



Rochester, MN



Award: Bronze | Fall 2023

Award History: Bronze since 2010;
Previously Honorable Mention in 2006.

Rochester's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **7**
of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
of Local League Cycling Instructors: **5**
Minnesota's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#5**

| The 5 Es Category Scores | Rochester | Max Score this round |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Engineering | 53.69% | 79.3% |
| Education | 62.66% | 76.3% |
| Encouragement | 63.39% | 87.5% |
| Evaluation & Planning | 54.76% | 78.0% |
| Equity & Accessibility | 46.99% | 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: 0.8%

Male Commuter Ridership: 1.1%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0.5%

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

Bicycle Mode Share: 7%

(Reported by applicant, based on 2018 Transportation Survey conducted as part of the 2040 Comprehensive Planning process)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 17.8

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0.2

(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 121,465

Area: 55.87 square miles

Population Density: 2174.1 people/square mile

Land Classification:

Mixed Urban/Suburban

Poverty Rate: 8.6%*

Median Household Income: \$75,902*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 16%*

Percent with Disability: 10.3%*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 6.6%*

*Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/Rochester_city,_Minnesota?g=160XX00US2754880

Rochester's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:

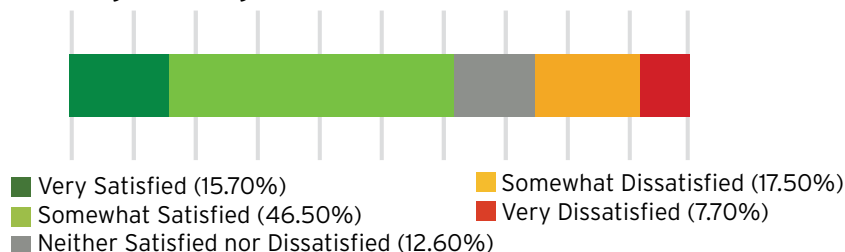
PDF available upon request.

Bike Plan, if available:

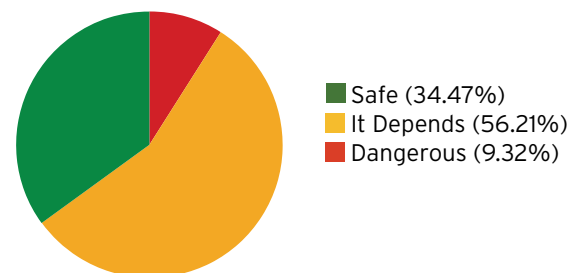
<https://www.rochestermn.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/36657/638031764606130000>

Fall 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Rochester, MN

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 325)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 322)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 325)

1. More bike paths (22.2%)
2. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (21.2%)
3. More bike lanes (14.2%)
4. Improve public decision-making processes for transportation improvements, including bicycling improvements (9.9%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Rochester 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>.

| ENGINEERING | <i>Rochester earned a weighted score of 53.69% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Rochester 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 | Rochester's Subcategory Points in Engineering |
| | Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment | 24.3 / 41 pts |
| | End-of-Trip Facilities | 21.5 / 44 pts |
| | Bicycle Network | 38.4 / 128 pts |
| | Network Maintenance | 22.6 / 32 pts |
| | Bicycle Access to Public Transportation | 11.2 / 23 pts |
| | Bike Sharing | -3.3 / 24 pts |
| | Other Bicycle-Related Amenities | 5 / 6 pts |
| | Regional Coordination | 3.8 / 23 pts |
| | Engineering Bonus Points | 2.3 / 10 pts |

| EDUCATION | <i>Rochester earned a weighted score of 62.66% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Rochester 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 | Rochester's Subcategory Points in Education |
| | Youth Bicycle Education | 40.3 / 68 pts |
| | Adult Bicycle Education | 19.7 / 47 pts |
| | Motorist Education | 7.8 / 28 pts |
| | Bicycle Safety Education Resources | 5.9 / 16 pts |
| | Inclusive Education | 4.4 / 26 pts |
| | Education Bonus Points | 4.1 / 7 pts |

