8%*
 Percent with Disability: 14.9%*
 Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 9.3%*
 *Source: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=1600000US2764570>

Thief River Falls's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:

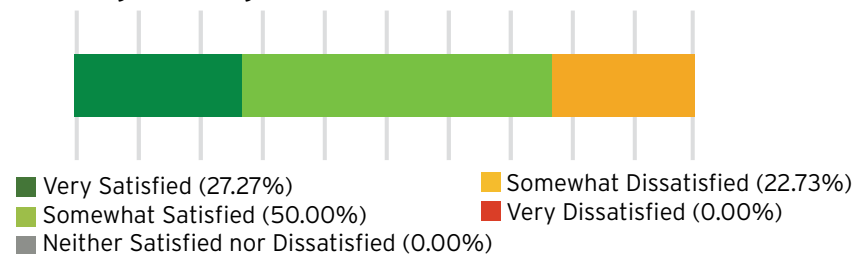
<https://cityoftrf.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a9bcb3e6494f46698499d15c0569f356>

Bike Plan, if available:

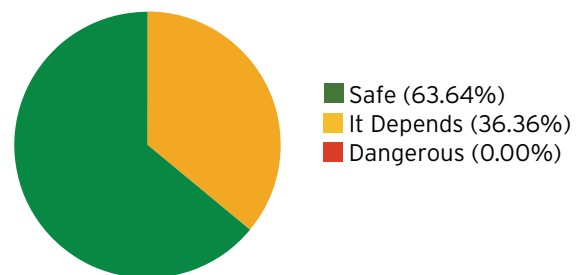
https://www.citytrf.net/sites/g/files/vyhli5491/f/uploads/final_2040_trf_comp_plan_part_2.pdf

Fall 2022 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Thief River Falls, MN

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 22)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 22)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 22)

1. More bike paths (63.64%)
2. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (9.09%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Thief River Falls in the Fall 2022 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 the Summer of 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 Fall 2022 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are changes to the points system after the next round of Bicycle Friendly Community applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

| ENGINEERING | <i>Thief River Falls earned 20% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Thief River Falls earned in each subcategory of the Engineering section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i> | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Engineering Subcategories | Thief River Falls' Subcategory Points in Engineering |
| | Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment | 3 / 38 pts |
| | End-of-Trip Facilities | 6 / 41 pts |
| | Bicycle Network | 23 / 126 pts |
| | Network Maintenance | 10 / 32 pts |
| | Bicycle Access to Public Transportation | 4 / 22 pts |
| | Bike Sharing | 0 / 25 pts |
| | Other Bicycle-Related Amenities | 1 / 6 pts |
| | Regional Coordination | 14 / 16 pts |
| Engineering Bonus Points | 2 / 9 pts | |

| EDUCATION | <i>Thief River Falls earned 44% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Thief River Falls earned in each subcategory of the Education section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i> | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| | Education Subcategories | Thief River Falls' Subcategory Points in Education |
| | Youth Bicycle Education | 30 / 71 pts |
| | Adult Bicycle Education | 25 / 47 pts |
| | Motorist Education | 8 / 28 pts |
| | Bicycle Safety Education Resources | 16 / 22 pts |
| | Inclusive Education | 6 / 22 pts |
| Education Bonus Points | 3 / 8 pts | |

| ENCOURAGEMENT | <i>Thief River Falls earned 35% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Thief River Falls earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i> | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| | Encouragement Subcategories | Thief River Falls' Subcategory Points in Encouragement |
| | Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships | 7 / 22 pts |
| | Route-Finding Support | 5 / 10 pts |
| | Bicycle Culture and Promotion | 29 / 99 pts |
| | Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services | 27 / 49 pts |
| | Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT | 0 / 10 pts |
| | Encouragement Bonus Points | 2 / 8 pts |

| EVALUATION & PLANNING | <i>Thief River Falls earned 26% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Thief River Falls earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i> | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Evaluation & Planning Subcategories | Thief River Falls' Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning |
| | Staffing And Committees | 13 / 42 pts |
| | Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning | 4 / 33 pts |
| | Planning, Funding, And Implementation | 8 / 46 pts |
| | Evaluating The Bicycle Network | 0 / 21 pts |
| | Evaluating Ridership | 5 / 21 pts |
| | Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes | 22 / 38 pts |
| Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points | 1 / 8 pts | |

| EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY | <i>Thief River Falls earned 17% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Thief River Falls earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i> | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| | Equity & Accessibility Subcategories | Thief River Falls' Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility |
| | Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships | 10 / 38 pts |
| | Equity Data Collection & Goals | 0 / 20 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans | 3 / 38 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility in Engineering | 3 / 35 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility in Education | 7 / 35 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement | 14 / 35 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning | 4 / 35 pts |
| Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points | 3 / 15 pts | |



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

To maintain and improve on Thief River Falls' Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community award, BFC Reviewers recommend...

- » Lower speed limits on all residential streets to 25 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.
- » Adopt a Complete Streets ordinance or resolution and create implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.
- » The downtown street resurfacing project seems like an excellent opportunity to improve multimodal elements of the transportation system. Minneapolis has used a similar approach over the last decade to reduce roadway lanes and parking capacity and transition the space to improved bike, pedestrian, and green infrastructure.
- » Continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community, and to upgrade the quality of existing bike parking to meet APBP standards. Adopt a bike parking ordinance for new and existing buildings that specifies the amount and location of secure, convenient bike parking available. Develop community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards that adhere to current APBP guidelines. (See www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)
- » 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.
- » Continue to expand and improve existing in-school bike safety education to include an on-bike component to help children and teens of all ages become safer and more confident riders. Provide a fleet of bikes in schools to ensure that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household.
- » Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar in partnership with BikeMN, or sponsoring a City staffer or local bike advocate to attend an existing seminar elsewhere in the state. Having several active instructors in the area will enable you to expand cycling education for youth and adults, recruit more knowledgeable cycling ambassadors, deliver Bicycle Friendly Driver education to motorists, and have experts available to assist in encouragement programs. Visit bikeleague.org/ridesmart for more information.
- » Continue to encourage more local businesses, agencies, and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) program. City Hall or other municipal buildings could apply to the BFB program as an employer to lead by example among other TRF-area employers.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Appoint a staff member Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator or create a new position.
- » Per Goal 2 of the 'Bike/Pedestrian Goals and Policies' section of the Thief River Falls 2040 Comprehensive Plan, develop and adopt an official bicycle master plan for your community. A bike plan is a critical step to improving conditions for bicycling and institutionalizing processes for continual improvement. Your bike plan should build upon the 2040 Comprehensive Plan to create a safe, comfortable, and connected bicycle network. Ensure the new plan includes specific and measurable goals and performance measures to track progress, and is supported by a dedicated budget for implementation.
- » Conduct a connectivity analysis and network quality evaluation of your existing bicycle network, and work to identify and fill any gaps. Establish a performance measurement program for bicycling and/or active transportation infrastructure. See FHWA's resources on these topics: https://bit.ly/FHWA_connectivity and https://bit.ly/FHWA_bikepedPMs.
- » Continue to work on building relationships with the community through authentic engagement efforts. Utilize existing groups, form new partnerships, and create opportunities for connections and dialogue between groups of people. Use the international association for public participation Spectrum of Public Participation as an engagement tool and resource to help create and build trust between the public and government.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **League of American Bicyclists:** <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » **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 League's Benchmarking Project on Biking and Walking Data and Reports:** <https://data.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly State Rankings and Report Cards:** <https://bikeleague.org/state>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Business Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University 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/content/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