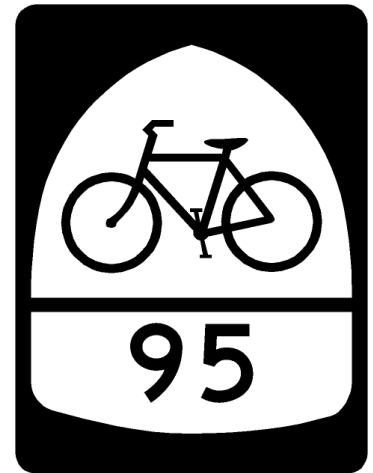


U.S. Bicycle Route System

Description

The [U.S. Bicycle Route System](http://www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs) (www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs) is a proposed national network of bicycle routes that span multiple states and are of national and regional significance. These routes are approved and maintained by State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), and designated and catalogued by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). They consist of roads and trails suitable for bicycle travel in all parts of the U.S. For a route to be officially designated as a U.S. Bicycle Route, it must connect two or more states, a state and an international border, or other U.S. Bicycle Routes.

U.S. Bicycle Routes are intended to link urban, suburban, and rural areas and promote bike travel. The routes are catalogued by AASHTO's [Special Committee on U.S. Route Numbering](#) (the same committee that assigns numbers to U.S. highways and interstates).



History

Two U.S. Bicycle Routes were established in 1982 (map graphic left); U.S. Bike Route 1 in Virginia and North Carolina (established, in part, on the [Atlantic Coast Route](#)) and U.S. Bike Route 76 in Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois (established on the [TransAmerica Trail](#)). After these two routes were designated, no additional routes were nominated.

In 2003, an effort to reinvigorate the U.S. Bicycle Route System began when AASHTO formed a [Task Force on U.S. Bicycle Routes](#). The Task Force is made up of transportation agency staff, federal highway administration, and bicycling organizations, including Adventure Cycling Association, who began providing staff support to the project in 2005. Adventure Cycling was tasked with developing a map of potential corridors, called the [National Corridor Plan](#). The first phase was to assemble existing and proposed bicycle routes onto a map (see [Inventory Map](#)). Using this inventory as a base layer, the task force began defining

corridors for multiple cross-country routes that linked destinations, cities and transportation hubs. The Task Force then assigned numbered designations for signing and marking the routes that allows for future growth and expansion beyond the highlighted corridors.

In October 2008, AASHTO's Board of Directors passed a resolution in support of the National Corridor Plan and the Task Force went to work on creating a new [Application](#), completed in May, 2009. Work on implementing the corridors into on-the-ground routes began in the fall of 2009.

Status Today

With numerous states interested in implementing U.S. Bicycle Routes, Adventure Cycling Association continues to provide staff support to the project which includes technical assistance, mapping and cartographic services, meeting coordination, and outreach to help move the process forward.

In some cases the state transportation agencies are stepping forward and committing staff time to the project. In some cases volunteer champions and bicycling advocacy groups are working in partnership with the DOTs to take on varied aspects of the project. Ultimately, the state DOT is responsible for the route; therefore, it must be a willing alliance or partnership.

Resources

A host of resources are available on the USBRS website (www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs>see Resources on right tool bar): Steps for Implementation and Flowchart; templates of outreach letters and resolutions of support; Environmental Impact, Economic Impact and Benefits, Transportation Benefits and Health Benefit handouts; Route Criteria, and a number of additional tools and studies.

Future Actions

Applications for U.S. Bicycle Routes are accepted twice per year, at AASHTO's [spring](#) and [fall meetings](#). The USBRS Sign approved by Federal Highway Administration is the M1-9 (as seen previous page, top) however, a new version (similar, but green/white with U.S. marked at the top of the apex) has been approved by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. For a state to use the newer version, they must petition FHWA for interim approval of the sign.

For More Information

Adventure Cycling Association's (ACA) non-profit mission is to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle. With over 40,000 mapped miles of bicycle routes, ACA is committed to seeing a national bike route system established. This system could become the largest official bicycle route network in the world. As a member of the AASHTO Task Force, ACA has provided staff assistance since 2005. For an in-depth overview, visit www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs or contact:



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