

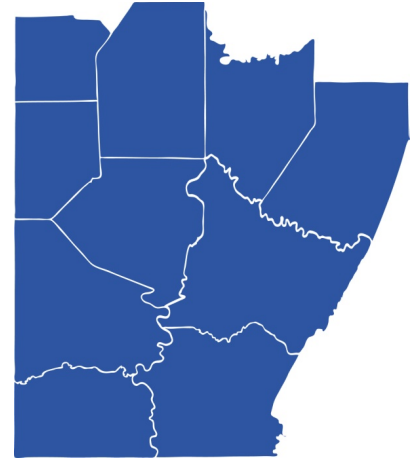
Active Transportation

EAC Network Conference 2021 / Healthy Communities – What Can we Do?



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- 10 counties
- 2.57 million people
- 7,112 square miles
- 548 municipal governments
- 3 PennDOT District Offices



spcregion.org

Presentation focus

- National initiatives + resources.
- Short-term actions for promoting biking + walking.
- Technical assistance available through SPC.
 - If you are attending from outside the SPC region, contact your county planning office or MPO/RPO to learn about technical assistance they may be able to provide.

Active transportation + healthy communities

- When you bike, walk and roll, you improve your physical and mental health and help address one of the biggest contributors to climate change —emissions from transportation.

What can we do?



Staffing + committees

Staffing

- Full or part-time paid staff whose primary focus is on active transportation-related projects.
- Or a full-time employee who only spends a portion of their time on active transportation-related projects.
- A citizen volunteer appointed by the government to help the community become more bike + walk-friendly.

Committees

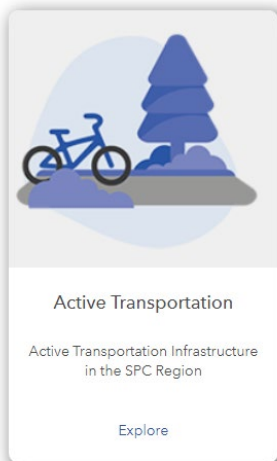
- Establish an officially-recognized active transportation advisory committee.
- Establish an internal equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiative, committee, or position.

Active Transportation Resource Center

Visit SPC's [Active Transportation Resource Center](#) (ATRC) to access resources and learn more about steps that local governments can take to help create connected biking and walking networks and support healthy communities.



ATRC contents



Active Transportation Map

Looking for a new bike trail to try out? Wondering where you can find all the bike lanes in our region? Check out this active transportation web app to view the bicycle and trail network, including all off-road trails, bike lanes, and water trails.

National initiatives, local examples

Complete Streets

Safe Routes

Vision Zero

Active Transportation Network Map

Land + water trails

On-Street facilities

Bike parking

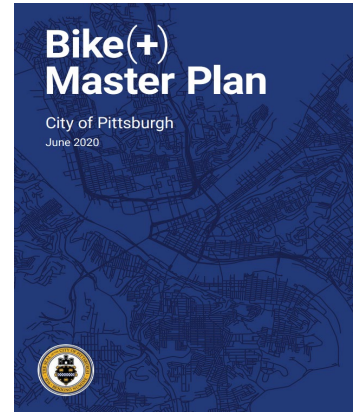
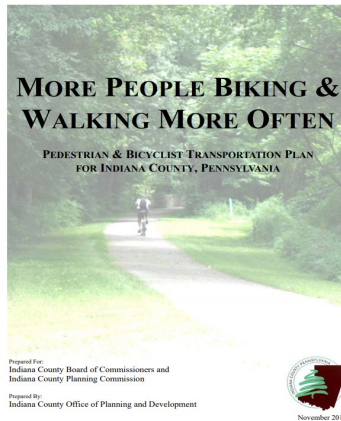
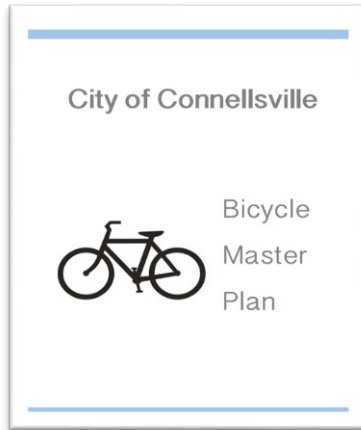
Resources

