ALABAMA

STATE RANKING OVERALL (OUT OF 50)

#39

TOTAL COUNTS
BICYCLE FRIENDLY **COMMUNITIES** 1
BICYCLE FRIENDLY **BUSINESSES** 3
BICYCLE FRIENDLY **UNIVERSITIES** 1

SEE THE DATABASE MAP: BIKELEAGUE.ORG/BFA/AWARDS

STATE ADVOCACY GROUPS:
ALABAMA BICYCLE COALITION & BIRMINGHAM BICYCLE CLUB

Summary

According to federal data, very few people commute by bike in **Alabama** and those who do experience some of the least safe conditions in the United States. In recent years, Alabama has done a better job of addressing bicyclist safety and mobility through the increased use of federal funds for biking and walking. This is reflected in the Infrastructure & Funding category being Alabama's best category. These investment decisions are due to the Alabama Department of Transportation actively engaging with local Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Planning Organizations to encourage bicycling and walking as modes of transportation.

Alabama's worst category is Legislation & Enforcement and their data in that category is particularly poor for laws that regulate the behavior of people who bike and walk. Laws in that subcategory tend to restrict the movement of people who walk and bike, or otherwise seek to address the safety of people who walk and bike by making those people responsible for their own safety. Addressing these laws requires action by the state legislature. The League of American Bicyclists believes that the safety of people who bike and walk is primarily the responsibility of the state and local agencies tasked with creating a safe transportation system and the most dangerous users of our nation's roadways – motor vehicle drivers. Laws and practices should reflect the responsibility of these powerful actors rather than make vulnerable people bear additional burdens to mitigate their vulnerability.

Feedback Points

Since 2015, Alabama passed a safe passing law (32-5A-82) that clarifies the responsibility of motorists to pass bicyclists at a safe distance. However, it only applies when there is a marked bike lane, on certain higher-speed roadways, or when a bicyclist legally rides within two feet of the right shoulder of a roadway. These limitations are severe and abnormal and undermine the law's ability to protect bicyclists.

Add language to the driver's license test that addresses the interaction between motor vehicles and bicycles. If your state has a rotating list of questions, ensure that interacting with bicyclists is a topic that gets at least one question from that rotating list.

Provide additional staff support, including staff training for bicycling issues at the Alabama Department of Transportation. Improving staffing would ensure that citizens and communities have a strong partner at ALDOT for improving bicycling conditions.

ALDOT is in the process of updating its 2010 bicycle and pedestrian plan. Adopting a strong statewide plan will provide a basis for long-term improvement in bicycle and pedestrian safety and physical activity. The process for the creation and implementation of this plan should also serve to increase coordination and collaboration between the state DOT and other state and local agencies, including municipalities and counties.

Comparison States

National (Overall)	Southern Region (out of 13)
37. West Virginia	8. Arkansas
38. Indiana	9. West Virginia
39. Alabama	10. Alabama
40. Mississippi	11. Mississippi
41. South Carolina	12. South Carolina

Categories	Rank out of 50
Infrastructure & Funding	20
Education & Encouragment	33
Legislation & Enforcement	48
Policies & Programs	27
Evaluation & Planning	30

Bicycle Friendly Actions

✔ = Progress ✔ = New in 2017

Action	
Complete Streets Law / Policy	
Safe Passing Law (3ft+)	✔
Statewide bike plan last 10 years	✔
2% or more fed funds on bike/ped	
Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area	

Federal Data on Biking		Rank
Ridership	0.1% of commuters biking to work[i]	48/50
Safety	31 fatalities per 10k bike commuters[ii]	49/50
Spending	$2.41 per capita FHWA spending on biking and walking[iii]	26/50

[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.

The Bicycle Friendly States 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**.

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Alabama Report Card: Detailed Category Scores

The Category Scores below are aggregated from smaller sub-categories—each of which is sorted in descending order, from the topic with the highest possible points available to least.

Infrastructure & Funding
Ranked 20th of 50 States

Design and Existence of Infrastructure Has the state made it easy to build bicycle infrastructure and installed a variety of infrastructure on state facilities?	**28**/38 pts
State Transportation Funding Does the state report that funding is allocated to bicycling?	**10**/28 pts
Use of Federal Transportation Funding Does the state take advantage of available federal funding for biking and walking?	**10**/16 pts
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?	**10**/10 pts
State Transportation Funding Restrictions Does the state have any policies that limit the ability to fund bicycling and walking infrastructure?	**4**/8 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points:	**62**/100 pts

Policies & Programs
Ranked 27th of 50 States

Complete Streets Does the state have a complete streets policy and processes to support its implementation?	**21**/56 pts
Design and Access Policies Does the state have policies in place to ensure good design and access for people who bike and walk?	**14**/25 pts
State of Practice Development Does the state support trainings on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and complete streets implementation?	**13**/13 pts
Sustainable Transportation Policies Does the state work incorporate multi-disciplinary considerations in the development and implementation of transportation projects?	**5**/6 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points:	**53**/100 pts

