



Simsbury, CT



Award: Silver | Spring 2023

Award History:

Silver since 2014; previously Bronze since 2010.

Simsbury's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **4**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **3**
 Connecticut's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#20**

The 5 Es Category Scores	Simsbury	Max Score this round
Engineering	17%	53%
Education	38%	56%
Encouragement	39%	68%
Evaluation & Planning	21%	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 Simsbury's subcategory points earned within each Category.

Key Outcomes

Overall Commuter Ridership: 0.2%

Male Commuter Ridership: 0.3%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0%

(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: 2

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0

(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Community Profile

Population: 24,517

Area: 33.9 square miles

Population Density: 723.21 people/square mile

Land Classification:

Mixed Suburban/Rural

Poverty Rate: 6.1%*

Median Household Income: \$134,688*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 8.9%*

Percent with Disability: 10.1%*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 4.6%*

*Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/Simsbury_town,_Hartford_County,_Connecticut?g=060XX00US0900368940

Simsbury's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:

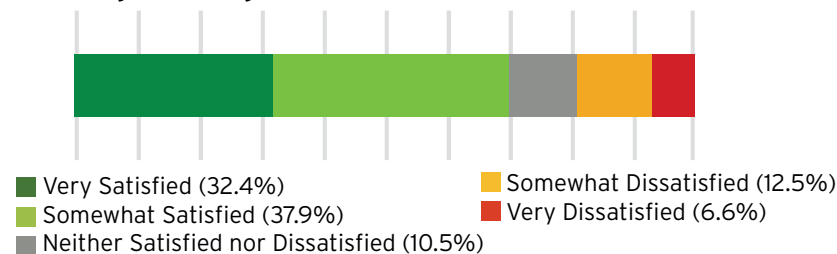
N/A

Bike Plan, if available:

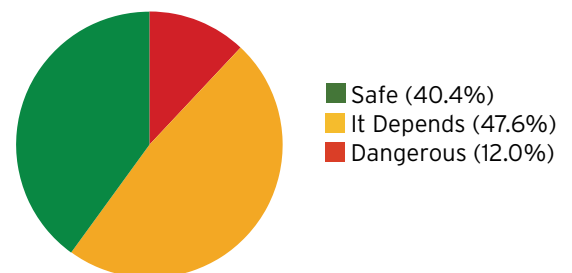
https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1216/f/uploads/simsburypedbike_final_masterplan40_lowres_jan2019.pdf

Spring 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Simsbury, CT

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 256)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 250)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 254)

1. More bike paths (17.3%)
2. More bike lanes (13.8%)
3. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (12.2%)
4. Increase police enforcement of traffic laws for bicyclists (12.2%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Simsbury 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>Simsbury earned 17% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Simsbury 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	Simsbury's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	3 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	4 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	11 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	14 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	8 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 21 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	1 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	13 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	3 / 10 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>Simsbury earned 38% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Simsbury 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	Simsbury's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	30 / 69 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	23 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	13 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	2 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	4 / 26 pts
Education Bonus Points	1 / 7 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Simsbury earned 39% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Simsbury 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	Simsbury's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	6 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	5 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	40 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	9 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	3 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	4 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Simsbury earned 21% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Simsbury 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	Simsbury's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	9 / 40 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	7 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	8 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	4 / 24 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	7 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	9 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	2 / 7 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Simsbury earned 10% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Simsbury 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	Simsbury's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	8 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 12 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	0 / 31 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	1 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	5 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	9 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	3 / 58 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1 / 9 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Ensure that Simsbury's Complete Streets policy is followed for all projects, and that compliance is tracked. Consistent Complete Streets policy compliance is an important and often low-cost way to add to your bicycle network.
- » Establish a dedicated annual budget for implementation of your Bicycle Master Plan, in addition to funding for ongoing bicycle programming and infrastructure development/maintenance.
- » Conduct a connectivity analysis and network 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 and https://bit.ly/FHWA_bikepedPMs.
- » Develop a local design manual that meets current NACTO standards or adopt the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide. This will make it easier for Town 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. 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.
- » 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)
- » Work with CT Adaptive Cycling and residents with disabilities to further discuss and learn how the Town's bicycling efforts can improve accessibility for cyclists with disabilities and incorporate principles of universal design. Partner with CAC to conduct an accessibility audit of your bike infrastructure and end-of-trip facilities.
- » Continue efforts to re-launch a new public bike share system to replace the Simsbury Free Bike Community Bike Share system that recently ceased operations. 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.
- » Expand bicycle education opportunities for adults. Consider ways to target demographics who currently do not feel safe riding with classes or events that address their concerns and create an inclusive, welcoming environment.
- » 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.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » 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.
- » Work with the local school district and other agencies 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.
- » Adopt a goal for a target level of bicycle use (percent of trips made by bike) to be achieved within a specific timeframe, and ensure data collection necessary to monitor progress toward your adopted goal.
- » 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.

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>