Design guidelines

Plan library

Funding opportunities

Plan for active transportation



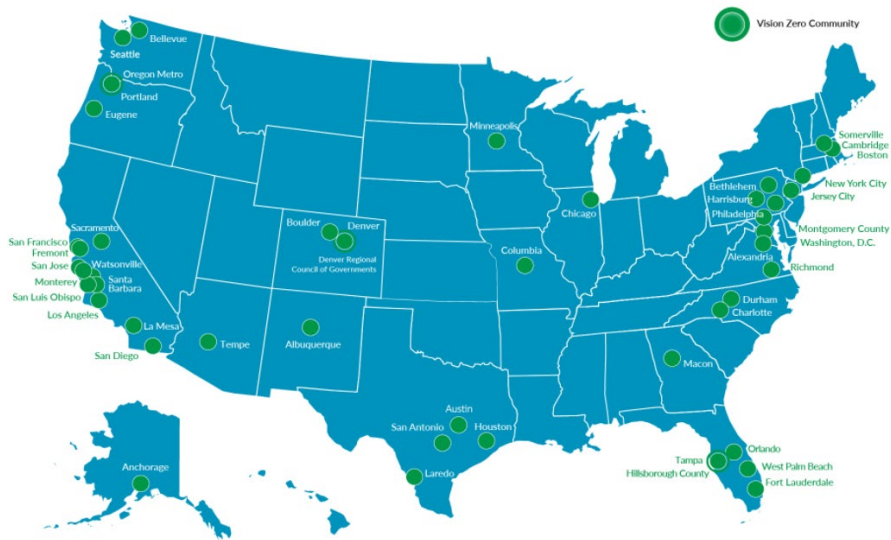
Adopt a Complete Streets policy



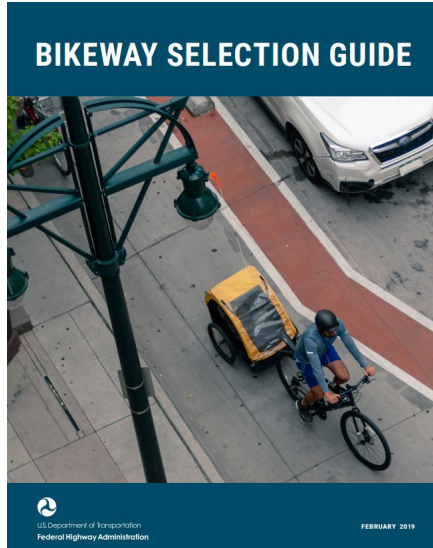
Adopt a Vision Zero policy

“The core concept behind Vision Zero is the fact that humans make mistakes and that the road system should be designed to account for those mistakes to prevent loss of life.”
– Vision Zero Network

VISION ZERO COMMUNITIES



Adopt policy + design standards



Funding for plans + policies



PA WalkWorks funding opportunity

Grants will be offered to a limited number of municipalities and other governmental bodies to assist with the development of Active Transportation Plans, Complete Streets policies and/or Vision Zero policies.

WHAT

A non-mandatory webinar will highlight aspects of the Funding Opportunity Announcement and provide an opportunity for questions. Log-in information is detailed on page 7 of the Announcement.

Applications must be received by this date/time or they will not be considered.

Grant recipients will be notified on or close to this date; those not being awarded funding in this cycle will receive notice shortly thereafter.

WHEN

April 9, 2021

May 14, 2021
@ 5:00pm

Sept 3, 2021



Active Allegheny Grant Program (AAGP)

- Municipalities located in Allegheny County
- Funding for community plans and design transportation projects
 - Provide bicycle and pedestrian connections to important local destinations.
 - Increase residents' opportunities for physical activity.



