



San Luis Obispo, CA



Award: Gold | Fall 2023

Award History:

Gold since 2015. Previously Silver since 2007.

San Luis Obispo's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **4**

of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **1**

of Local League Cycling Instructors: **5**

California's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#4**

The 5 Es Category Scores	San Luis Obispo	Max Score this round
Engineering	72.34%	79.3%
Education	75.71%	76.3%
Encouragement	87.48%	87.5%
Evaluation & Planning	76.18%	78.0%
Equity & Accessibility	70.51%	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: 5.7%

Male Commuter Ridership: 8.4%

Female Commuter Ridership: 2.7%

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

Bicycle Mode Share: 16%

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 42.2

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 2.6

(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 48,341

Area: 12.93 square miles

Population Density: 3738.7 people/square mile

Land Classification:

Mostly Suburban

Poverty Rate: 29.6%*

Median Household Income: \$61,862*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 16.8%*

Percent with Disability: 9.1%*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 6.2%*

*Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/San_Luis_Obispo_city_California?q=160XX00US0668154

San Luis Obispo's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:

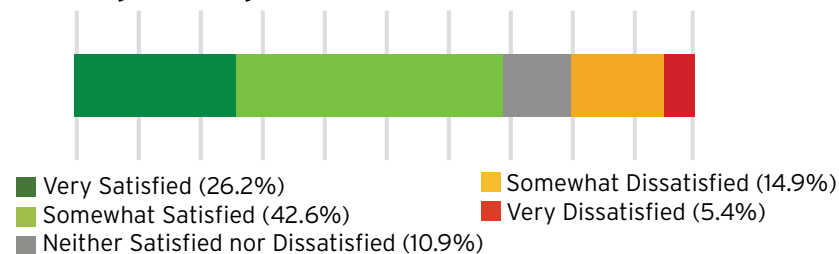
<https://slocity.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d0c9ddaa42a444bda8d5940e05891eb7>

Bike Plan, if available:

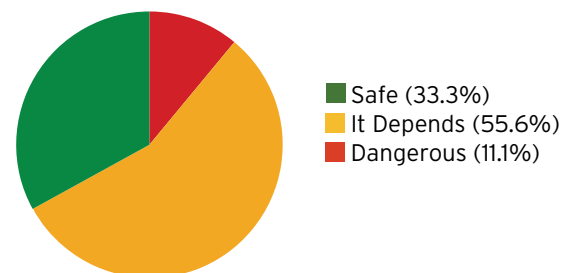
<https://www.slocity.org/home/showpublisheddocument/30668/637612629135300000>

Fall 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for San Luis Obispo, CA

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 202)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 198)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 202)

1. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (23.3%)
2. More bike paths (21.3%)
3. Reduce speeds through traffic calming and/or road diets (14.9%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by San Luis Obispo 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>San Luis Obispo earned a weighted score of 72.34% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that San Luis Obispo 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	San Luis Obispo's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	18.8 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	25.3 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	67.5 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	19 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	10.5 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 24 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	2 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	17.9 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	6.5 / 10 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>San Luis Obispo earned a weighted score of 75.71% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that San Luis Obispo 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	San Luis Obispo's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	32.8 / 68 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	33.3 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	12.1 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	7.4 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	9.2 / 26 pts
	Education Bonus Points	4.3 / 7 pts

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>San Luis Obispo earned a weighted score of 87.48% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that San Luis Obispo 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	San Luis Obispo's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	8 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	6.2 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	65.4 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	28.8 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	7 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	4.1 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>San Luis Obispo earned a weighted score of 76.18% in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that San Luis Obispo 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	San Luis Obispo's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	25.6 / 35 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	22.8 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	19 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	13.1 / 25 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	7.2 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	20.7 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	6.3 / 15 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>San Luis Obispo earned a weighted score of 70.51% in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that San Luis Obispo 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	San Luis Obispo's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	9.8 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	9.1 / 27 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	7.8 / 21 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	15.8 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	18.8 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	30.3 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	24.3 / 51 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	3.2 / 9 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Congratulations to San Luis Obispo on your progress since your last Bicycle Friendly Community application! The community has developed an excellent planning foundation through the adoption of the 2021 Active Transportation Plan, and has secured budget allocations to make implementation of the plan feasible. Lowering driving speeds on your roads and continuing to build and maintain a cohesive and well-connected low-stress bicycling network are both critical to achieving SLO's stated goals of 20% bicycle modeshare and zero traffic fatalities or serious injuries by 2030. Continue to partner with local bike advocates and League Cycling Instructors, and to innovate on new programming and encouragement efforts such as the cargo/e-bike Try-A-Bike program, to help introduce residents to your expanding bicycling network.
- » Continue to rapidly expand, improve, and maintain San Luis Obispo's low-stress on-road bike network and ensure that your community continues to follow a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume. Identify gaps and add new facilities that will complete and expand the bicycle network, and work to upgrade existing facilities, such as by converting painted bike lanes into protected bike lanes. Expand maintenance and sweeping protocols to keep your protected bike lanes safe and useable year-round.
- » Continue to build on SLO's neighborhood greenway program by lowering speed limits -- and designed speeds -- on all residential streets to 20 mph or less, and on arterial streets to 25 mph. Consider a "SLO Down" driver safety campaign to reinforce slow speeds as an important part of traffic safety. Learn more about the League's work around slower speeds: <https://bikeleague.org/take-action/slow-roads-save-lives/>.
- » Work with local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) to offer Bicycle Friendly Driver training to all motorists in San Luis Obispo, particularly to professional drivers and fleet operators. Learn more at: <https://bikeleague.org/bfd>.
- » Continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community. Develop community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards to ensure that APBP-compliant bicycle parking is available in areas near popular destinations, transit stops, and urban activity centers. (See apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions). Consider The Bike Center in Santa Monica and Culver City as a model for what could be developed for commuters in SLO: <https://thebikecenter.com/>.
- » Continue to improve and expand your in-school bicycling education for students of all ages by making the optional program mandatory for all elementary schools. Ensure the program is also accessible for all students by adding adaptive cycles to the existing bike fleet provided for on-bike education in elementary and middle schools. Consider also adding on-bike learning opportunities for high school students, as well as Bicycle Friendly Driver training for older students who are learning to drive.
- » Consider updating your Safe Routes to School Plan (2017) to be informed by the Active Transportation Plan (2021).



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Your 2023 Bicycle Friendly Community application reported that ACS data shows a gender gap in bicycle modeshare among commuters (7.9% of male commuters bike to work, compared to 2.8% of female commuters, according to ACS data). Consider how focused outreach around bicycling education, encouragement, and engagement could help bring more women to bike for transportation in San Luis Obispo. 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 consider launching a public bike share system that increase access to bicycling for locals and visitors alike. Bike sharing is a convenient, cost effective, and healthy way of encouraging more people to make short trips by bike, make bicycling more easily accessible to all, and to bridge the 'last mile' between public transit and destinations. In many communities, bike share has also served to expedite infrastructure improvements by demonstrating increased need and demand for low-stress connectivity.

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>