



## Fergus Falls, MN



**Award: Silver | Fall 2023**

### Award History:

Silver since 2019; Previously Bronze since 2015 and applied but received No Award in 2013.

### Fergus Falls's BFA Program Stats

- # of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **25**
- # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **1**
- # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **4**
- Minnesota's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#5**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Fergus Falls	Max Score this round
Engineering	37.52%	79.3%
Education	65.43%	76.3%
Encouragement	47.57%	87.5%
Evaluation & Planning	27.41%	78.0%
Equity & Accessibility	24.81%	70.5%

Scores are determined by points earned in each 'E' Category, weighted against comparable communities in the Fall 2023 BFC round. See pages 2-3 for your full subcategory points in each Category.

### Key Outcomes

**Overall Commuter Ridership: 1.1%**

Male Commuter Ridership: 2.2%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0%

*(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2022 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: 14,187

Area: 14.36 square miles

Population Density: 988 people/square mile

Land Classification:

Mixed Urban/Suburban/Rural

Poverty Rate: 11%\*

Median Household Income: \$45,327\*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 2%\*

Percent with Disability: 20%\*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 8.3%\*

*\*Source: [https://data.census.gov/profile/Fergus\\_Falls\\_city\\_Minnesota?g=160XX00US2720906](https://data.census.gov/profile/Fergus_Falls_city_Minnesota?g=160XX00US2720906)*

### Fergus Falls's Bike Links

**Bike Network Map, if available:**

*No map available*

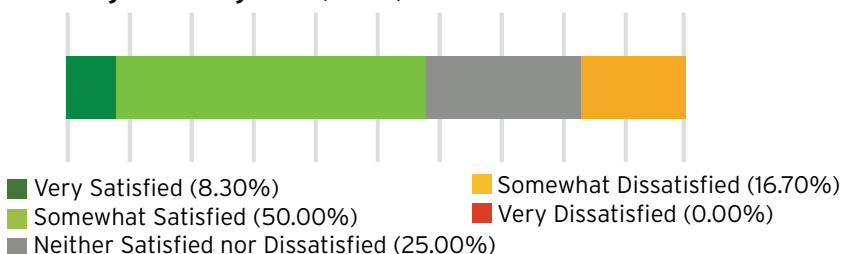
**Bike Plan, if available:**

<https://www.ci.fergus-falls.mn.us/home/showdocument?id=3044&t=637801670615408862>

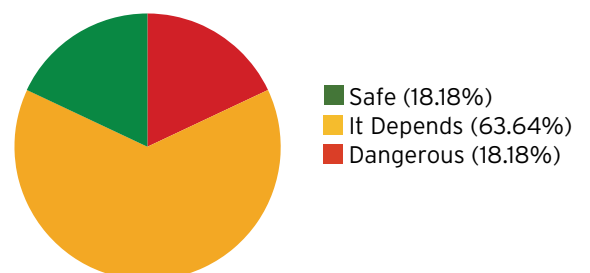
## Fall 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Fergus Falls, MN

Note: Fergus Falls received fewer than 15 responses to the BFC public survey in Fall 2023. 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.

**How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 12)**



**Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 11)**



**What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 11)**

1. More bike lanes (45.50%)
2. More bike paths (18.20%)
3. Increase police enforcement of traffic laws for drivers (18.20%)

## About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Fergus Falls in the Fall 2023 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 Fall 2023 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>.

<b>ENGINEERING</b>	<i>Fergus Falls earned a weighted score of 37.52% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Fergus Falls earned in each subcategory within the Engineering section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Fergus Falls's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	6 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	5 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	33.1 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	18.8 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	7 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 24 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	4.8 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	2.5 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	1.5 / 10 pts	

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<i>Fergus Falls earned a weighted score of 65.43% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Fergus Falls earned in each subcategory of the Education section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Fergus Falls's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	35.7 / 68 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	27.9 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	7.5 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	1.8 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	3 / 26 pts
	Education Bonus Points	6 / 7 pts

