



Ocean City, MD



Award: Bronze | Spring 2023

Award History:

Previously Honorable Mention in 2019.

Ocean City's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **0**

of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**

of Local League Cycling Instructors: **0**

Maryland's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#14**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Ocean City	Max Score this round
Engineering	16%	53%
Education	33%	56%
Encouragement	30%	68%
Evaluation & Planning	20%	42%
Equity & Accessibility	15%	37%

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

Key Outcomes

Overall Commuter Ridership: 2.9%

Male Commuter Ridership: 5.6%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0.7%

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

Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown and subject to seasonal variability *(Reported by applicant)*

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 27.6

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0.2

(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 6,844

Area: 4.41 square miles

Population Density: 1552 people/square mile

Land Classification:

Mixed Urban/Suburban

Poverty Rate: 8.8%*

Median Household Income: \$58,563*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 11.6%*

Percent with Disability: 17.8%*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 9.9%*

*Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/Ocean_City_town,_Maryland?q=1600000US2458225

Ocean City's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:

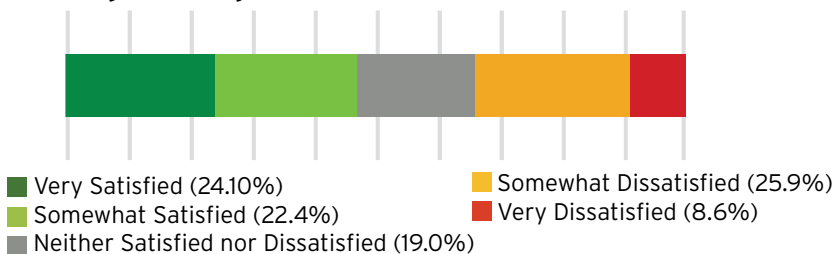
<https://oceancitymd.gov/pdf/BikeTrailMap.pdf>

Bike Plan, if available:

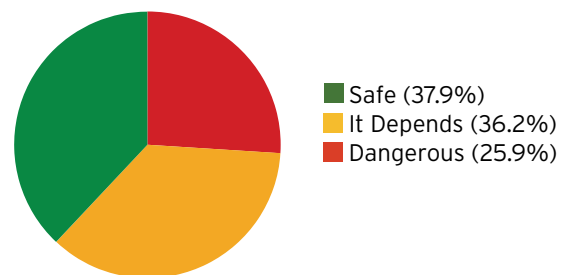
N/A - no bike plan

Spring 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Ocean City, MD

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 58)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 58)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 59)

1. More bike paths (30.5%)
2. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (15.3%)
3. More bike lanes (11.9%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Ocean City 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>Ocean City earned 16% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ocean City 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	Ocean City's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	4 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	7 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	22 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	9 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	6 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 21 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	0 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	3 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	1 / 10 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>Ocean City earned 33% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ocean City 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	Ocean City's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	30 / 69 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	17 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	9 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	2 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	3 / 26 pts
Education Bonus Points	1 / 7 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Ocean City earned 30% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ocean City 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	Ocean City's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	3 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	3 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	25 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	12 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	5 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	3 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Ocean City earned 20% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ocean City 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	Ocean City's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	8 / 40 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	6 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	3 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	5 / 24 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	2 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	19 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	2 / 7 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Ocean City earned 15% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Ocean City 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	Ocean City's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	8 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	3 / 12 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	1 / 31 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	2 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	6 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	12 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	7 / 58 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1 / 9 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Continue to grow the low-stress biking network by lowering speed limits -- and design speeds -- on local roads, and working with MDOT to lower the design speed and improving cycling accommodations on arterials. To lower design speeds, explore adding two-way protected bike lanes, widening sidewalks, and narrowing roads and/or lanes in order to slow down car traffic.
- » Ocean City's alleyways could become the basis for an incredible network of well-designed low-stress biking routes, connecting people to their everyday destinations all over town. Consider what treatments and features such as murals, asphalt painting, and wayfinding signage could be used to enhance your alleys and attract cyclists to preferred bike routes using alleyways, particularly ones that are adjacent to busier and faster roads.
- » Analyze the data you have about OCPD's traffic warnings to explore what physical design/infrastructure changes could be made in areas with recurring problems to improve safety and safe behavior. Dedicated bicycle lanes, traffic calming, road narrowing, on-street markings, and wayfinding signage are all engineering tools that can help bring about long-term behavior change for bicyclists and drivers in your community.
- » 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)
- » Consider launching a bike share system or bicycle lending library that is open to the public, including tourists. 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.
- » Even though it is outside of Town limits, Ocean City should support Ocean City Elementary School (OCES) in expanding bicycle safety education to be a routine part of education for students of all ages, and to ensure that the surrounding roadways are particularly safe and convenient for biking and walking. Encourage OCES to organize a Bike to School Day annually and find a way for students coming from Ocean City to participate.
- » Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar or sponsoring a Town 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 for more information.
- » Celebrate National Bike Month as a community every May. Work with local employers to create a Bike to Work Day event. Bike to Work Day often involves one or more "pit stop" stations with food, community groups, education, bike repair tips, and elected officials promoting and helping people to choose to bike to work. Find more ideas at <https://bikeleague.org/events/bike-month/>.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Encourage local businesses, agencies, and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business program.
- » Increase the amount of staff time in the Public Works / Engineering and Planning / Community Development departments 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.
- » 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 collect demographic information and examine social equity goals.

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>