Technical assistance

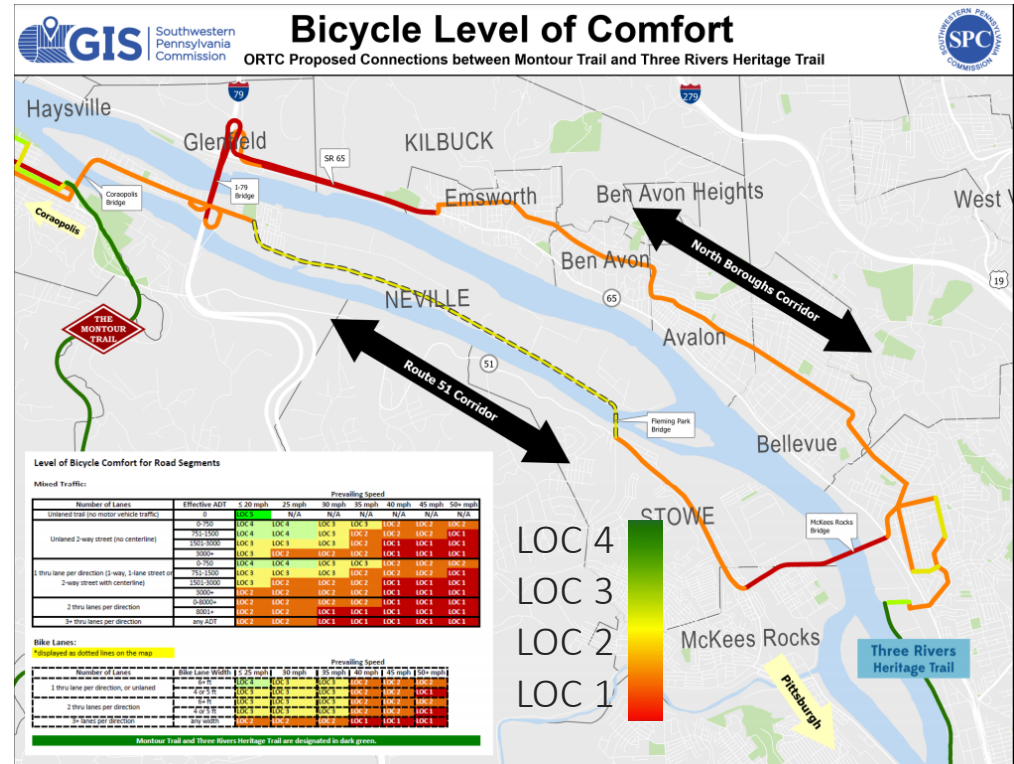
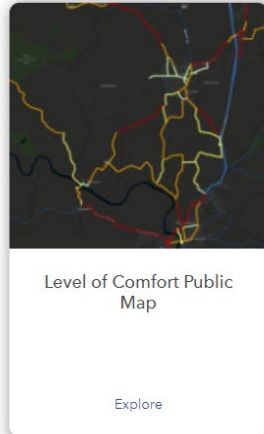


Create connected biking + walking networks



Level of Comfort Mapping (Draft)

This map shows the "level of comfort" for on-street bicycling in the SPC region. This project is still in development, as we are consistently adding more roads to our LOC network.



Collect + evaluate bike count data



Pearce Mill Road, North Park



Neville Road, Neville Island



Ghost Town Trail, Dilltown

Count reports



Panhandle Trail - Primrose

Notes: Counts include people riding bikes or using other forms of non-motorized transportation (wheel chairs, strollers, wagons, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, etc).

Fair-weather days are considered days with a maximum temperature of 55° or more, and less than .11 inches of rain. Days with counts that are ≥ the daily average for all days are counted as fair-weather days, even if they do not meet the established criteria. These counts are identified by a bold border.

Temperature < 55° Rain ≥ or = .11 inches

Count Site: Panhandle Trail-Primrose (Spring 2020)

		Counts	East/Toward McDonald	West/Toward Midway
Days	Date	Total	IN	OUT
1	Tue, Apr 7, 2020	71	38	33
1	Wed, Apr 8, 2020	496	249	247
1	Thu, Apr 9, 2020	23	11	12
1	Fri, Apr 10, 2020	26	14	12
1	Sat, Apr 11, 2020	338	178	160
1	Sun, Apr 12, 2020	432	213	219
1	Mon, Apr 13, 2020	16	9	7
1	Tue, Apr 14, 2020	103	50	53
1	Wed, Apr 15, 2020	101	53	48
1	Thu, Apr 16, 2020	46	22	24
1	Fri, Apr 17, 2020	38	17	21
1	Sat, Apr 18, 2020	206	104	102
1	Sun, Apr 19, 2020	603	304	299
1	Mon, Apr 20, 2020	391	197	194
1	Tue, Apr 21, 2020	22	11	11

NOAA Weather Data / Station: Pittsburgh ASOS, PA

Temperature (°F)			Counts	Fair-weather
Max	Min	Precipitation (in)	Total	Days
64	48	0.12		
70	50	0.56	496	1
57	34	0.12		
43	32	0.02		
54	32	0		
69	39	0.15	432	1
62	40	0.51		
44	33	0		
48	28	0.04		
44	29	0		
47	29	0.59		
49	34	0.08		
56	34	0	603	1
59	38	0	391	1
52	35	0.05		

Please note this is raw data, which has not been corrected to account for undercounts, miscounts, etc. Also, due to the variability of bicycle use (time of year, weather impact, etc), this data should not be used to estimate annual volumes.

