

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY REPORT CARD



Norfolk, VA



Award: Bronze | Fall 2023

Award History: Bronze since 2015.

Norfolk's BFC Program Stats

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

Community Profile

Population: 238,005
Area: 53.27 square miles
Population Density: 4467.9 people/square mile
Land Classification:
Mixed Suburban/Urban
Poverty Rate: 14.7%*
Median Household Income: \$58,591*
Percent of the Population that Speaks a Language Other Than English at Home: 12.3%*
Percent with Disability: 14.5%*
Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 10.4%*

*Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/Norfolk_city_Virginia?g=1600000US5157000

Norfolk's Bike Links

Bike Network Map, if available:
<https://www.norfolk.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1387/Bike-Network-Map-?bidId=>
Bike Plan, if available:
https://www.norfolk.gov/DocumentCenter/View/71498/Multimodal_FINAL_Chap05

| The 5 Es Category Scores | Norfolk | Max Score this round |
|--------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Engineering | 54.08% | 79.3% |
| Education | 52.83% | 76.3% |
| Encouragement | 50.12% | 87.5% |
| Evaluation & Planning | 35.75% | 78.0% |
| Equity & Accessibility | 32.74% | 70.5% |

Scores are determined by points earned in each 'E' Category, weighted against comparable communities in the Fall 2023 BFC round. See pages 2-3 for your full subcategory points in each Category.

Key Outcomes

Overall Commuter Ridership: 0.6%

Male Commuter Ridership: 0.8%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0.2%

(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)

Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown

(Reported by applicant)

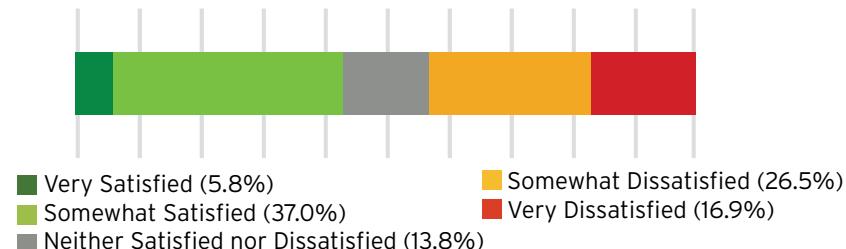
Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 31.2

Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0.4

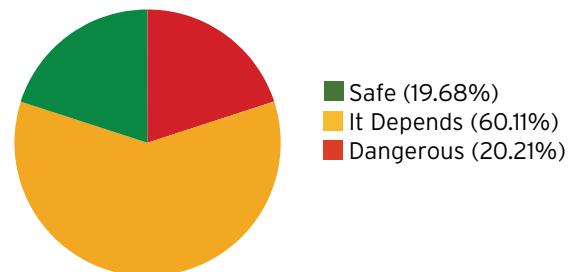
(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Fall 2023 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Norfolk, VA

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 189)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 188)



What is the number one change you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 189)

1. More bike lanes (29.6%)
2. More bike paths (19.6%)
3. Improve existing bike lanes to protected bike lanes (18.5%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Norfolk in the Fall 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 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 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>.

ENGINEERING

Norfolk earned a weighted score of 54.08% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Norfolk earned in each subcategory within the Engineering section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.

| Engineering Subcategories | Norfolk's Subcategory Points in Engineering |
|---|---|
| Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment | 17.6 / 41 pts |
| End-of-Trip Facilities | 22.4 / 44 pts |
| Bicycle Network | 41.8 / 128 pts |
| Network Maintenance | 17.1 / 32 pts |
| Bicycle Access to Public Transportation | 12.5 / 23 pts |
| Bike Sharing | 6.1 / 24 pts |
| Other Bicycle-Related Amenities | 2 / 6 pts |
| Regional Coordination | 3.8 / 23 pts |
| Engineering Bonus Points | 3.4 / 10 pts |

EDUCATION

Norfolk earned a weighted score of 52.83% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Norfolk earned in each subcategory of the Education section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.

| Education Subcategories | Norfolk's Subcategory Points in Education |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Youth Bicycle Education | 31.8 / 68 pts |
| Adult Bicycle Education | 20.4 / 47 pts |
| Motorist Education | 8 / 28 pts |
| Bicycle Safety Education Resources | 1.5 / 16 pts |
| Inclusive Education | 5.5 / 26 pts |
| Education Bonus Points | 2.1 / 7 pts |

