July 31, 2026 | issue 1

Bicycle Columbus Newsletter

Promoting safe walking and bicycling for transportation and recreation and advocating for improved bicycle and pedestrian conditions in Columbus, Georgia

Advocacy I Events I Education I Partnerships

From the Route

Welcome to the first issue of the *Bicycle Columbus Monthly Newsletter*! I'm Stacy Roberts, Bicycle Columbus's first Executive Director, and I'm excited to bring you this newsletter as one more way we're building community around safe streets.

Here you'll find engaging articles on bicycle and pedestrian advocacy, a look at our upcoming events (and a recap of recent ones), and ways you can get involved in the cause.

We're so glad you're here — and we hope you'll stay on the route with us as we work toward a safer, more connected Columbus for everyone who walks, bikes, and rolls.

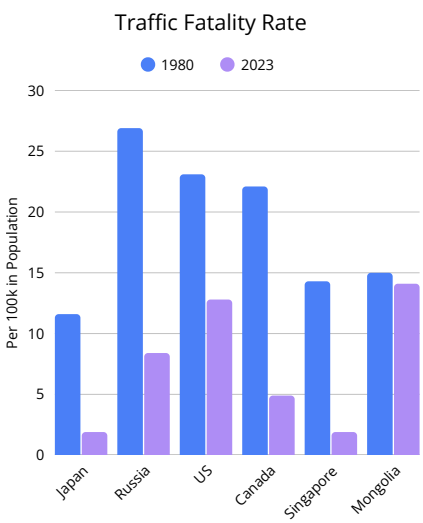
Your City

Where is Columbus? Better than Mongolia, worse than Russia

By Pat McHenry

Which one of these five countries is not like the others? Estonia, Japan, Singapore, United States, United Kingdom.

If you picked the U.S., then right you are. The grim distinction the U.S. has in this set is its high rate of traffic fatalities, about **four to seven times higher** than the rates of the others.

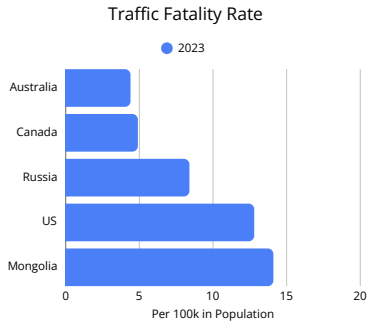


Consider this: the U.S. traffic fatality rate, now 12.8 per 100k in population, has fallen by about 45% since 1980 when it was 23.1. But the UK's **fell by 81%** in that same time. In fact, since 1980, a drastic reduction in traffic fatalities occurred in all other industrialized countries. Canada's fell by 78%, Australia's by 82%, Japan's by 84%, Germany's by 87%, Estonia's by 87%, and Singapore's by 87%, among many others, as displayed in the chart here.

The human cost in the US of this stubbornly high fatality rate is about **33,000 lives per year**. That's how many more people die on the roads in the US than they would if the rate were similar to the UK's rate of 2.1.

What about Columbus? The annual traffic fatality rate in our city is about 12.9 deaths per 100k in population. Notably, pedestrian fatalities have **more than doubled in Columbus**, from 21 to 47, in the six years ending in 2024 compared to the prior six years ending in 2018, and they make up **more than 30% of all traffic fatalities.**

What's behind these numbers? More on that in a future article, but the short answer is that we prioritize the speed and convenience of cars over the safety of human beings. Please join Bicycle Columbus in our mission to turn these numbers around. Share our newsletter, donate, attend an event, volunteer - we need you.
Your community needs you!



Data sources

- Our World In Data, Death Rate from Road Injuries
- USDOT Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)
- Dangerous By Design

Upcoming Events

Columbus Bike and Walk Audit

Saturday August 22nd & 29th at 9 am
Columbus, GA
Bicycle Columbus is conducting our first-ever Bike & Walk Audit, made possible with support from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS). The audit will help us identify obstacles to safe walking and cycling — bringing us one step closer to safer routes for everyone who walks, bikes, and rolls.
Want to help make it happen? Scan the QR code or click this link to join an audit team.

Join an Audit Team

Midtown Art Ride

Thursday, Sept 17,
5:30 Check-In; 6 pm Ride Time
Columbus Museum
Join us as we partner with our friends at MidTown Inc for a casually paced, police-escorted bicycle tour of public art in MidTown Columbus, GA!



Recent Events

JUNETEENTH BIKE RIDE 2026

JUNE 18

A casually paced bike ride exploring important African American historic and cultural sites in Uptown Columbus.



SAFE KIDS SUMMER SAFETY EVENT

JUNE 26

Bicycle Columbus assisted Safe Kids Columbus with their Summer Safety Event, which included distributing bicycle pedestrian safety education materials.





COLUMBUS RIDE WITH THE MAYOR 2026

MAY 28

We celebrated 8 great years of Mayor Skip Henderson leading us in this annual event and thanked him for his support of bicycle pedestrian initiatives throughout his leadership.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM PAGES FOR MORE PICTURES AND VIDEOS!



BicycleColumbus

Our Vision

We envision Columbus vibrantly connected by active transportation infrastructure which is safe, efficient, and comfortable. People of all demographics should be able to use elements such as sidewalks and bike lanes to reach everyday destinations. By building a culture that values walking and biking, residents can easily enjoy good health, thriving community life, and a unique sense of place.

"Columbus vibrantly connected."

Friends and Partnerships

Check out what our friends in the biking community are up to and events they are hosting.

Georgia Bike-Walk-Live Summit

Going to the Summit in Athens? Come say 'hi' to us from Bicycle Columbus! Learn more about this event with the link below.

GDOT Rural Statewide Active Transportation Plan

GDOT needs your input on what strategies and actions they should prioritize and move forward for implementation with their Rural Statewide Active Transportation Plan! Participate by taking their survey by using this link, or learn more by visiting their website.

Join the Mission

Thank you for reading — and if you haven't already, subscribe to our newsletter by clicking here, so you never miss an update! Bicycle Columbus encourages people in the community to get involved. If you have a heart for serving the vulnerable or are passionate about bicycling and walking advocacy, you can consider joining our mission through your time, talents, or financial support. Simply scan the QR codes or click these links to volunteer or make a donation.

Sign up to Volunteer

Donate Today

Bicycle COLUMBUS
bicyclecolumbus.org

Stay Connected

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BicycleColumbus