<b>ENCOURAGEMENT</b>	<i>Fergus Falls earned a weighted score of 47.57% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Fergus Falls earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Fergus Falls's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	3.9 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	5 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	34.5 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	10.7 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	2 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	2.8 / 7 pts

<b>EVALUATION &amp; PLANNING</b>	<i>Fergus Falls earned a weighted score of 27.41% in the Evaluation &amp; Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Fergus Falls earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation &amp; Planning section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Fergus Falls's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	8.7 / 35 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	3.8 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	5.8 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	0 / 25 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	2.3 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	11.4 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	3.6 / 15 pts	

<b>EQUITY &amp; ACCESSIBILITY</b>	<i>Fergus Falls earned a weighted score of 24.81% in the Equity &amp; Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Fergus Falls earned in each subcategory of the Equity &amp; Accessibility section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Fergus Falls's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	5 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 27 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	0.5 / 21 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	2.8 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	12.7 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	10.9 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	2.8 / 51 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	0.5 / 9 pts	



## Fergus Falls, MN

**Award: Silver | Fall 2023 | Award History:** Silver since 2019; Previously Bronze since 2015 and applied but received No Award in 2013

### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

#### To maintain and improve on Fergus Falls' Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community award, BFC Reviewers recommend...

- » Congratulations on adopting the 2022 Fergus Fall Bicycle and Pedestrian Master 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. Ensure that there is dedicated funding for the implementation of all types of bicycle infrastructure recommended by the new plan. Establish and adopt specific measurable goals to better benchmark and track the success of your bike plan.
- » Your Bicycle Friendly Community application reported that ACS data shows a gender gap in bicycle modeshare (2.2% of male commuters bike to work, compared to 0% of female commuters in Fergus Falls, according to ACS data). Consider how further focused outreach around bicycling education, encouragement, and engagement could help bring more women to bike for transportation in Fergus Falls. 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.
- » Continue to expand and improve Fergus Falls' low-stress on-road bike network 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, to maximize safety and comfort for bicyclists of all ages and abilities. Identify gaps and add new facilities that complete and expand the bicycle network, and work to upgrade existing facilities, such as by converting bike lanes into protected bike lanes, and upgrading roads with sharrows or signed bike routes into dedicated bicycle boulevards.
- » 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.
- » Ensure that your 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.
- » Develop a design manual for bike facilities that meets current national standards or adopt the FHWA's Small Town and Rural Multimodal Network Guide or NACTO's Urban Bikeway Design Guide. This will make it easier for city staff to propose and implement bicycle facility designs that have been shown to improve conditions for people who bike in other similar communities throughout the United States.
- » 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](http://www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions))
- » Consider launching a bike share system or bicycle lending library 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 destinations.
- » Improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages by incorporating more on-bicycle education opportunities at younger ages, 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.
- » Increase the amount of staff time spent on improving conditions for people who bike and walk, either by creating a new dedicated position or expanding the responsibilities of current staff. Ensure that this position is well supported with training and professional development opportunities to stay up-to-speed on the latest best practices and safety guidelines for bicycle planning, outreach, and infrastructure.



## Fergus Falls, MN

**Award: Silver | Fall 2023 | Award History:** Silver since 2019; Previously Bronze since 2015 and applied but received No Award in 2013

### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » 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](https://bit.ly/FHWA_connectivity) and [https://bit.ly/FHWA\\_bikepedPMs](https://bit.ly/FHWA_bikepedPMs).
- » 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 perceptions of safety and comfort, and to examine social equity goals.
- » Collect more socioeconomic and demographic data as it relates to current transportation habits and patterns, as well as traffic safety data (crashes, fatalities, near misses, etc.), and establish equity-related indicators to inform future prioritization and budgeting processes.
- » Adopt a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries and support this goal with a comprehensive road safety plan to identify specific strategies to reduce traffic crashes and deaths for all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. Introducing low stress bikeway facilities and lowering vehicle speeds through traffic calming treatments are important engineering components for addressing roadway safety. Look into the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration Grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation for potential funding opportunities to support this work: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>.

### MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-Fa23>
- » **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](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 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>
- » **Advocacy 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](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf)
- » **U.S. DOT Navigator:** <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>