

## BENCHMARKING MONTGOMERY COUNTY

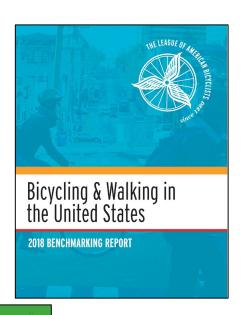
Ken McLeod Policy Director 202.621.5447 ken@bikeleague.org | @kenmcld

1612 K STREET, NW, SUITE 1102 WASHINGTON, DC 20006 202.822.1333 | @BIKELEAGUE WWW.BIKELEAGUE.ORG

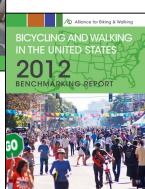
#### **BACKGROUND**

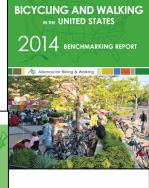
- » Advocate created
  - » Local pilots in 2003
  - » First report in 2007
  - » Biennial update cycle initiated in 2010

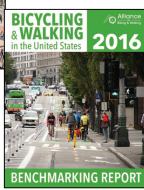
IN THE UNITED STATES











#### **OBJECTIVES**

#### Original 3:

- 1. Promote Data Collection & Availability
- 2. Measure Progress & Evaluate Results
- Support Efforts to Increase Bicycling & Walking

#### **Secondary Objectives:**

- 4. Make the Health Connection
- 5. Strengthen the Network of Partners for Biking & Walking

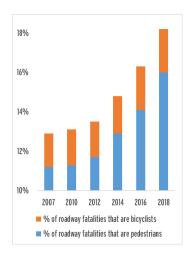
#### **2018 REPORT**

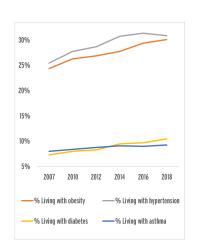
- » 5 Chapters
  - » Introduction
  - » Find Your Angle
  - » Make Your Case
  - » Show Your Data
  - » Appendix

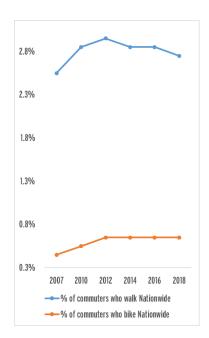
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
» FEATURED CONTENT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY » FEATURED CONTENT: HIGHLIGHTED TRENDS	3 8
Chapter 2: Find Your Angle	22
» FEATURED CONTENT: LIVABLE COMMUNITIES SUPPORTER	29
Chapter 3: Make Your Case	32
» SECTION I: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	34
» SECTION II: SAFE TRANSPORTATION	49
» SECTION III: STRONG ECONOMIES » SECTION IV: CONNECTED ROUTES	67 79
SECTION V. CONNECTED ROUTES     SECTION V: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	92
» SECTION VI. EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION GOVERNANCE.	108
» SECTION VII: LAWS & ENFORCEMENT TO PROMOTE BIKING & WALKING	122
» SECTION VIII: FUNDING & FINANCING TRANSPORTATION	136
» SECTION IX: ENGAGED PUBLIC	152
» SECTION X; EQUITY	166
Chapter 4: Show Your Data	178
» SECTION I: NATION	181
» SECTION II: STATES	209
» SECTION III: CITIES	275
Chapter 5: Appendix	348
» FEATURED CONTENT: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	400

#### **MAJOR THEMES**

- » Data paints a poor picture
  - » Fatalities are increasing
  - » Bicycling and Walking rates are not
  - » Chronic diseases of physical inactivity are increasing

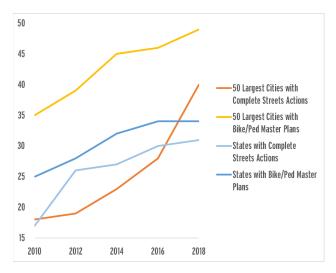


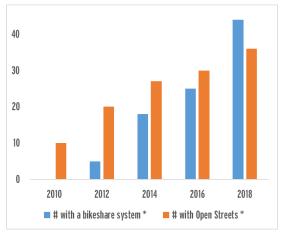




#### **MAJOR THEMES**

- » Biking and walking activities are much more common than in 2007
- » Innovation is positive, but difficult to Benchmark
- » How does Benchmarking deal with pervasiveness?





