



## Valparaiso, IN



**Award: Bronze | Fall 2023**

**Award History:**

Bronze since 2019.

### Valparaiso's BFA Program Stats

# of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **0**

# of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**

# of Local League Cycling Instructors: **1**

Indiana's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#22**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Valparaiso	Max Score this round
Engineering	30.08%	79.3%
Education	37.17%	76.3%
Encouragement	48.38%	87.5%
Evaluation & Planning	30.43%	78.0%
Equity & Accessibility	15.73%	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: 0.6%**

Male Commuter Ridership: 0.6%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0.6%

*(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: 7**

**Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 1**

*(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)*

### Community Profile

Population: 33,104

Area: 16.31 square miles

Population Density: 2029.7 people/square mile

Land Classification:

Mixed Suburban/Urban/Rural

Poverty Rate: 15.4%\*

Median Household Income: \$56,465\*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 8.1%\*

Percent with Disability: 13.2%\*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 1.5%\*

\*Source: [https://data.census.gov/profile/Valparaiso\\_city,\\_Indiana?g=160XX00US1878326](https://data.census.gov/profile/Valparaiso_city,_Indiana?g=160XX00US1878326)

### Valparaiso's Bike Links

**Bike Network Map, if available:**

<https://valpoparks.org/DocumentCenter/View/3118/Parks-Pathways-Map-2022>

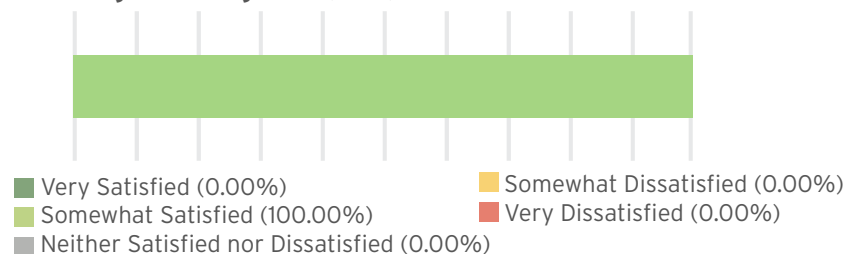
**Bike Plan, if available:**

<https://valpoparks.org/DocumentCenter/View/615/2017-Valpo-Pathways-Master-Plan-FINAL?bidId=>

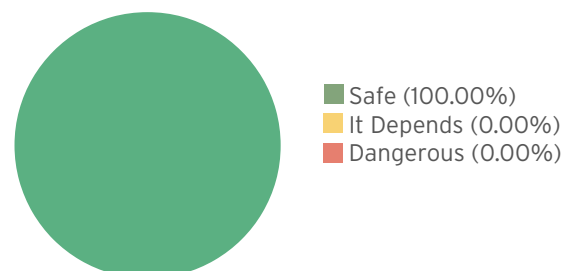
### Fall 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Valparaiso, IN

**Note: Valparaiso received fewer than 10 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 = 1)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 1)



**What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 1)**

1. Improve public decision-making processes for transportation improvements, including bicycling improvements (100.00%)

## About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Valparaiso 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>Valparaiso earned a weighted score of 30.08% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Valparaiso 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	Valparaiso's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	2.2 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	11 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	22.7 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	14 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	10.6 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	3.9 / 24 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	2 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	2.5 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	0.8 / 10 pts	

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<i>Valparaiso earned a weighted score of 37.17% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Valparaiso 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	Valparaiso's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	16 / 68 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	19.3 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	10 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	1.2 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	1.7 / 26 pts
	Education Bonus Points	0.5 / 7 pts

<b>ENCOURAGEMENT</b>	<i>Valparaiso earned a weighted score of 48.38% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Valparaiso 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	Valparaiso's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	3.3 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	7.8 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	39.8 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	9.8 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	5 / 11 pts
Encouragement Bonus Points	0.5 / 7 pts	

<b>EVALUATION &amp; PLANNING</b>	<i>Valparaiso earned a weighted score of 30.43% in the Evaluation &amp; Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Valparaiso 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	Valparaiso's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	9 / 35 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	4.8 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	14.2 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	0 / 25 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	5.8 / 20 pts
Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	7.3 / 42 pts	
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	4.9 / 15 pts	

<b>EQUITY &amp; ACCESSIBILITY</b>	<i>Valparaiso earned a weighted score of 15.73% in the Equity &amp; Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Valparaiso 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	Valparaiso's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	4 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0.8 / 27 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	3.7 / 21 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	1.8 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	0.7 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	7.7 / 42 pts
Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	7.8 / 51 pts	
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	0.3 / 9 pts	



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### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Continue to expand and improve Valparaiso's low-stress on-road bike network to connect homes to destinations and increase access to Valpo's existing pathway system. 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 to increase safety and comfort.
- » Formally adopt a local Complete Streets policy 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.
- » Develop a design manual that meets current NACTO standards or adopt the NACTO 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 cities throughout the United States.
- » 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, and to upgrade the quality of existing bike parking to meet APBP standards. Revise the existing Bicycle Parking Ordinance (Sec. 9.206) to remove or raise the maximum number of bicycle parking spaces required, and to strengthen the design standards to better adhere to current APBP guidelines. (For example, U racks are recommended but wave racks are not.) See [www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions](http://www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions) for more details.
- » Improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages by incorporating 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.
- » Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar or sponsoring a City staffer or local bike advocate to attend an existing seminar elsewhere. 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](http://bikeleague.org/ridesmart) for more information.
- » 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.
- » Continue to encourage Valparaiso University and Ivy Tech State College to both apply to the Bicycle Friendly University program to help identify more ways the campus and administrators can support bicycling safety and promotion to students, staff, faculty, neighboring residents, and visitors.
- » 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.



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### 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).
- » Adopt a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries and support this goal with a comprehensive road safety plan and/or a Vision Zero policy 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>.
- » Consider what additional local community groups exist in Valparaiso who may be good potential partners to reach new audiences and build on existing bike education, encouragement, and engagement efforts.
- » Collect more socioeconomic and demographic data (age, disability status, etc.) as it relates to current transportation habits and patterns, and establish equity-related indicators to inform future prioritization and budgeting processes for your community.
- » Integrate the city's ADA Transition Plan with bicycling and mobility planning activities to result in more inclusive and accessibility-focused 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-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>