



# SITKA, AK

TOTAL POPULATION

8,493

TOTAL AREA (sq. miles)

2874

POPULATION DENSITY

3

# OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES **1**

# OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES **0**

## 10 BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

	Average Gold	Sitka
High Speed Roads with Bike Facilities	35%	74%
Total on- and off-road Bicycle Network Mileage to Total Road Network Mileage	76%	100%+
Bicycle Education in Schools	GOOD	VERY GOOD
Share of Transportation Budget Spent on Bicycling	14%	3%
Bike Month and Bike to Work Events	VERY GOOD	AVERAGE
Active Bicycle Advocacy Group	YES	YES
Active Bicycle Advisory Committee	MEETS AT LEAST MONTHLY	MEETS AT LEAST MONTHLY
Bicycle-Friendly Laws & Ordinances	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Bike Plan is Current and is Being Implemented	YES	YES
Bike Program Staff to Population	1 PER 33K	1 PER 85K

## CATEGORY SCORES

<b>ENGINEERING</b> <i>Bicycle network and connectivity</i>	<b>2.20</b> /10
<b>EDUCATION</b> <i>Motorist awareness and bicycling skills</i>	<b>4.66</b> /10
<b>ENCOURAGEMENT</b> <i>Mainstreaming bicycling culture</i>	<b>3.66</b> /10
<b>EVALUATION &amp; PLANNING</b> <i>Setting targets and having a plan</i>	<b>3.26</b> /10

## KEY OUTCOMES

	Average Gold	Sitka
<b>RIDERSHIP</b> <i>Percentage of Commuters who bike</i>	5.1%	3.39%
<b>SAFETY MEASURES CRASHES</b> <i>Crashes per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	287	375
<b>SAFETY MEASURES FATALITIES</b> <i>Fatalities per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	2.2	0



## KEY STEPS TO GOLD



» Increase the amount of staff time spent on improving conditions for people who bike and walk in Sitka, either by creating a new dedicated position or expanding the responsibilities of current staff. Much of Sitka's success to date is thanks to volunteer groups such as the Sitka Cycling Club, and with added municipal staff time and investments from the local government, there is great potential to expand these efforts significantly.

» Continue to develop a 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.

» Improve bicycle safety education for students of all ages by incorporating on-bicycle education. Providing bicycles in schools ensures that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household. Work with local bicycle groups and interested parents to expand and improve the Safe Routes to School program, including potentially hiring a Safe Routes to School Coordinator for the school district.

» Ensure that your Complete Streets policy is followed for all projects, and that compliance is tracked. Ensuring compliance with a Complete Streets policy is an important and often low-cost way to add to your bicycle network. Striping bicycle lanes as part of repaving operations can save 40% of the cost of adding a

KEY STEPS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



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## KEY STEPS TO GOLD CONTINUED

bicycle lane. If necessary, revisit your Complete Streets policy and process to ensure better tracking and compliance.

» Keep up the great work expanding off-road facilities such as single-track mountain bike trails. These facilities can be a great draw for bicycle tourism, and Sitka's visitors center should promote them by providing bike maps and other local information and resources. Be sure to also focus on network connectivity so that residents can easily access these facilities by bike.

» As Sitka continues to build out its on-street bikeway network, be sure to follow a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume. Partner with the Alaska DOT to ensure this standard is followed for all state-owned roads as well.

» Continue to increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community and to inventory and upgrade the quality of all existing bike parking to meet APBP standards. Adopt a bike parking ordinance for new and existing buildings that specifies the amount and location of secure, convenient bike parking available. Develop community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards that adhere to current APBP guidelines. (See [www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions](http://www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)).

» Work with local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) to offer Bicycle Friendly Driver training to motorists in Sitka, particularly to professional drivers and fleet operators.

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### 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](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](https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources)
- » Building Blocks of a Bicycle Friendly Community:  
<https://bikeleague.org/content/building-blocks-bicycle-friendly-communities>
- » The Five E's: <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » Smart Cycling Program: <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » Advocacy Reports and Resources: <http://bikeleague.org/reports>