#### INTRODUCTION

# STUDY AREAS & DATA COLLECTION

The Benchmarking Report began by collecting and reporting data on all 50 states and the 50 most populated U.S. cities. The League determined city opulations for this report by using 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year population estimates at the place level. <sup>3</sup>

The ciries studied for this project have shifted over the years, due to changing populations and the addition of small and midsized ciries to the 2014 Benchmarking Report. Raleigh and Wichita have replaced New Orleans and Honolulu, which were in the original 50 most populous ciries included in earlier reports. Raleigh was added to the 200 Benchmarking Report due to the significant population decrease in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Wichita is among the 50 most populous cities as of the 2014 report. Although New Orleans and Honolulu are no longer among the 50 largest cities, they are included in the report (along with select cities with smaller populations first included in 2014) to take advantage of the alreadycollected data. Throughout this publication, Washington, DC is discussed as one of the 50 most populous cities, rather than as a state, due to its geographic compactness and urbanized nature.

A list of included cities and their populations can be found in Chapter V: Appendix.

#### FIGURE 1.5.1 - STUDY AREA LOCATIONS 4

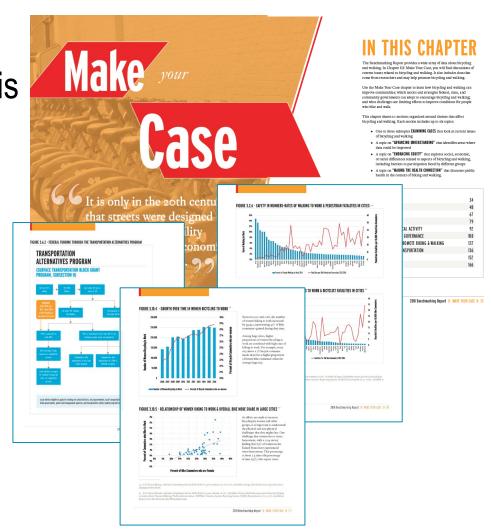


- 3 The Benchmarking project tracks data for cities at the "place" level rather than "urbanized area" or Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) level. This focuses analyses of trends in the city cores, which are generally more densely developed than suburban and arral communities, and so may have greater opportunities for conversion of car trips to bicycling and walking.
- 4 The Alliance for Biking and Walking. Bicycling and Walking in the Units. States: 2016 Benchmarking Report page 4. Available at https://bikleleague.org/benchmarking-report. (The study area locations for the 2018 and 2016 reports are the same, but Charleston is also included as it was in reports prior to 2016.)

- » If Montgomery County was a CDP, it'd be included
- » 10 of the 50 largest cities have populations over 1 million

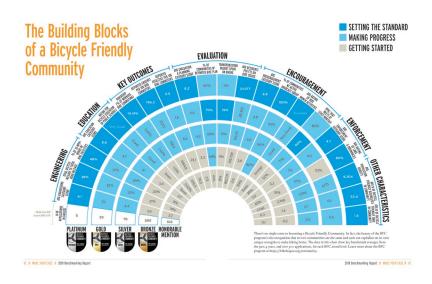
#### **MAKE YOUR CASE**

- » 145 pages of discussion, graphics, and data analysis
  - » Highlights of unique Bicycle Friendly America data
    - » BFC data
    - » BFB data
  - » Data on advocacy organizations
  - » Data on professionals