Count reports

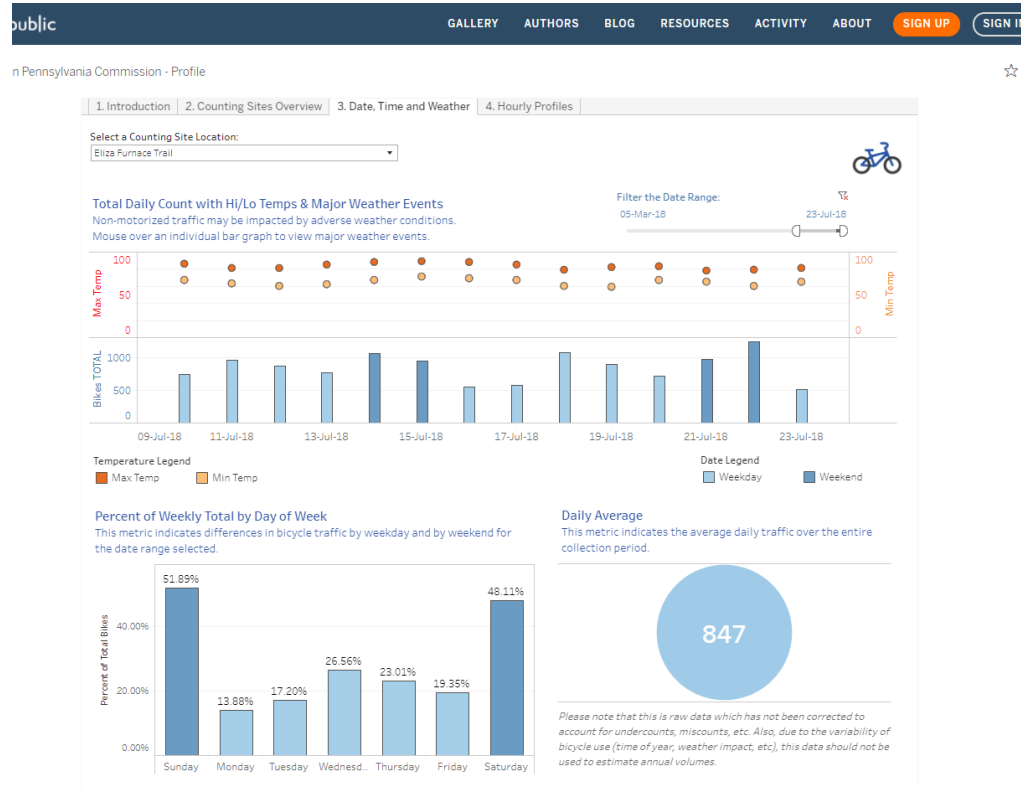
Count Site: Panhandle Trail-Primrose (Spring 2020)

		Counts	East/Toward McDonald	West/Toward Midway
1	Wed, Apr 22, 2020	143	71	72
1	Thu, Apr 23, 2020	121	62	59
1	Fri, Apr 24, 2020	238	123	115
1	Sat, Apr 25, 2020	1,033	519	514
1	Sun, Apr 26, 2020	4	2	2
1	Mon, Apr 27, 2020	403	208	195
1	Tue, Apr 28, 2020	116	56	60
1	Wed, Apr 29, 2020	352	171	181
1	Thu, Apr 30, 2020	75	37	38
1	Fri, May 1, 2020	137	67	70
1	Sat, May 2, 2020	1,055	548	507
1	Sun, May 3, 2020	583	292	291
1	Mon, May 4, 2020	331	174	157
1	Tue, May 5, 2020	80	41	39
1	Wed, May 6, 2020	60	34	26
1	Thu, May 7, 2020	325	163	162
1	Fri, May 8, 2020	13	8	5
1	Sat, May 9, 2020	41	20	21
33		8,022	4,066	3,956
		all days		
		243	daily average	