Education & Encouragement
Ranked 33nd of 50 States

State DOT Education & Encouragement Support Does the state DOT support bicycling and walking events and education materials?	**25**/35 pts
Mode Share Do many people bike to work and is that number increasing relative to other modes?	**1**/30 pts
Driver Education Requirements Does the state require drivers to answer questions about bicyclist safety as part of the driver's licensing test?	**10**/20 pts
Advocacy Does the state have a bicycle advocacy group that is a member of the League of American Bicyclists or was identified by the state?	**15**/15 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points:	**51**/100 pts

Evaluation & Planning
Ranked 30th of 50 States

State DOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans Does the state have a bicycle and/or pedestrian plan and does that plan follow best practices?	**35**/48 pts
Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Has the state made bicyclist and pedestrian safety an emphasis and what does data say about safety?	**14**/34 pts
Understanding People who Bike and Walk Does the state have programs in place to collect data on people who walk and bike?	**7**/10 pts
Formal User Group Engagement Does the state have an official Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Advisory Committee and does it follow best practices?	**0**/8 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points:	**56**/100 pts

Legislation & Enforcement
Ranked 48th of 50 States

Laws that regulate driver behavior and methods of enforcement Does the state have strong comprehensive distracted driving laws and allow photo enforcement?	**23**/37 pts
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? (low points = more restrictions)	**4**/28 pts
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?	**17**/25 pts
Laws that influence the built environment Does the state allow speed limits of 20 mph or less?	**2**/10 pts
Total of Possible 100 Points:	**46**/100 pts

Dig into the data: Robust interactive report + Downloads

The Bicycle Friendly State survey used to create this ranking is also the basis for a biennial report. Explore tons of bicycling, walking, & health data on states and cities at **bikingandwalkingbenchmarks.org**.

BICYCLING & WALKING in the United States **2016**
Alliance for Biking & Walking
BENCHMARKING REPORT

U.S. Trips, by Mode of Transportation
10% Walking Trips
1% Biking Trips
2% Public Transit Trips
4% All Other Modes
83% Car, Van, SUV and RV Trips

% of kids who walked to school
2007: **11.9%**   2013: **15.2%**

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Feedback Points, CONTINUED

>> **Cont'd from Page 1**

Adopt a statewide Complete Streets policy. The National Complete Streets Coalition has a model state policy and a variety of other resources to ensure adoption and implementation.

Adopt a bicycle design manual. ALDOT can take steps to ensure that their planners, engineers, and local partners have the tools to provide safe and appropriate solutions for people who bike and walk by adopting a comprehensive bicycle design manual that incorporates design guidance from NACTO's Urban Bikeway Design Guide and FHWA's Small Towns and Rural Multimodal Networks Guide.

Repeal the state's mandatory sidepath law. These types of laws create conflicts between bicycles and other path users and ignore the quality, safety, topography and connectivity of available paths. Most sidepaths are designed for recreational use and are not convenient for transportation purposes. The best way to get people to use sidepaths is to make them safe, convenient, and connected so that they are appealing and accessible to people who bike.

Alabama has a high number of bicyclist fatalities. Ensure that bicycle safety is a major emphasis in all transportation projects, programs and policies to address this issue.

We're building a...
Bicycle Friendly America FOR EVERYONE

ABOUT THE LEAGUE & MEMBERSHIP

Support the League by becoming a member today and add your voice to the bicycling movement! **Over 75% of our funding comes from individuals.** Members support our time-tested programs like Bicycle Friendly America, Smart Cycling and Federal Advocacy. As a member, you'll enjoy valuable perks like Bicycling Magazine, discounts at dozens of national bike retailers and manufacturers, and exclusive pricing to the National Bike Summit. Together, let's advance bicycling on Capitol Hill and in your community!

WE BELIEVE
Bicycling brings people together. When more people ride bikes:
» Life is better for everyone;
» Communities are safer, stronger and better connected;
» Our nation is healthier, economically stronger, environmentally cleaner and more energy independent.

OUR VISION
is a nation where everyone recognizes and enjoys the many benefits and opportunities of bicycling.

OUR MISSION
is to lead the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. As leaders, our commitment is to listen and learn, define standards and share best practices to engage diverse communities and build a powerful, unified voice for change.

SMART CYCLING RESOURCES

SMART CYCLING QUICK GUIDE

Bike Safety Education is a key component to keeping roadways safe for all users. Having League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your state creates more opportunities for bike safety education to be shared. LCIs are certified by the League through an intense 3-day seminar focused on how to effectively deliver the Smart Cycling curriculum. To host a LCI seminar in your state, contact **education@bikeleague.org**.

Visit **bikeleague.org/ridesmart** to access Smart Cycling videos, Smart Cycling Quick Guides (available in English & Spanish), and Smart Cycling manuals.

>> **ADD YOUR MOMENTUM AT BIKELEAGUE.ORG/JOIN**

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