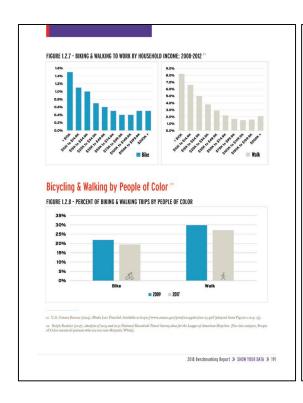
#### **BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

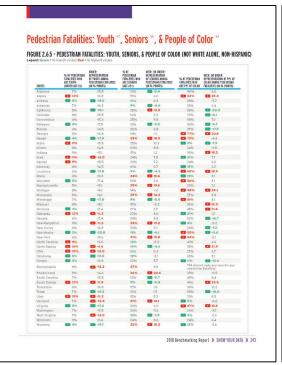
- » Since 2002, 16 communities in Maryland have applied for BFC recognition
- » Rockville has applied 7 times, most recently in 2016
- » Takoma Park and Bethesda have both participated in the past



#### **SHOW YOUR DATA**

» 142 Figures with data from public sources and surveys



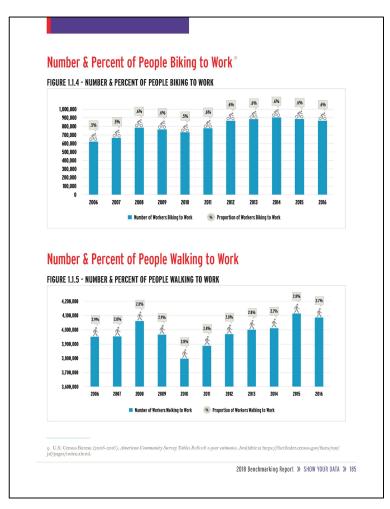




## DATA RHYMES, BUT IS NOT THE SAME

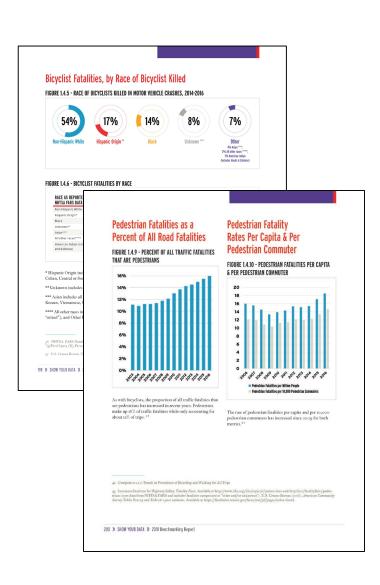
Nation	States	Cities
	2.1 Influences on Biking and Walking	3.1 Influences on Biking and Walking
	2.2 Overview of Key Federal Benchmarks on Biking and Walking	3.2 Overview of Key Federal Benchmarks on Biking and Walking
1.1 Rates of Biking and Walking	2.3 Rates of Biking and Walking	3.3 Rates of Biking and Walking
1.2 Demographics of Active Transportation (biking, walking, and transit)	2.4 Demographics of Active Transportation (biking, walking, and transit)	3.4 Demographics of Active Transportation (biking, walking, and transit)
1.3 Public Health Indicators (and biking and walking)	2.5 Public Health Indicators (and biking and walking)	3.5 Public Health Indicators (and biking and walking)
1.4 Bicyclist and Pedestrian Road Safety	2.6 Bicyclist and Pedestrian Road Safety	3.6 Bicyclist and Pedestrian Road Safety
1.5 Federal Funding and Planning for Bicycling and Walking	2.7 Plans and Policies	3.7 Plans and Policies
	2.8 Traffic Laws and Training for Bicyclist and Pedestrian Safety	3.8 Staff and Community Support for Biking and Walking
1.5 Federal Funding and Planning for Bicycling and Walking	2.9 Funding for Biking and Walking	3.9 Funding for Biking and Walking
	2.10 Infrastructure for People Biking and Walking	3.10 Infrastructure for People Biking and Walking

