







# U.S. Bicycle Route System

In 2003, the **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials** (AASHTO) Standing Committee on Highways passed a resolution to establish and extend U.S. bicycle routes. It was resolved that the AASHTO Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering would work in partnership with the AASHTO Joint Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation to convene an ad hoc Task Force for developing a recommended national systems-level or corridor-level plan for use by the State DOTs and other agencies in designating potential future U.S. bicycle routes.

Since 1973, **Adventure Cycling Association's** (ACA) non-profit mission has been to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle. With over 37,000 mapped miles of bicycle routes, ACA is committed to seeing a national bike route network established. As a member of the AASHTO Task Force, ACA has provided staff assistance since 2005 to support the effort to create a national corridor-level bicycle route system. For an in-depth overview of the project, visit [www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs](http://www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs)

## PLAN OF ACTION

-  **Collect, compile, and review** information on existing and proposed multi-state bicycle routes. Completed fall 2006, this compilation includes:
  - ACA Route Network, Mississippi River Trail (MRT), East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA)
  - Official major state bicycle routes (state bicycle maps & designated routes)
  - Bicycle advocacy group suggestions
  - "Possible cross state routes" created from state suitability maps and cross referenced with advocacy group suggestions
  - Rail trails and other suitable bicycle trails over 50 miles in length

Download the report at [www.adventurecycling.org/usbrsinventoryreport](http://www.adventurecycling.org/usbrsinventoryreport)
-  **Develop recommended corridors** to comprise a logical national system, called the U.S. Bicycle Corridor Plan. Corridors demonstrate an area (+/- 50 mile width) where a route should exist. A corridor-level criteria document established an effective method for recommending corridors of national significance. *View the criteria established by the Task Force at [www.adventurecycling.org/corridorplancriteria](http://www.adventurecycling.org/corridorplancriteria). View the Draft Corridor Plan Map at [www.adventurecycling.org/corridorplanmap](http://www.adventurecycling.org/corridorplanmap)*
-  **Develop a logical designation system** for U.S. bicycle routes and assign appropriate designations to each corridor. Phase 3 involves documenting existing state systems; the bike route number system established by AASHTO in the 1970's; and seeking input from task force members, other transportation officials and bicycle experts. Designations may be a number (similar to U.S. highway numbers), a name (i.e. Mississippi River Trail), a letter or letters, or combination of these. Any designation system will accommodate future expansion.
-  **Produce a map** of the draft U.S. Bicycle Corridor Plan including recommended designations.
-  **Distribute the draft Corridor Plan for review** by the Joint Task Force on Non-motorized Transportation, Subcommittee on Design, and Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering. Comments will be reviewed and resolved by the Task Force.
-  **Present revised draft Corridor Plan for review by the Standing Committee on Highways** for endorsement as an "official corridor plan." The endorsed Plan will serve as a tool for State DOTs and other agencies in proposing the designation of roads and trails as part of an interconnected system of bike routes across the nation. The AASHTO Task Force recognizes that implementation of the Corridor Plan will be determined by each State, regional, county and metro/city transportation agency. Like any good plan, it can be amended as needed and as appropriate. For more information please contact:

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## Task Force Members

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