



BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE REPORT CARD

RHODE ISLAND

RANKED

30

OF 50

STATE ADVOCACY GROUP:
RHODE ISLAND BICYCLE COALITION

Successes & Suggestions

The Bicycle Friendly State report card is based on over 100 data points for each state and input from state agencies and advocates. Based on the information we obtained for Rhode Island, the League of American Bicyclists believes the following actions will improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island diverted more than \$30 million that was programmed for bicycle and pedestrian projects through its Statewide Transportation Improvement Program in 2019. While it is possible that these projects are still completed, this change will make it less likely and harder for the public to understand Rhode Island's commitments to improving bicycling and walking.

The recent reallocation of funding away from bicycle projects in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program raising issues with transparently understanding the state's commitment to bicycle improvements. The Rhode Island DOT should create a transparent reporting process to show its progress on bicycle projects and compliance with the state's Complete Streets policy.

Leadership in Rhode Island should explore how to best coordinate inter-state bicycle routes, paths, and other improvements with Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Adopt a law allowing transportation agencies to post 20 mph or lower speed limits under certain circumstances.

Implement a bicycle count program to more accurately document bicycle traffic statewide and coordinate bicycle facility design with cyclist feedback to ensure quality facilities.

Add bicycle safety as an emphasis area in the state Strategic Highway Safety Plan and aggressively fund bike safety projects.

Rhode Island should update its Engineering Design Standards to include protected bike lanes. In 2017, a majority of states reported that they have such standards and they are expected in the next AASHTO Bike Design Guide.

Adopt a vulnerable road user law that increases penalties for a motorist that injures or kills a bicyclist or pedestrian.

Adopt a goal to increase the prevalence of people biking. More people biking can improve rates of physical activity, reduce emissions, and reduce cost of transportation projects compared to motor vehicle projects.

Ensure that state guidelines, plans, policies, or other documents are updated so that they are consistent with and make it routine to implement your state's bicycle mobility plan.

	Infrastructure & Funding	D
	Education & Encouragement	C
	Legislation & Enforcement	C+
	Policies & Programs	C-
	Evaluation & Planning	C

Get the full breakdown of each category and grade average on the next page.

Bicycle Friendly Actions bikeleague.org/bicycle-friendly-actions	Action Taken?
Complete Streets Law / Policy	✓
Safe Passing Law (3ft+)	✓
Statewide bike plan last 10 years	In Progress
2% or more federal funds on bike/ped	
Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area	

Federal Data on Biking		Rank
Ridership	0.4% of commuters biking to work	31/50
Safety	8.7 fatalities per 10K bike commuters ⁱⁱ	17/50
Spending	\$4.09 per capita FHWA spending on biking and walking ⁱⁱⁱ	6/50


ⁱ This figure is based upon the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate.


ⁱⁱ This figure is based upon fatalities reported over a five-year period according to the National Highway Administration (NHTSA)'s Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the 2015 5-year ACS estimate of the number of bicycle commuters.


ⁱⁱⁱ FHWA spending is based upon projects coded using any of three project types associated with bicycling and walking projects through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s Fiscal Management Information System. To calculate per capita spending we used a five-year average for fiscal years 2011-2016 and the 2015 5-year ACS state population estimate.


Category Breakdown:


RHODE ISLAND

 Infrastructure & Funding Ranked 43 of 50 States D	
DESIGN AND EXISTENCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE Has the state made it easy to build bicycle infrastructure and installed a variety of infrastructure on state facilities?	D-
STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING Does the state allocate funding to bicycling or limit state funding for bicycling?	C+
USE OF FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING Does the state take advantage of available federal funding for biking and walking?	D-
PLANNED AND RECENTLY BUILT BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES How many lane miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities has the state reportedly planned to build and built?	D

 Policies & Programs Ranked 32 of 50 States C-	
COMPLETE STREETS Does the state have a complete streets policy and processes to support its implementation?	D+
DESIGN AND ACCESS POLICIES Does the state have policies in place to ensure good design and access for people who bike and walk?	D
STATE OF PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT Does the state support trainings on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and complete streets implementation?	C
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION POLICIES Does the state work incorporate multi-disciplinary considerations in the development and implementation of transportation projects?	C-

 Education & Encouragement Ranked 37 of 50 States C	
STATE DOT EDUCATION & ENCOURAGEMENT SUPPORT Does the state DOT support bicycling and walking events and education materials?	B
MODE SHARE & ADVOCACY Do people bike to work and are they organized to advocate for improvements?	D

 Evaluation & Planning Ranked 36 of 50 States C	
STATE DOT BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLANS Does the state have a bicycle and/or pedestrian plan and does that plan follow best practices?	C-
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY Has the state made bicyclist and pedestrian safety an emphasis and what does data say about safety?	C-
UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE WHO BIKE AND WALK Does the state have programs in place to collect data on people who walk and bike?	B+
FORMAL USER GROUP ENGAGEMENT Does the state have an official Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Advisory Committee and does it follow best practices?	F

 Legislation & Enforcement Ranked 18 of 50 States C+	
LAWS THAT REGULATE DRIVER BEHAVIOR AND METHODS OF ENFORCEMENT Does the state have strong comprehensive distracted driving laws and allow photo enforcement?	B+
LAWS THAT RESTRICT THE BEHAVIOR OF PEOPLE WHO BIKE AND WALK How does the state unnecessarily restrict the behavior of people who bike and walk?	C-
LAWS THAT CREATE PROTECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO BIKE AND WALK Does the state have laws that provide specific protections for people who bike and walk?	B

SEE THE BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE DATABASE MAP:
BIKELEAGUE.ORG/BFA/AWARDS

The Bicycle Friendly State ranking is based on a comprehensive survey completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit bikeleague.org/states or contact Ken McLeod at (202)-822-1333 or ken@bikeleague.org.

WE'RE ALL IN THIS
TOGETHER!



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