#### RATES OF BIKING & WALKING



- » Montgomery County is right around the national average for biking (.6%) and slightly lower than average for walking (2.1%)
- Bethesda is significantly better, Rockville is similar, Takoma Park is somewhat better

#### **BICYCLIST & PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY**



- » Montgomery County is safer than the national average and Maryland's average
  - » Per modal commuter
  - » Per capita
- » 20+% of traffic deaths are pedestrians in MD

#### **PLANS & POLICIES**





STATE ADVOCACY GROUP: BIKE MARYLAND

#### Summary

Like its neighbor, Delaware (#7), Maryland would have a difficult time reaching its ranking on federal data alone. The state has a low percentage of people biking to work (half the national average) and, surprisingly, a low use of federal funds for biking and walking. Maryland's Senator Ben Cardini was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as Legislator of the Year in 2016, so hopefully the state Department of Transportation and local governments that receive federal transportation funding can improve on their use of federal funds for biking and walking in the future.

Maryland balances out its federal data indicators by having consistently high scores in categories that tend to be within the control of the Maryland State Highway Administration. While it is surprising to not see these efforts result in the use of federal funds for biking and walking, there is clearly a policy and program apparatus at the state level that is doing bicycle-related work and that is more than can be said of many states. Efforts by Maryland agencies extend to the Maryland Transit Administration, which has invested over \$1 million to launch bikeshare in Baltimore and has retrofitted 30 bi-level MARC train cars to better accommodate histories.

#### Feedback Points

Amend Maryland's safe passing law which requires a minimum distance of 3 feet so that there are fewer exceptions to the minimum distance requirement.

Implement new design elements to improve safety at high-crash intersections through updates to your state design manual and processes; training of planners, engineers, and construction crews' and education of decisionmakers about how bicycle safety can be addresses at intersections and between intersections.

Repeal the state's mandatory bike lane law. These types of laws ignore the quality and safety of available bike lanes. The best way to get people to use bike lanes to make them safe, convenient, and connected so that they are appealing and accessible to people who bike.

Maryland should spend more federal funding on bicyclists and pedestrians. Current federal spending on biking and walking projects is lower than the 2% setaside provided in federal law and one of the 10 lowest rates on a per capita basis. Maryland should alter project selection criteria and project development processes in order to spend more federal funding on biking and walking improvements.

Improve bicycle network connectivity so that more people can access retail, work, and educational facilities safely and conveniently by bike. Consider innovative approaches to network analysis based on stress levels experienced by bicyclists.

>> Feedback Continued on Page 3

National (Overall)	Eastern Region (out of 11	
9. New Jersey	2. Delaware	
10. Virginia	3. New Jersey	
11. Maryland	4. Maryland	
12. Pennsylvania	5. Pennsylvania	
13. Michigan	6. Vermont	

Comparison States

Categories	Rank out of 50
Infrastructure & Funding	11
Education & Encouragment	40
Legislation & Enforcement	20
Policies & Programs	10
Evaluation & Planning	12

Bicycle Friendly Actions ✓= Progress ✓= New in 2017	
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	0.3% of commuters biking to work	38/50
Safety	7 fatalities per 10k bike commuters	<b>22</b> /50
Spending	\$1.33 per capita FHWA spending on biking and walking*	<b>45</b> /50

This figure is based upon the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate.

<sup>8</sup> 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 biscule computers.

"FHWA spending is based upon projects coded using any of three project types associated with biogding and welking projects through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWAV)s Fiscal Management Information System. To calculate per capital spending we used a five-year average for fiscal years 2011-2016 and the 2015 Capital Post State progradition.

