

People for Bikes 2019 City Rating Released

Cities in Santa Barbara Counties Exceed Expectations

This week Places for Bikes (<https://peopleforbikes.org/>), a national not for profit organization, released its 2019 City Ratings. Through the efforts of cities and SBBIKE, sufficient data was obtained from 7 of the 8 cities in Santa Barbara County to receive a score and be ranked. Six of the 7 cities of the ranked in the top half of the US, with City of Santa Barbara ranked 12th.

City	Score*	Rank**
Santa Barbara	3.1	12
Lompoc	2.9	33
Goleta	2.9	35
Santa Maria	2.8	38
Carpinteria	2.6	50
Buellton	2.4	64
Solvang	1.5	266

* maximum of score 5

** out of 520 cities, ranked from best (1) to worst (520)



The score ranks cities based on five key areas: ridership (how many people ride bikes), safety (how safe is it to ride bikes), network (how easy is it for people to get where they need to go), acceleration (how fast is the bike network expanding) and reach (how well the network serves all neighborhoods in the community). These scores are derived from hundreds of data points from sources including [updated maps](#) including different types of bike lanes, the [Census Bureau’s data on how people to commute to work](#) , transportation related injury and death [statistics](#) (and a community survey filled out by out by at least 50 residents of each city).

The success of Santa Barbara County cities is due to several factors. The continued dedication to and progress of individual cities toward safe and sustainable transportation on the part of individual the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, and community organizations such as SBBIKE were all needed to provide data was as complete as possible.

The improvement of the City of Santa Barbara’s score and ranking was in large part due to the current and planned improvements in its bicycle paths.

City of Santa Barbara Scores and Rank

	2019	2018	Change
Total score	3.1	1.9	+1.2
Ridership	2	2	-
Safety	2.7	1.9	+0.8
Acceleration	3.3	0.6	+2.7
Network	2.2	2.2	-
Reach	2.8	2.6	+0.2
Rank	12	104	+92

Despite its high ranking, the survey revealed several areas where the City of Santa Barbara could improve. Bicycle ridership, while high compared to the other cities has remained relatively unchanged over the past decade. The safety measure includes data on all types of transportation injuries and we’re hoping to see a steady increase toward the maximum score of 5 as part of [Vision Zero](#). Finally, the network score could also be improved, but this will require many parts of the city to be connected with each other via “low stress” (separated from high speed motor vehicles) routes.