NOAA Weather Data / Station: Pittsburgh ASOS, PA

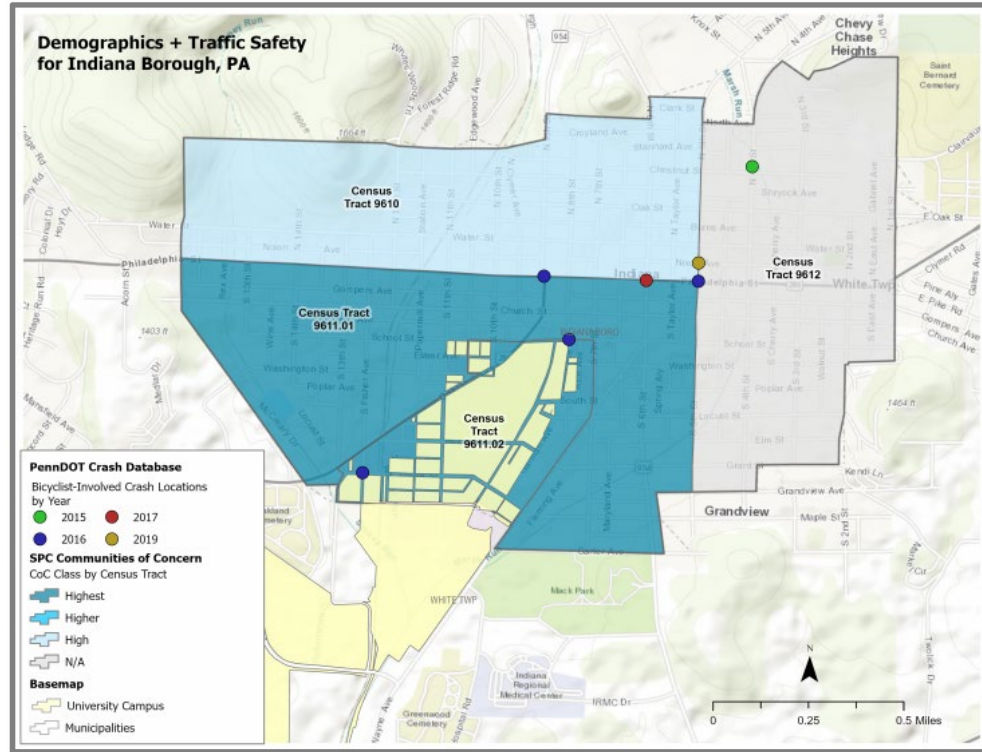
Temperature (°F)			Counts	Fair-weather
48	29	0		
61	37	0.15		
66	47	0.02	238	1
67	39	0.1	1,033	1
56	42	1.19		
59	40	0	403	1
60	47	0	116	1
75	51	0.41	352	1
58	46	0.43		
54	43	0		
70	37	0	1,055	1
75	57	0	583	1
60	42	0	331	1
53	35	0.07		
54	38	0.28		
63	32	0	325	1
49	30	0.15		
43	28	0		
			6,358	13
			fair-weather days	
			489	daily average

Public Tableau dashboard / bike counts



Communities of Concern (CoC) Analysis

- Review bicycle and pedestrian crash data and identify who is most impacted when considering a location for biking/walking improvements.



Share educational resources



Safety tips

STREET SMARTS

WALK SAFE

When you're walking to and from work or school, it's easy to be distracted or have your mind wander. That can be dangerous, which is why you should always remain alert and rely on these basic street smarts to stay safe.

WALK THIS WAY

- ▶ Always **look left, right and left** before crossing.
- ▶ **Use sidewalks** whenever they're available. If they aren't, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
- ▶ If possible, cross streets only at marked crosswalks or intersections. Crossing anywhere else is dangerous and may be illegal in that area.
- ▶ Remain on the curb while waiting to cross, and **stand clear** of things like parked cars and hedges so drivers can see you.
- ▶ Obey all traffic signals, including walk/don't walk signals and pedestrian directional signs.
- ▶ **Make eye contact** with drivers so you know they see you and understand your intention.
- ▶ Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while crossing.
- ▶ Be aware of **buses** that may be traveling in specially designated lanes that flow in reverse of regular traffic.
- ▶ Assume traffic is traveling in both directions, even on one-way streets.

STREET SMARTS

SAFE CYCLING

When you're cycling to and from work or school, it's easy to be distracted or have your mind wander. That can be dangerous, which is why you should always rely on your basic cycling street smarts—wear a helmet, always signal when turning, scan ahead and make eye contact with other road users—to stay safe.

