



Portsmouth, VA



Award: Bronze | Fall 2022

Award History:
Bronze since 2014.

Portsmouth's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **0**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **2**
 Virginia's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#7**

Community Profile

Population: 97,840
 Area: 47 square miles
 Population Density: 2940 people/square mile
 Land Classification:
 Mixed Urban/Suburban
 Poverty Rate: 15.7%*
 Median Household Income: \$53,213*
 Percent of the Population that Speaks a
 Language Other Than English at Home: 4.9%*
 Percent with Disability: 10.6%*
 Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available:
 4.63%*

*Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/portsmouthcity-countyvirginia,portsmouthcityvirginia/PST045221>

Portsmouth's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:
https://www.portsmouthva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8833/PortsmouthBikePedPlan_11x17ProposedBikeNetwork?bidId=

Bike Plan, if available:
<https://www.portsmouthva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8834/Portsmouth-BikePed-Plan-Final-w-Appendix-2020?bidId=>

The 5 Es Category Scores	Portsmouth	Max Score this round
Engineering	23%	62%
Education	34%	60%
Encouragement	32%	61%
Evaluation & Planning	28%	64%
Equity & Accessibility	20%	57%

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

Key Outcomes

Commuter Ridership: 0.5%

(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate)

Overall Bicycle Mode Share: less than 1%

(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 58

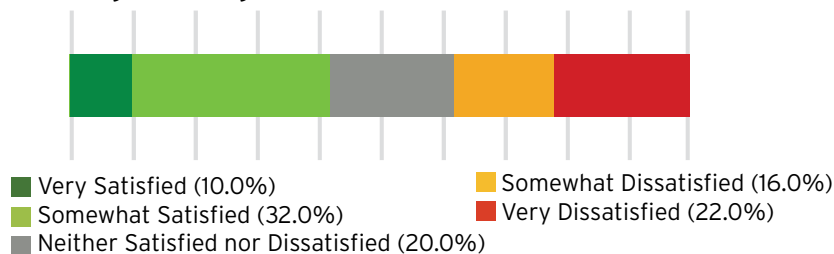
(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 2

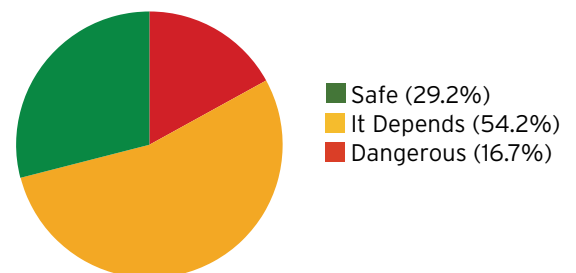
(Reported by applicant)

Fall 2022 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Portsmouth, VA

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 50)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 48)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 50)

1. More bike paths (28.00%)
2. More bike lanes (22.00%)
3. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (12.00%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Portsmouth in the Fall 2022 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 Fall 2022 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are changes to the points system after the next round of Bicycle Friendly Community applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

ENGINEERING	<i>Portsmouth earned 23% of the points available in the Engineering Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Portsmouth earned in each subcategory of the Engineering section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	9 / 38 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	10 / 41 pts
	Bicycle Network	15 / 126 pts
	Network Maintenance	5 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	11 / 22 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 25 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	2 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	14 / 16 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	7 / 9 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>Portsmouth earned 34% of the points available in the Education Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Portsmouth earned in each subcategory of the Education section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	16 / 71 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	24 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	14 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	6 / 22 pts
	Inclusive Education	4 / 22 pts
Education Bonus Points	4 / 8 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>Portsmouth earned 32% of the points available in the Encouragement Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Portsmouth earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	11 / 22 pts
	Route-Finding Support	2 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	36 / 99 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	10 / 49 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	0 / 10 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	4 / 8 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>Portsmouth earned 28% of the points available in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Portsmouth earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	13 / 42 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	11 / 33 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	22 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	0 / 21 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	0 / 21 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	9 / 38 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	3 / 8 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>Portsmouth earned 20% of the points available in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the breakdown of points that Portsmouth earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section compared to the total points available in that respective subcategory from the Fall 2022 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Portsmouth's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	7 / 38 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	6 / 20 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	13 / 38 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	3 / 35 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	3 / 35 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	7 / 35 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	7 / 35 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	2 / 15 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Congratulations on adopting the 2020 Portsmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and creating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizens Advisory Committee since your last BFC Application! The review committee is looking forward to see the continued progress and momentum that this Plan and and advisory committee will bring to your community.
- » Adopt a Complete Streets policy and create implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. A Complete Streets policy should prompt the community to consider lane and/or road diets when repaving or otherwise doing major maintenance on roadways. Striping bicycle lanes as part of repaving operations can save 40% of the cost of adding a bicycle lane.
- » Continue to improve and expand the low-stress bike network for all ages and abilities, 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.
- » Lower speed limits on residential streets to 20 mph or less. Introduce road diets and 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 efforts to launch a bike share system 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 public transit and destinations.
- » Improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages by incorporating on-bicycle education opportunities and by expanding the program to all K-12 schools. Providing bicycles in schools for on-bike education ensures that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household. Work with the school district, local bicycle groups, and interested parents to expand and improve the Safe Routes to School program.
- » Work to include more on-bike educational opportunities for youth and adults. Diversify and work to offer adult educational opportunities for marginalized groups of people in underserved areas.
- » 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. City Hall or other municipal buildings could apply to the BFB program as an employer to continue to lead by example for other Portsmouth-area employers.
- » Encourage your Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to meet more regularly, as a way to create a systematic method for ongoing citizen input into the development of important policies, plans, and projects. Ensure that the members of the committee reflect the diversity and ability levels of cyclists in



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

your community, including members who can speak to ADA issues as well as representation from under-served areas of the community.

- » Increase the amount of time your Manager of Transportation Planning is able to focus on bicycling, or create a new dedicated Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator or similar full-time active transportation-focused position.
- » Create 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 Portsmouth. 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.
- » 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.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **League of American Bicyclists:** <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » **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 Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University 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/content/federal-funding-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