



## South Bend, IN



**Award: Silver | Spring 2023**

### Award History:

Silver since 2018; Previously Bronze since 2010; Applied but received no designation in 2009.

### South Bend's BFA Program Stats

# of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **2**  
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**  
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **5**  
 Indiana's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#22**

The 5 Es Category Scores	South Bend	Max Score this round
Engineering	33%	53%
Education	22%	56%
Encouragement	32%	68%
Evaluation & Planning	23%	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 South Bend's subcategory points earned within each Category.

### Key Outcomes

**Overall Commuter Ridership: 1.2%**

Male Commuter Ridership: 1.6%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0.8%

*(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: 15.8**

**Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0.4**

*(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)*

### Community Profile

Population: 103,453

Area: 42 square miles

Population Density: 2463 people/square mile

Land Classification: Majority Urban

Poverty Rate: 21.5%\*

Median Household Income: \$42,657\*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 14.6%\*

Percent with Disability: 14.8%\*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 11%\*

\*Source: [https://data.census.gov/profile/South\\_Bend\\_city,\\_Indiana?q=160XX00US1871000](https://data.census.gov/profile/South_Bend_city,_Indiana?q=160XX00US1871000)

### South Bend's Bike Links

**Bike Network Map, if available:**

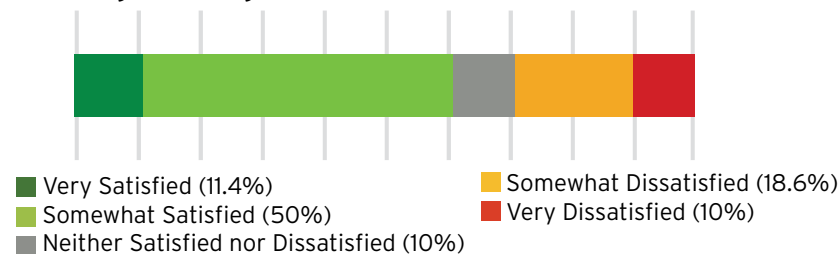
N/A

**Bike Plan, if available:**

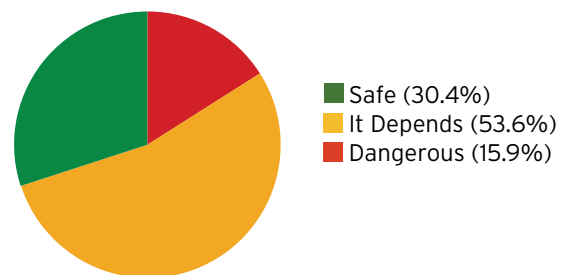
<https://southbendin.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/South-Bend-Bicycle-Master-Plan-2018-2020-Goals-and-Action-Plan.pdf>

## Spring 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for South Bend, IN

**How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 70)**



**Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 69)**



**What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 70)**

1. More bike lanes (24.3%)
2. More bike paths (24.3%)
3. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (15.7%)
4. Increase education for drivers (10%)

## About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by South Bend 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>.

<b>ENGINEERING</b>	<i>South Bend earned 33% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that South Bend 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	South Bend's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	16 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	13 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	35 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	22 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	5 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	8 / 21 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	1 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	5 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	3 / 10 pts	

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<i>South Bend earned 22% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that South Bend 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	South Bend's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	3 / 69 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	20 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	9 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	7 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	3 / 26 pts
Education Bonus Points	2 / 7 pts	

<b>ENCOURAGEMENT</b>	<i>South Bend earned 32% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that South Bend 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	South Bend's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	4 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	4 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	35 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	11 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	0 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	1 / 7 pts

<b>EVALUATION &amp; PLANNING</b>	<i>South Bend earned 23% of the points available in the Evaluation &amp; Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that South Bend earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation &amp; Planning section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	South Bend's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	13 / 40 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	11 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	4 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	0 / 24 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	5 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	15 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	0 / 7 pts	

<b>EQUITY &amp; ACCESSIBILITY</b>	<i>South Bend earned 10% of the points available in the Equity &amp; Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that South Bend earned in each subcategory of the Equity &amp; Accessibility section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Spring 2023 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	South Bend's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	4 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 12 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	1 / 31 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	4 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	2 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	9 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	6 / 58 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	0 / 9 pts	



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### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Reviewers agreed with the following statement from South Bend's BFC Application. The League strongly encourages the City of South Bend to continue to implement "Smart Streets" and to prioritize filling in the gaps to create a cohesive, low-stress, and well-connected bikeway network that provides a safe, comfortable, and intuitive route for people to reliably bike to their daily destinations. As stated in South Bend's 2023 BFC application:
  - » *"Continued investment in South Bend's bicycle facilities is needed. While the City has a fairly extensive on-street system of bike routes, often on low-volume streets, many residents and casual cyclists would prefer more direct routes on main thoroughfares but separated from motor vehicle traffic through cycle track or protected/buffered type facilities. The "Smart Streets" protected/buffered facilities have created a great brand/template for the value of protected facilities and energized the community. Continuing to establish routes that better address the comfort of cyclists by tapping into the "interested but concerned" demographic, will serve to broaden the ridership base. Moreover, further development of the City's bikeway wayfinding system to clearly confirm routes and assist in route choice may further remove barriers to entry for cyclists."*
- » Expand and improve existing in-school bike safety education to include an on-bike component to help children and teens of all ages become safer and more confident riders. Provide a fleet of bikes in schools to ensure that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household, including adaptive cycles for children and youth with disabilities.
- » Work with local bicycle groups and interested parents to expand the Safe Routes to School program and in-school bicycling education to include middle and high schools– this is particularly important as older students learn to drive and share the road.
- » Expand bicycle education opportunities for adults, such as partnering with local LCIs to offer more frequent classes throughout the year.
- » 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 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).
- » Replicate injury analysis work done for the South Bend Bicycle and Pedestrian Network as part of the MACOG Active Transportation Plan data collection process in 2015, and develop a more robust ongoing crash data collection and analysis process, including demographic and socioeconomic overlays of crash data to inform your bicycling equity work.



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### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Adopt a goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries and support this goal with a comprehensive road safety plan 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.
- » 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.
- » Integrate the city's ADA Transition Plan with bicycling and mobility planning activities to result in more equitable and inclusive 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-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](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](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf)
- » **U.S. DOT Navigator:** <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>