As a cycling commuter, you have some special challenges. Typically, you're traveling on roads when traffic is at its peak. You also have to deal with riding in the dark or in weather that would keep recreational cyclists indoors. While "be alert" should guide your commuting habits, here are some other recommendations to help get you to your destination safely.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

- ▶ Prepare for your commute the night before. Check the weather and make the appropriate adjustments in clothing and equipment.
- ▶ Always be predictable and courteous.
- ▶ Remember that you are required to follow the **same rules as motorists**.
- ▶ Join a bike pool or ride with others to increase your **road presence**.
- ▶ Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, and give an **audible signal** before overtaking and passing them.

Guide to understanding bike symbols, signs + pavement markings



Pennsylvania bicycle law

Source: Penndot.gov

Pennsylvania's Motor Vehicle Code considers "pedalcycles" (bicycles) as vehicles and provides that every person riding a pedalcycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and responsibilities applicable to a driver of a vehicle, with certain exceptions discussed below. (Title 75 § 3501)

Bikes may be ridden on the shoulder of the road (in the same direction as the flow of traffic) but are not required to do so.

Bikes may also ride on the right half of the roadway as follows:

- On a multi-lane roadway, bikes may be ridden in the right-most travel lane.
- On a two-lane roadway, a bike may be ridden in the right lane.
- On a roadway with no center line, a bike may be ridden anywhere on the right side of the roadway.

Bikes may move from the right lane:

- When overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
- When preparing to make a left turn.
- When an obstruction exists that makes it necessary to change lanes or cross the center line with due care.

Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast (side-by-side), unless on paths or parts of a roadway set aside for exclusive use of bicycles.

A bicycle or motor vehicle may, with good caution, treat an intersection with an inoperable or malfunctioning traffic signal as a stop condition when red or as a caution condition when green or yellow.

Often signals with embedded detectors will not respond to the bike awaiting a green light, and this is treated as "inoperable" under law.

Motor vehicles must allow 4 feet of distance when overtaking a bicycle and travel at a careful and prudent speed. It is the motorist's responsibility to provide this distance, not that of the cyclist. (Title 75 § 3303 (3))

To achieve this cushion, drivers may overtake a bicycle in a no-passing zone or even cross a double yellow center line when passing a bicycle on the left to avoid excessive delays, but this must be done with due care and while providing the required 4 feet of clearance. (Title 75 § 3307 (b)(1))

Drivers attempting to turn left or right must also yield to people on bikes traveling straight. (Title 75 § 3330)

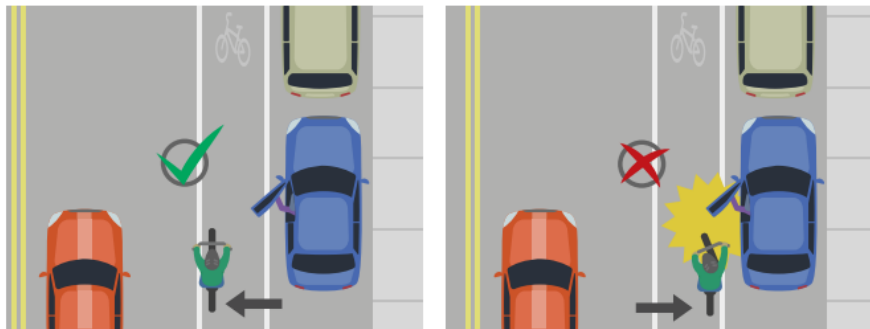
No person shall open any door on a motor vehicle unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so and can be done without interfering with traffic flow. Cyclists may be injured or killed when a door is opened in their line of travel (dooring). Therefore, a distance of 4 feet should be kept between parked motor vehicles and the line of travel when riding along parked vehicles. (Title 75 § 3705)



Common causes of bike-car collisions

and techniques to prevent them

Door Zone: The common term for the space that an open car door extends into the travel lane or a bike lane. People on bikes may be killed or seriously injured by people who open doors into their line of travel (dooring).



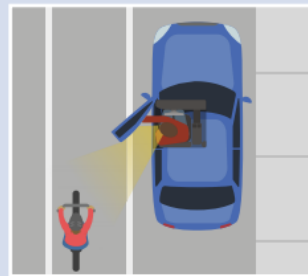
Dooring can happen when people who are driving park or stop and exit their vehicle or when passengers exiting cars, taxis and rideshares open their doors into the path of a cyclist in an adjacent bike lane or travel lane.

