



UNITED STATES BICYCLE ROUTE SYSTEM

CONNECTING PEOPLE COMMUNITIES *and* THE NATION



Adventure Cycling Association

Adventure Cycling Association is a member supported not-for-profit organization dedicated to bicycle travel.





Adventure Cycling Association

Established in 1973

**Largest Bicycling Group in
the U.S. with 44,500 members**

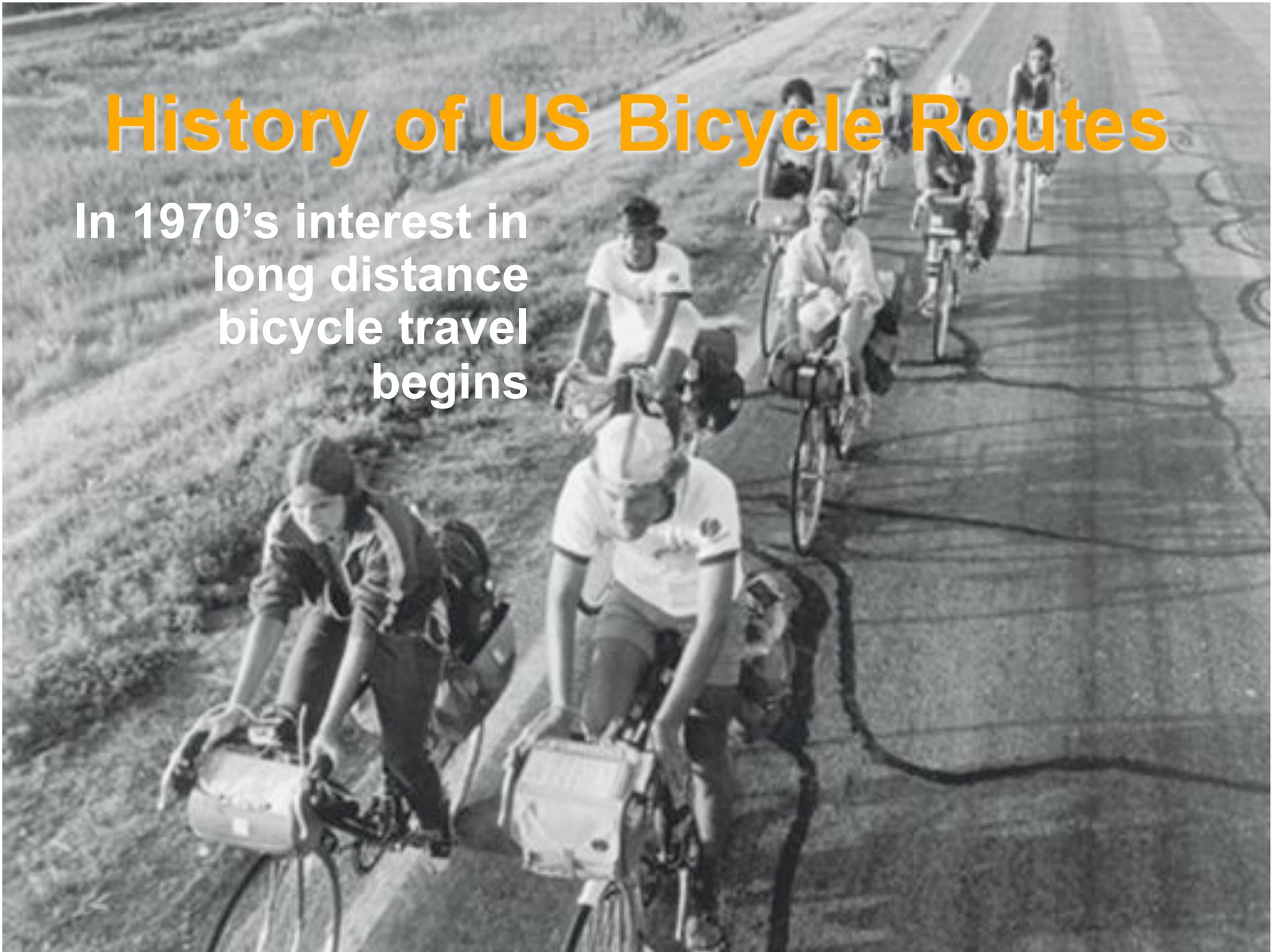
**38,153 mapped miles of
routes**





History of US Bicycle Routes

In 1970's interest in
long distance
bicycle travel
begins



History of US Bicycle Routes

