



## West Hartford, CT



**Award: Bronze | Spring 2023**

**Award History:**

Bronze since 2014.

### West Hartford's BFA Program Stats

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

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

# of Local League Cycling Instructors: **0**

Connecticut's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#20**

| The 5 Es Category Scores | West Hartford | Max Score this round |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Engineering              | 22%           | 53%                  |
| Education                | 13%           | 56%                  |
| Encouragement            | 17%           | 68%                  |
| Evaluation & Planning    | 21%           | 42%                  |
| Equity & Accessibility   | 9%            | 37%                  |

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

### Key Outcomes

**Overall Commuter Ridership: 0.3%**

Male Commuter Ridership: 0.5%

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: 9.8**

**Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0**

*(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)*

### Community Profile

Population: 64,083

Area: 22.3 square miles

Population Density: 2873 people/square mile

Land Classification: Suburban

Poverty Rate: 6.4%\*

Median Household Income: \$105,230\*

Percent of the Population that Speaks a

Language Other Than English at Home: 23.9%\*

Percent with Disability: 9.1%\*

Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 8%\*

\*Source: [https://data.census.gov/profile/West\\_Hartford\\_town,\\_Hartford\\_County,\\_Connecticut?q=060XX00US0900382590](https://data.census.gov/profile/West_Hartford_town,_Hartford_County,_Connecticut?q=060XX00US0900382590)

### West Hartford's Bike Links

**Bike Network Map, if available:**

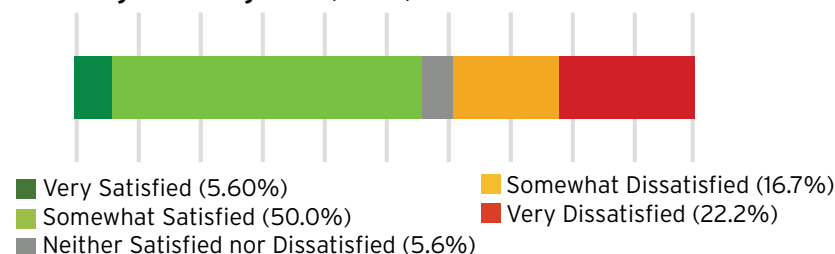
<https://bikewesthartford.org/routes/>

**Bike Plan, if available:**

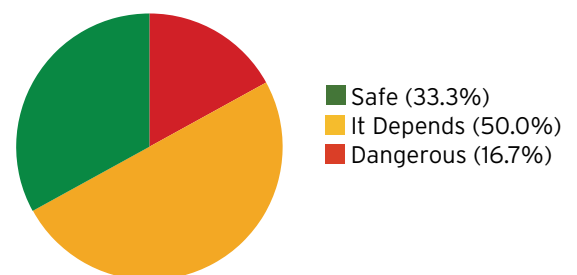
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1581354327/westhartfordctgov/v2y6gxnp8tx9rzjd2zt/Bicycle-Facilities-Plan.pdf>

## Spring 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for West Hartford, CT

**How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 18)**



**Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 18)**



**What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 18)**

1. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (33.3%)
2. More bike paths (22.2%)
3. Reduce speeds through traffic calming and/or road diets (16.7%)

## About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by West Hartford 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>West Hartford earned 22% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that West Hartford 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  | West Hartford's Subcategory Points in Engineering |
|                          | Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment  | 9 / 41 pts  |
|                          | End-of-Trip Facilities   | 4 / 44 pts  |
|                          | Bicycle Network  | 19 / 128 pts                                      |
|                          | Network Maintenance  | 18 / 32 pts                                       |
|                          | Bicycle Access to Public Transportation  | 10 / 23 pts                                       |
|                          | Bike Sharing   | 0 / 21 pts  |
|                          | Other Bicycle-Related Amenities  | 2 / 6 pts   |
|                          | Regional Coordination  | 4 / 23 pts  |
| Engineering Bonus Points | 7 / 10 pts   |   |