| ENCOURAGEMENT | <i>Rochester earned a weighted score of 63.39% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Rochester earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.</i> | |
|----------------------|--|---|
| | Encouragement Subcategories | Rochester's Subcategory Points in Encouragement |
| | Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships | 8.3 / 17 pts |
| | Route-Finding Support | 6.6 / 10 pts |
| | Bicycle Culture and Promotion | 43.1 / 91 pts |
| | Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services | 24.4 / 35 pts |
| | Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT | 0 / 11 pts |
| | Encouragement Bonus Points | 3.9 / 7 pts |

| EVALUATION & PLANNING | <i>Rochester earned a weighted score of 54.76% in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Rochester earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.</i> | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| | Evaluation & Planning Subcategories | Rochester's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning |
| | Staffing And Committees | 16.7 / 35 pts |
| | Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning | 20.4 / 35 pts |
| | Planning, Funding, And Implementation | 12.1 / 46 pts |
| | Evaluating The Bicycle Network | 7.8 / 25 pts |
| | Evaluating Ridership | 9.8 / 20 pts |
| | Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes | 10.7 / 42 pts |
| | Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points | 5.7 / 15 pts |

| EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY | <i>Rochester earned a weighted score of 46.99% in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Rochester earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.</i> | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | Equity & Accessibility Subcategories | Rochester's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility |
| | Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships | 12.3 / 24 pts |
| | Equity Data Collection & Goals | 11.6 / 27 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans | 6.7 / 21 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility in Engineering | 5.4 / 44 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility in Education | 13.6 / 52 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement | 20.7 / 42 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning | 7.9 / 51 pts |
| | Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points | 1 / 9 pts |



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Congratulations on adopting the 2022 Active Transportation Plan! Continue working to implement the plan to achieve Rochester's vision for an All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Network, with an emphasis on both improving the downtown core area for bicycling, and building low-stress bicycling connections between Rochester's neighborhoods and everyday destinations.
- » Ensure that your community consistently follows a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume, to truly maximize safety and comfort for bicyclists of all ages and abilities. In addition to adding new facilities that complete and expand the bicycle network, use the facility selection criteria to upgrade and improve existing facilities, such as by converting existing paint-only bike lanes into protected bike lanes.
- » Continue efforts to establish a performance measurement program for bicycling and/or active transportation infrastructure to further support the implementation of your Active Transportation Plan. See FHWA's resources on this topic: https://bit.ly/FHWA_bikepedPMs.
- » Continue to more diligently follow and track compliance with the City's Complete Streets Policy for all future roadway projects, and explore how to integrate land use decisions, particularly limiting low-density sprawl, into future transportation planning efforts.
- » Work closely with MnDOT and Olmsted County to continue to improve bikeability on state and county-owned roads within Rochester city limits.
- » Collaborate closely with the Mayo Clinic to ensure their campus and future expansion plans support bicycling and are in line with the city's vision for an All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Network.
- » 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 efforts to re-establish a public-private partnership to manage and facilitate a new city-wide bike share system. 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.
- » Encourage all schools in Rochester to expand bicycle safety education to be a routine part of education for students of all ages by adopting the Bike, Walk, Fun curriculum available from the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota (<https://www.walkbikefun.org/>), and ensure that all schools and their surrounding neighborhoods are particularly safe and convenient for biking and walking.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY REPORT CARD



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Develop education and encouragement outreach methods and programs that specifically target families, women, seniors, low-income residents, and people with disabilities, in addition to general non-targeted outreach and media campaigns that discuss current and new bicycle facilities, safe driver and bicyclist behavior, and events related to walking and biking.
- » Continue efforts to improve data-driven road safety operations. Adopt a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by a specific date, and support this goal with a comprehensive road safety plan or a Vision Zero policy. Introducing low stress bikeway facilities and lowering vehicle speeds through traffic calming treatments are important engineering components for addressing roadway safety. Consider using a tool like the Safer Streets Priority Finder to analyze crash data and identify High Injury areas of your network: <https://www.saferstreetspriorityfinder.com/>.

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
- » **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
- » **U.S. DOT Navigator:** <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>