



New Castle, DE



2024 BFC Award: Bronze
Award History: First-Time Applicant

New Castle's BFA Program Stats

of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **0**
 # of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**
 # of Local League Cycling Instructors: **1**
 Delaware's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#7**

The 5 Es Category Scores	New Castle	Max Score this round
Engineering	41.15%	79.26%
Education	25.61%	83.25%
Encouragement	21.90%	90.86%
Evaluation & Planning	19.58%	75.73%
Equity & Accessibility	15.95%	75.47%

Scores are determined by points earned in each 'E' Category, weighted against comparable communities in the 2024 BFC round. See pages 2-3 for your full subcategory points in each Category.

Key Outcomes

Overall Commuter Ridership: 0.2%
 Male Commuter Ridership: 0.5%
 Female Commuter Ridership: 0%
(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2022 or 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)

Bicycle Mode Share: Unknown
(Reported by applicant)

Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years: 0.6
Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years: 0
(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)

Community Profile

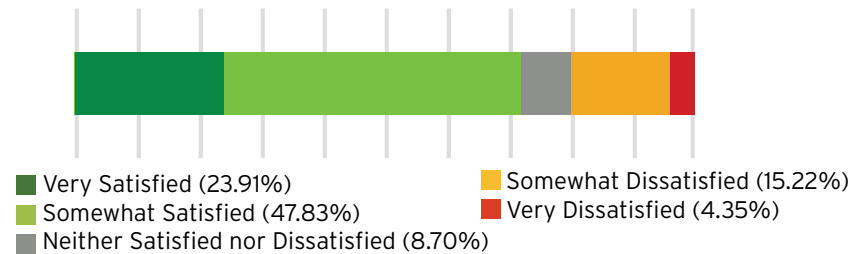
Population: 5,551
 (Size classification for weighted scoring: Micro)
 Area: 3.52 square miles
 Population Density: 1,577.00 people/square mile
 Land Classification: Mostly Rural/Rural Town
 Poverty Rate: 4.3%*
 Median Household Income: \$95,884*
 Percent of the Population that Speaks a Language Other Than English at Home: 7.6%*
 Percent with Disability: 15.4%*
 Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available: 5.2%*
 *Source: https://data.census.gov/profile/New_Castle_city,_Delaware?g=160XX00US1050800

New Castle's Bike Links

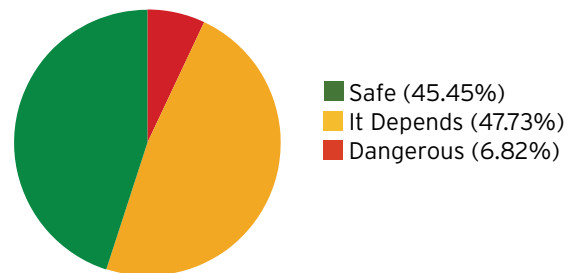
Bike Network Map, if available:
https://deldot.gov/Programs/bike/biking_in_delaware/pdfs/maps/NewCastleMap2021_web.pdf
Bike Plan, if available:
 (No Bike Plan)

2024 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for New Castle, DE

How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 46)



Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 44)



What are the top 1-3 changes you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 46)

1. More bike paths (43.48%)
2. Reduce speeds through traffic calming and/or road diets (36.96%)
3. Improve public decision-making processes for transportation improvements, including bicycling improvements (34.78%)

About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by New Castle in the 2024 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 2024 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	<i>New Castle earned a weighted score of 41.15% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that New Castle earned in each subcategory within the Engineering section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	New Castle's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	14.9 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	9.0 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	22.1 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	19.8 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	10.0 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	4.2 / 24 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	0.0 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	3.5 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	2.6 / 10 pts	

EDUCATION	<i>New Castle earned a weighted score of 25.61% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that New Castle earned in each subcategory of the Education section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	New Castle's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	1.0 / 68 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	18.7 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	6.8 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	5.2 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	2.3 / 26 pts
Education Bonus Points	0.9 / 7 pts	

ENCOURAGEMENT	<i>New Castle earned a weighted score of 21.90% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that New Castle earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	New Castle's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	1.9 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	3.0 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	14.6 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	6.3 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	0.0 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	1.7 / 7 pts

EVALUATION & PLANNING	<i>New Castle earned a weighted score of 19.58% in the Evaluation & Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that New Castle earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation & Planning section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	New Castle's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	2.0 / 35 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	2.9 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	0.0 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	4.5 / 25 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	-0.3 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	16.4 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	1.6 / 15 pts	

EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY	<i>New Castle earned a weighted score of 15.95% in the Equity & Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that New Castle earned in each subcategory of the Equity & Accessibility section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	New Castle's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	3.0 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0.0 / 27 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	0.0 / 21 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	6.8 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	4.3 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	5.3 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	5.9 / 51 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	0.0 / 9 pts	



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

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

- » Continue coordinating with DeIDOT to evaluate the lowering of all local streets to 15mph, and 25-30mph on all collector and arterial roads near town. The BFC review team applauds these potential changes and looks forward to learning more on New Castle's next BFC application. To ensure compliance with the new lower speed limits, introduce road diets and traffic calming to lower the designed speed of the affected roads as well.
- » Increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community, and work to upgrade the quality of 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)
- » Bicycle safety education should be a routine part of education for students of all ages, and schools and the surrounding neighborhoods should be particularly safe and convenient for biking and walking. Work with local bicycle groups and interested parents to create Safe Routes to School programming and on-bike learning opportunities at all K-12 schools. Providing bicycles in schools for on-bike education is strongly encouraged to ensure that all students can learn to safely ride a bicycle regardless of the availability of a bicycle in their household.
- » Continue to expand bicycle education opportunities for adults. Consider ways to target additional demographics who currently do not feel safe riding with classes or events that address their concerns and create an inclusive, welcoming environment.
- » Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar or sponsoring a City staffer or local bike advocate to attend an existing seminar elsewhere. 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. Visit bikeleague.org/ridesmart for more information.
- » 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 New Castle employers.
- » Work with your local AARP Chapter to host a Bike Audit, using the AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit (AARP.org/BikeAudit). Recruit volunteers from local bicycling clubs and invite elected officials, DeIDOT staff, and other city and state agencies to participate.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Celebrate National Bike Month as a community every May. Bike Month activities could include community-wide signature events such as a Mayor's Ride, Bike to Work and School Days, and educational opportunities for children and adults throughout the month. Work with local employers to organize a community-wide Bike to Work Day event. Bike to Work Day often involves a central "pit stop" station with food, community groups, and elected officials promoting and helping people to choose to bike to work.
- » New Castle is lucky to have the Urban Bike Project (of Wilmington) nearby providing bicycling education, encouragement, repair services, and outreach efforts to reach and support new riders in your community. Explore ways for the local government to provide in-kind and/or financial support or partnership opportunities with the co-op/shop. Consider looking into contracting with them to increase bicycling education or other services in New Castle, or providing free PSA or advertising space on government communications channels, such as on public buses. We encourage you to reach out to Urban Bike Project to find out what kinds of support may be most beneficial to them to help you both succeed in your shared goals of supporting local bicyclists.
- » Increase the amount of staff time spent on improving conditions for people who bike and walk, either by creating a new dedicated position or 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.
- » Create an official Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to create a systematic method for ongoing citizen input into the development of important policies, plans, and projects. Ensure that the members of the committee reflect the diversity and ability levels of cyclists in your community.
- » Develop and adopt an official dedicated bicycle master plan for your community. A bicycle master plan is a critical step to improving conditions for bicycling and institutionalizing processes for continual improvement, and should include specific and measurable goals and dedicated funding for implementation. Begin this process with a robust and inclusive public engagement process, and by performing a bike network analysis to assess gaps in the existing bike network.
- » Partner with DeIDOT and Bike Delaware to create a bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection to create an understanding of current bicyclists and the effects of new facilities on bicycling in New Castle. Automated bicycle counters provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points in a community and mobile counters can provide periodic or before/after data related to a change 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.



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FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Establish equity-related indicators to inform future prioritization and budgeting processes, particularly as your community develops new plans, policies, and design guidelines.
- » Explore potential partnerships with local or statewide public health agencies and organizations that may be able to support your efforts to create more opportunities for active transportation and physical activity through community design. To show your community's commitment to health and wellness through active transportation, work with local elected officials to pass an Active People, Healthy NationSM Proclamation this year. Active People, Healthy NationSM is a national initiative led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027. Learn more about Active People, Healthy NationSM Proclamations at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/active-people-healthy-nation/php/data-research/proclamations.html>.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-2024>
- » **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 (BFS) 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>