



# BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE REPORT CARD



0% PERCENT OF STATE IN BFC SILVER+

STATE ADVOCACY GROUP:  
**BIKE MARYLAND**

# MARYLAND

**#14** NATIONAL RANK (OF 50)

**#5** REGIONAL RANK (OF 11) EASTERN

SEE THE REPORT CARD USE GUIDE

		F	D	C	B	A		
	<b>Infrastructure &amp; Funding</b>	A-	[Progress bar: 10/10 segments filled]					Considers the use of federal transportation funding, state transportation funding, and the existence of bicycle infrastructure in the state.
	<b>Education &amp; Encouragement</b>	B	[Progress bar: 6/10 segments filled]					Considers bicycle mode share, advocacy, state goals to increase bicycling, and whether the state sponsors a conference on bicycling.
	<b>Traffic Laws &amp; Practices</b>	A-	[Progress bar: 10/10 segments filled]					Considers traffic laws related to bicyclist safety and practices for automated enforcement and preventing racial disparities in traffic law enforcement.
	<b>Policies &amp; Programs</b>	A	[Progress bar: 10/10 segments filled]					Considers Complete Streets policies and programmatic support for implementing bicycling improvements, including staffing and integrating public health.
	<b>Evaluation &amp; Planning</b>	A	[Progress bar: 10/10 segments filled]					Considers state bicycle plans, safety outcomes, guidance on bicycle facilities, data collection on bicycling and walking, and public engagement of bicyclists.

Based on the information we obtained for Maryland, the League of American Bicyclists believes the following actions will improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in Maryland.

Since the last Bicycle Friendly State ranking, Maryland has improved on each of its key federal data. While these key data are still slightly lower than average, it is great to see improvements. Activities like the Maryland State Highway Administration’s Context Driven proactive safety efforts, statewide bicycle level of traffic stress analysis, and leadership in Smart Growth planning are hopefully key drivers of this improvement.

Thanks to an increase in the percentage of federal funds spent on biking and walking, Maryland now meets all five of the League of American Bicyclists’ state Bicycle Friendly Actions. This is a significant improvement from 2015 when we introduced the five Bicycle Friendly Actions and Maryland only had three.

Repeal the state’s mandatory bike lane law. These types of laws ignore the quality and safety of available bike lanes.

Maryland’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan says “the Pedestrians and Bicyclists Emphasis Area calls for a safe system approach to countermeasures and a traffic safety culture that is forward thinking.” Maryland has a history of victim-blaming traffic safety campaigns that advocates for biking and walking have objected to, such as the Tired Faces campaign, which have nevertheless been adopted by other jurisdictions. Maryland should be a leader for Safe System approach messaging.

According to answers to our survey, the Maryland DOT does not have a goal for the number of people biking in the state. Increasing the number of people biking and creating systems to document levels of bicycling should be goals that support Maryland’s safety and planning efforts. It would be great for Maryland to adopt a goal to increase biking.

Bicycle Friendly Actions	Progress?
Complete Streets Law / Policy	Yes
Safe Passing Law (3ft+)	Yes
Statewide bike plan last 10 years	Yes
2% or more federal funds on bike/ped	Yes-New/Updated
Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area	Yes

Federal Data on Biking	Rank
Ridership 0.35% of commuters biking to work	27/50
Safety 9.3 fatalities per 10K bike commuters	26/50
Spending \$2.36 per capita FHWA spending on biking and walking	34/50

SEE THE BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE DATABASE MAP:  
[BIKELEAGUE.ORG/BFA/AWARDS](https://bikeleague.org/BFA/AWARDS)

The Bicycle Friendly State ranking is based on a comprehensive survey—with over 100 data points—completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit [bikeleague.org/states](https://bikeleague.org/states) or contact Ken McLeod at (202) 822-1333 or [ken@bikeleague.org](mailto:ken@bikeleague.org).