| <b>EDUCATION</b>       | <i>West Hartford earned 13% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that West Hartford 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  | West Hartford's Subcategory Points in Education |
|                        | Youth Bicycle Education  | 9 / 69 pts                                      |
|                        | Adult Bicycle Education  | 10 / 47 pts                                     |
|                        | Motorist Education   | 1 / 28 pts                                      |
|                        | Bicycle Safety Education Resources   | 1 / 16 pts                                      |
|                        | Inclusive Education  | 0 / 26 pts                                      |
| Education Bonus Points | 4 / 7 pts  |   |

| <b>ENCOURAGEMENT</b> | <i>West Hartford earned 17% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that West Hartford 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  | West Hartford's Subcategory Points in Encouragement |
|                      | Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships  | 1 / 17 pts  |
|                      | Route-Finding Support  | 3 / 10 pts  |
|                      | Bicycle Culture and Promotion  | 14 / 91 pts   |
|                      | Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services  | 6 / 35 pts  |
|                      | Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT  | 3 / 11 pts  |
|                      | Encouragement Bonus Points   | 2 / 7 pts   |

| <b>EVALUATION &amp; PLANNING</b>   | <i>West Hartford earned 21% of the points available in the Evaluation &amp; Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that West Hartford 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  | West Hartford's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning |
|                                    | Staffing And Committees  | 6 / 40 pts  |
|                                    | Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning   | 10 / 35 pts   |
|                                    | Planning, Funding, And Implementation  | 12 / 46 pts   |
|                                    | Evaluating The Bicycle Network   | 0 / 24 pts  |
|                                    | Evaluating Ridership   | 1 / 20 pts  |
|                                    | Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes   | 13 / 42 pts   |
| Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points | 3 / 7 pts  |   |

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



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### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Continue to expand and improve West Hartford's low-stress on-road bike network and 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, such as by converting bike lanes into protected bike lanes, and upgrading roads with sharrows into dedicated bicycle boulevards.
- » Conduct a connectivity analysis and network quality evaluation of your existing bicycle and roadway networks, and work to identify and fill gaps. Establish a performance measurement program for bicycling 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).
- » Develop a 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 towns throughout the United States.
- » Lower speed limits -- and designed speeds -- on residential streets to 20 mph or less and introduce 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. 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](http://www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions))
- » Consider launching a bike share system or bicycle lending library that is open to the public. 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 relaunching and expanding in-school bicycling education. Incorporate on-bicycle education opportunities for students and expand the program to all K-12 schools, including middle and high schools. Providing a fleet of bicycles in schools, including adaptive cycles for students with disabilities, for on-bike education ensures that all students can learn to safely ride a bike regardless of the availability of one in their household. Appoint or hire a dedicated Safe Routes to School Coordinator to lead these efforts, and/or work with the school district, local bicycle groups, and interested parents to form a Safe Routes to School Committee to ensure continuity in the future.
- » 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. In particular, encourage people of color and multi-lingual residents to become LCIs.
- » Begin the process of creating a new Bicycle Master Plan or updating your 2016 bike plan, including a thorough assessment of progress toward the existing plan's goals. An important first step to this process will be public outreach and engagement with current and potential bicyclists, including with the Town-appointed Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission (PBC) and your local advocacy organization, Bike West Hartford (BWH). Regularly up-



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dating your bicycle master plan is key to improving conditions for bicycling, adhering to evolving best practices and national standards, and institutionalizing processes for continual evaluation and improvement. Ensure that the new plan includes specific and measurable updated goals, a strong implementation plan, and dedicated funding or an annual budget to ensure its success.

- » 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.
- » Continue to develop a bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection to create an understanding of current bicyclists and the effects of new facilities on bicycling in West Hartford. Automated bicycle counters provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points in a community and mobile counters can provide periodic or before/after data related to a change 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.
- » 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. Town Hall or other municipal buildings could apply to the BFB program as an employer to lead by example among other local employers.

### 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>