When you bike:

- If you're riding in a bike lane adjacent to a parking lane, ride on the side of the lane farthest from parked cars.
- If you're riding in the street, watch for opening car doors as you pass parked cars.
- Keep track of traffic behind you so you'll know if you have enough room to swerve if you must suddenly move out of the door zone.

When you drive:

- Before opening your car door look for people on bikes; use the *Dutch Reach* when you open your door.



Dutch Reach:

The practice, for drivers and passengers, of opening a car door with the hand that is farthest away from the door. This maneuver causes motorists to swivel their upper torso and look back over their shoulders naturally to check for approaching cyclists. Using the Dutch Reach can help prevent dooring collisions.

(It's called the Dutch Reach because it originated in the Netherlands.)

1. Check your rear view mirror.
2. Check your side view mirror.
3. Open the door with your far hand, the hand farthest from the door.



Two-way separated bike lanes



3rd Street, City of Connellsville,
Fayette County



Penn Avenue, City of Pittsburgh



Schenley Drive, City of Pittsburgh

When you bike:

- Watch for signs and pavement symbols indicating the direction of travel.
- Use caution as you approach an intersection or other point where motorists may cross the bike lane and assume people driving do not see you.
- Wait behind motorists who are already in the shared space preparing to turn.
- Whenever you enter or exit a bike lane, make sure to look behind you, signal and yield to people who are already driving in adjacent travel lanes.
- Yield to people walking in the crosswalks or crossing the bike lane.

When you drive:

- You may cross a bike lane when you need to turn or enter or leave a roadway, or park adjacent to the bike lane.
- People on bikes may be traveling quickly and coming from both directions. Shoulder check and look both ways before turning across a bike lane.
- Yield to people biking in the bike lane and people walking in the crosswalk. Let them pass before turning across the bike lane.
- Do not block the bike lane.

Separated bike lanes provide a space on the roadway for people who may feel uncomfortable biking with or directly adjacent to motor vehicle traffic.



Other educational resources

- Smart Cycling / League of American Bicyclists
 - [Smart Cycling Quick Guide](#)
 - [Smart Cycling Education videos](#)
- PennDOT
 - [Ride a Bike](#)

Promote biking + walking



Bicycle Friendly Community SM

Sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists

- Roadmap to improving conditions for bicycling.
- Guidance to help make your community's vision for a better, bikeable community a reality.
- 5 levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond
 - Honorable mentions



BFCs in Pennsylvania

SILVER

1. Philadelphia
2. York
3. State College

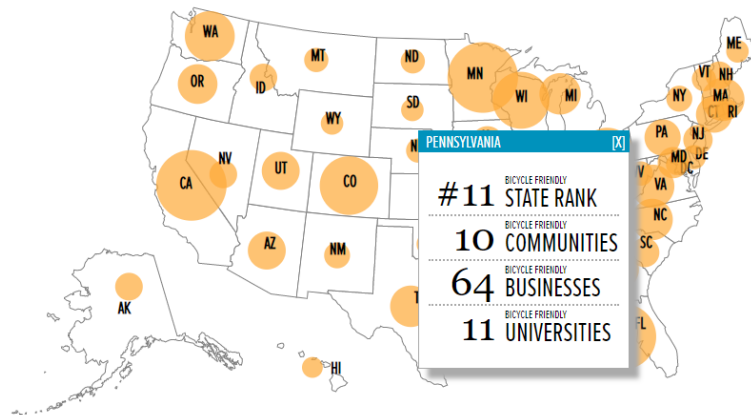
population

1,567,442
43,859
92,096

BRONZE

4. Bethlehem
5. Camp Hill
6. Carlisle
7. Doylestown Borough
8. Franklin
9. Pittsburgh
10. Reading

75,000
7,630
19,259
8,600
6,137
306,211
87,893



<https://bikeleague.org/bfa/awards#community>

Walk Friendly Community



A Walk Friendly Community is a city or town that has shown a commitment to improving and sustaining walkability and pedestrian safety through comprehensive programs, plans, and policies.

- Communities apply to the program to receive recognition in the form of a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum designation.

Silver

- Philadelphia

Bronze

- Indiana
- Mt. Lebanon

Thank you!

Leann C. Chaney, AICP
Transportation Planner
cell: 724.422.1335
lchaney@spcregion.org