ENCOURAGEMENT

Norfolk earned a weighted score of 50.12% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Norfolk earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.

| Encouragement Subcategories | Norfolk's Subcategory Points in Encouragement |
|---|---|
| Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships | 6.3 / 17 pts |
| Route-Finding Support | 3 / 10 pts |
| Bicycle Culture and Promotion | 46.3 / 91 pts |
| Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services | 9 / 35 pts |
| Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT | 0 / 11 pts |
| Encouragement Bonus Points | 3.6 / 7 pts |

EVALUATION & PLANNING

Norfolk earned a weighted score of 35.75% in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Norfolk earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.

| Evaluation & Planning Subcategories | Norfolk's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning |
|--|---|
| Staffing And Committees | 8.7 / 35 pts |
| Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning | 10.3 / 35 pts |
| Planning, Funding, And Implementation | 15 / 46 pts |
| Evaluating The Bicycle Network | 0 / 25 pts |
| Evaluating Ridership | 3.5 / 20 pts |
| Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes | 12.2 / 42 pts |
| Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points | 4.5 / 15 pts |

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY

Norfolk earned a weighted score of 32.74% in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Norfolk earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the Fall 2023 BFC application.

| Equity & Accessibility Subcategories | Norfolk's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility |
|---|--|
| Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships | 7.6 / 24 pts |
| Equity Data Collection & Goals | 0 / 27 pts |
| Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans | 1.4 / 21 pts |
| Equity & Accessibility in Engineering | 5.8 / 44 pts |
| Equity & Accessibility in Education | 8.4 / 52 pts |
| Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement | 17.5 / 42 pts |
| Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning | 11.1 / 51 pts |
| Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points | 3.4 / 9 pts |



Norfolk, VA

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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Continue to expand and improve Norfolk'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.
- » Consider using temporary pop-up or "quick build" facilities to demonstrate and pilot new bike infrastructure and let residents experience it and provide feedback before it is finalized.
- » Conduct a formal 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 and https://bit.ly/FHWA_bikepedPMs.
- » Continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking and other end-of-trip facilities throughout Norfolk. Ensure that APBP-compliant bicycle parking is available in areas near popular destinations and urban activity centers. Bike corrals, cohesively branded community or business district bike racks, and off-street bike cages in parking garages can all be effective ways to increase bike parking.
- » Expand and improve existing in-school bike safety education to include more on-bike learning opportunities 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. Continue working with Norfolk Public Schools to pursue funding to appoint or hire a dedicated Safe Routes to School Coordinator to lead these efforts.
- » 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 lead by example among other local employers.
- » Congratulations on receiving a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant to create a Vision Zero Action Plan for the City of Norfolk! Use the new plan to collect data about bicyclist safety and perceptions of safety, and to identify specific strategies that will 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. Create a Vision Zero Task Force with representatives from multiple City departments and other local groups to support this work.
- » Collect more socioeconomic and demographic data as it relates to current transportation habits and patterns, and establish equity-related indicators to inform future planning, prioritization, and budgeting processes for your community.

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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Continue to increase the amount of funding support and staff time spent on improving conditions for people who bike and walk, either by creating a new dedicated position or further 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.
- » Engage the City's Chief Diversity Officer position in future bicycling and planning activities to result in more equitable and inclusive bicycle planning, outreach, engagement, and programming efforts. Consider how the City's Affordable Housing Strategic Plan may also be used to help inform future transportation and bicycle planning efforts to prioritize creating safe multi-modal connections between affordable housing and key destinations, employment centers, and essential services.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-Fa23>
- » **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
- » **About the BFC Application Process:** <https://bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process>
- » **The Five E's:** <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » **The BFC Ideabook and Map:** <https://bikeleague.org/BFCIdeaBook>
- » **The League's Benchmarking Project on Biking & 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>
- » **National Bike Month Resources:** <https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth>
- » **More Reports and Resources from the League:** <http://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » **Federal Funding Resources from the League:** <https://bikeleague.org/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
- » **U.S. DOT Navigator:** <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>