



PORTAGE, MI

TOTAL POPULATION

49,216

POPULATION DENSITY

1439

TOTAL AREA (sq. miles)

35

OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES **2**

OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES **0**

10 BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

	Average Gold	Portage
High Speed Roads with Bike Facilities	41%	35%
Total on- and off-road Bicycle Network Mileage to Total Road Network Mileage	76%	27%
Bicycle Education in Schools	GOOD	EXCELLENT
Share of Transportation Budget Spent on Bicycling	18%	30%
Bike Month and Bike to Work Events	VERY GOOD	VERY GOOD
Active Bicycle Advocacy Group	YES	YES
Active Bicycle Advisory Committee	MEETS AT LEAST MONTHLY	MEETS EVERY TWO MONTHS
Bicycle-Friendly Laws & Ordinances	GOOD	AVERAGE
Bike Plan is Current and is Being Implemented	YES	YES
Bike Program Staff to Population	1 PER 26K	1 PER 24.6K

CATEGORY SCORES

ENGINEERING <i>Bicycle network and connectivity</i>	3.9 /10
EDUCATION <i>Motorist awareness and bicycling skills</i>	6.6 /10
ENCOURAGEMENT <i>Mainstreaming bicycling culture</i>	5.9 /10
EVALUATION & PLANNING <i>Setting targets and having a plan</i>	5.6 /10

KEY OUTCOMES

	Average Gold	Portage
RIDERSHIP <i>Percentage of Commuters who bike</i>	5.1%	0.28%
SAFETY MEASURES CRASHES <i>Crashes per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	287	609
SAFETY MEASURES FATALITIES <i>Fatalities per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	2.2	29



KEY STEPS TO GOLD



» Keep up the great momentum to continue improving conditions for bicyclists in Portage! Ridership is still relatively low compared to other Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Communities, but with a continued investment in building out a safe and comfortable bicycle network across the entire community, complimented by ongoing education and encouragement will move the needle on this in years to come.

» Continue to improve and expand Portage's low-stress bikeway 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. Improve your database inventory of roadways categorized by speed and traffic volume to inform future planning.

» Lower your 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 guidance.

» Host a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) seminar to increase the number of local LCIs in your community. Having several active instructors in the area will enable you to expand cycling education for youth and adults, recruit more knowledgeable cycling ambassadors, deliver Bicycle Friendly Driver education to motorists, and have experts available to assist in encouragement programs.

KEY STEPS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



PORTAGE, MI

Fall 2021

KEY STEPS TO GOLD CONTINUED

- » Create a signature annual event, such as an open streets event or annual ride. A signature annual event can be a catalyst for the creation of a culture that supports bicycling. Signature events can be based around iconic infrastructure, art, or architecture, locally important businesses or local celebrities, or other existing cultural touchstones.
- » Congratulations on the recent launch of the Bike Portage bike share system! Work to increase the number of bikes and docking stations available in the new system. 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. Be sure to collect ridership data to inform future updates and investments in the system.
- » Increase the availability of end-of-trip facilities for bike commuters in Portage, such as additional public bicycle repair stations and air pumps. Consider investing in a centrally-located Bicycle Station or Hub that provides secured parking, and changing room, lockers, and/or showers for bicycle commuters.
- » Develop a community-wide trip reduction ordinance/program, commuter incentive program, and a Guaranteed Ride Home program to encourage and support bike commuters in Portage.
- » Portage could be well-served by a bike co-op or non-profit community bike shop. In communities your size, co-ops have had major success in building a culture around youth/ family cycling and coupled with after-school programming, job training and a connection point with local clubs/advocacy, this can be win-win-win.
- » Continue to develop and invest in a community-wide bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection including automated bicycle counters to provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points and mobile counters to provide periodic or before/after data related to changes 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 to build on the existing Bike Equity Index work that Portage has been doing.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » League of American Bicyclists: <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » Guide to the BFC Report Card: https://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/Guide_to_the_Bicycle_Friendly_Community_Report_Card.pdf
- » Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community: https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources
- » Building Blocks of a Bicycle Friendly Community: <https://bikeleague.org/content/building-blocks-bicycle-friendly-communities>
- » About the BFC Application Process: <https://bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process>
- » The Five E's: <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » Tips for Current and Aspiring BFCs: <https://bikeleague.org/BFC-tips>
- » Smart Cycling Program: <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » Advocacy Reports and Resources: <https://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » Bicycle Friendly Business Program: <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » National Bike Month: <https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth>