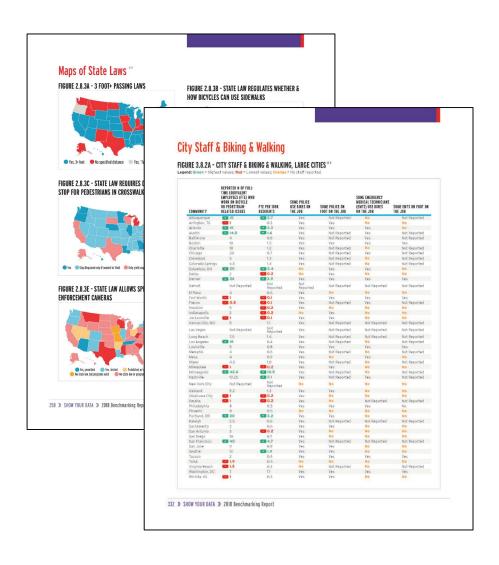
PAGE 1

» Montgomery County, like virtually all cities in the report, has a bike plan and complete streets policy

» Maryland has plans and policies too

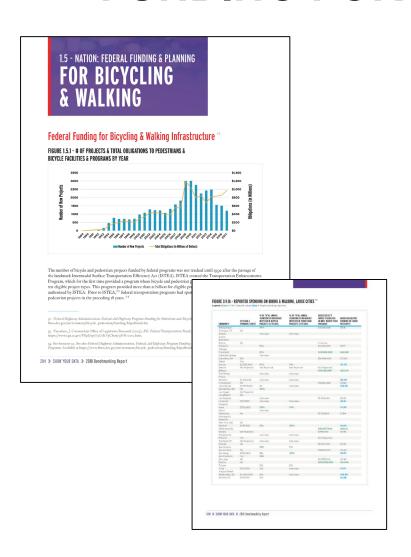
The Bicycle Friendly States ranking is based on a comprehensive survey completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit bikeleague.org/states or contact Ken McLeod at (202)-822-4333 or ken@bikeleague.org.

### TRAFFIC LAWS, TRAINING, STAFFING



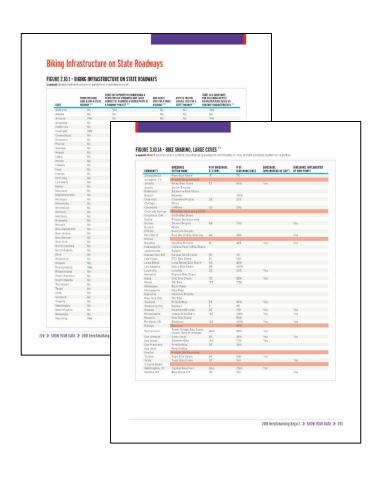
- » Average FTE for 50largest cities is 8.6 FTE
- » Range from .1 per 100kpopulation to 10 per100k population

#### **FUNDING FOR BIKING & WALKING**



- » Maryland is trending in the right direction in the use of federal funds
- » Reported City data is sparse
  - » Range of between\$.03 and \$48.82 per capita

# INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BIKING & WALKING



- » Survey data suggestsMD does not promotePBL and BBL
- » 50 Largest cities
  - » Average of 1.3 miles of bike infrastructure per square mile
  - » 15.1 miles of sidewalks per mile

#### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

- » Great New Bike Plan
  - » Focus on Protected Bike Lanes and Shared Use Paths
  - » Not a lot about the Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC) or advocates
- » A couple Maryland state related policy changes in plan
  - » Need for state advocacy
- » Plan lacks specific cost estimates and will require new funding commitments

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

"An additional 377 miles are recommended as priorities for construction in one of four tiers. Approximately 42 percent of the recommended bikeway network is recommended for implementation as opportunities arise rather than as a set of stand-alone projects"

- » What is the PBTSAC's role in prioritizing tiers?
- » Ensuring build out through opportunities that arise?

# How do you define successful implementation and benchmark it?

## **QUESTIONS**





# THANK YOU!

1612 K STREET, NW, SUITE 1102 WASHINGTON, DC 20006 202.822.1333 | @BIKELEAGUE WWW.BIKELEAGUE.ORG

@KENMCLD