



Carmel, IN



Award: Silver | Spring 2023

Award History:

Silver since 2019; Previously Bronze since 2006; Honorable Mention since 2003.

Carmel's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **4**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **2**
 Indiana's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#22**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Carmel	Max Score this round
Engineering	38%	53%
Education	20%	56%
Encouragement	43%	68%
Evaluation & Planning	39%	42%
Equity & Accessibility	10%	37%

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

Key Outcomes

Overall Commuter Ridership: 0.2%

Male Commuter Ridership: 0.3%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0.1%

(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)

Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 14.6

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0

(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 99,757

Area: 50.18 square miles

Population Density: 1988 people/square mile

Land Classification:

Majority Suburban

Poverty Rate: 3.4%*

Median Household Income: \$106,990*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 9.3%*

Percent with Disability: 6.1%*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 2.1%*

*Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/Carmel_city,_Indiana?g=1600000US1810342

Carmel's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:

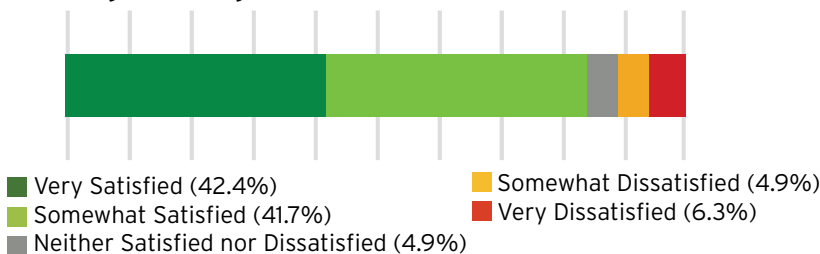
<https://www.carmel.in.gov/home/showdocument?id=19131>

Bike Plan, if available:

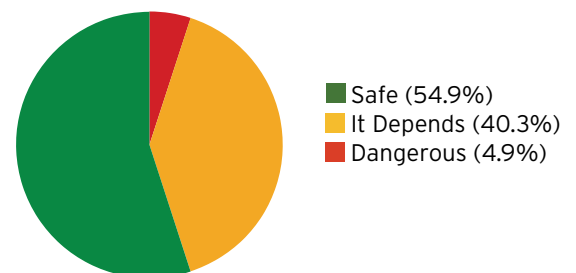
https://carmelcomprehensiveplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Carmel-Comprehensive-Plan_2022-12-05.pdf#page=27

Spring 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Carmel, IN

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 144)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 144)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 142)

1. More bike paths (23.2%)
2. More bike lanes (14.1%)
3. Increase education for drivers (14.1%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Carmel in the Spring 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 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 Spring 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>Carmel earned 38% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Carmel earned in each subcategory of the Engineering section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Carmel's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	16 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	22 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	38 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	19 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	N/A
	Bike Sharing	8 / 21 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	1 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	16 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	6 / 10 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>Carmel earned 20% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Carmel earned in each subcategory of the Education section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Carmel's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	3 / 69 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	21 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	7 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	3 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	2 / 26 pts
Education Bonus Points	3 / 7 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Carmel earned 43% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Carmel earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Carmel's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	4 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	6 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	45 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	8 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	6 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	5 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Carmel earned 39% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Carmel earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Carmel's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	16 / 40 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	8 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	13 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	14 / 24 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	7 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	24 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	3 / 7 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Carmel earned 10% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Carmel earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Carmel's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	3 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 12 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	1 / 31 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	5 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	2 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	9 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	5 / 58 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1 / 9 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Congratulations on the \$63 million bond that Carmel's City Council approved last year, which will primarily be used to construct prioritized path projects to fill missing gaps in the City's bike network! To continue building on these investments and really move the needle in normalizing biking for transportation and meeting Carmel's goals to reach 2% commuter bicycle mode share and 5% overall share, the City should focus on: 1.) expanding low-stress on-street bike facilities and slow-speed streets to further connect the existing bikeway network to homes and daily destinations; 2.) increase youth engagement and education, both in and out of schools; and 3.) Explore more ways to build bicycling education and encouragement into daily lives of your residents. Explore tools like the Bicycle Friendly Business program and consider expanding some of your more successful Bike Month strategies to be offered year-round.
- » Adopt a 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. A Complete Streets policy should prompt the community to consider lane and/or road diets when repaving or otherwise doing major maintenance on roadways.
- » Collect more socioeconomic and demographic data as it relates to current transportation habits and patterns, and establish equity-related indicators to inform future prioritization and budgeting processes for your community.
- » Work with Hamilton County Tourism to encourage more local hotels, restaurants, and destinations in your "hospitality corridor" to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business program.
- » Consider increasing the number of bikes and check-out stations available to the public through your 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 destinations.
- » 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.
- » Encourage the Carmel Clay School System to appoint or hire a new Safe Routes to School Coordinator to continue improving education for students and to focus on expanding and improving the bikeway network around schools. Engage with the school system on your next BFC renewal application, to increase collaboration and buy-in between the City and the school system. Work with the State of Indiana and their contractor, Health by Design, on the proposed SRTS pilot in Carmel.
- » 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.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Work with local LCIs to offer Bicycle Friendly Driver training to motorists in Carmel, particularly to professional drivers and fleet operators. Learn more at <https://bikeleague.org/bfd>.
- » Develop education and encouragement outreach methods and programs that specifically target families, women, seniors, and low-income residents, 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.
- » Engage with the Carmel Advisory Committee on Disability and local organizations such as Same As U (www.sameasu.org/) to discuss and learn how the city's future bicycling efforts can further improve accessibility for cyclists with disabilities and incorporate principles of universal design. Consider accessibility audits of your bike infrastructure and end-of-trip facilities, adaptive bikes for on-bike education for youth and adults, and more intentional inclusion of people with disabilities during the outreach, engagement, and planning processes.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-Sp23>
- » **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 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 (BFB) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) 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/take-action/policy-advocacy/federal-policy/federal-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>