- In 1978 AASHTO establishes US Bicycle Routes

- Purpose & Policy

- Highway System approach

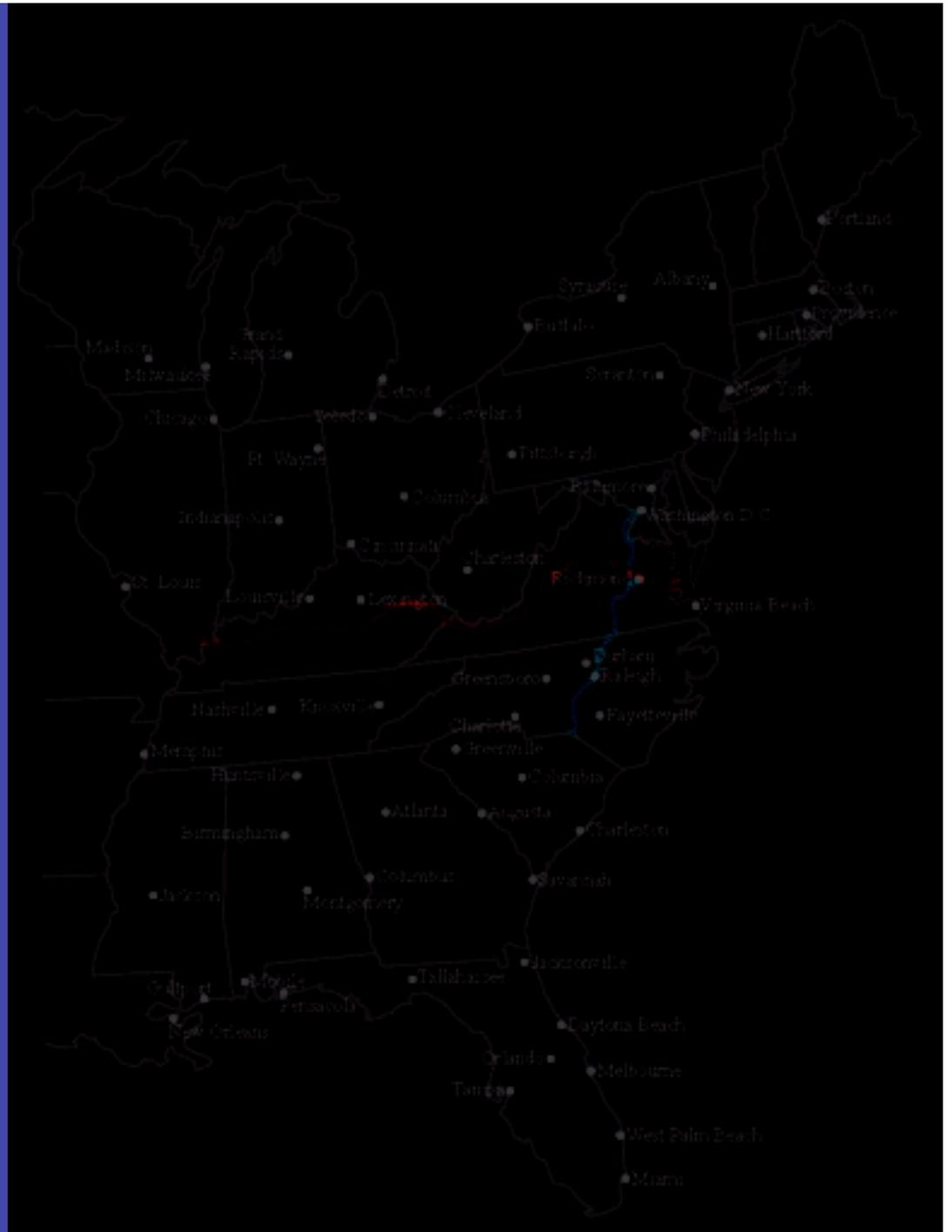


First US Bicycle routes designated in 1982

*US Bicycle Route 1 (red)

*US Bicycle Route 76 (blue)

No routes
designated
since









AASHTO
THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION



Adventure Cycling Association

United States Bicycle Route System

United States Bicycle Route System

The Task Force was charged by the Standing Committee on Highways with developing a recommended national corridor-level plan for use in designating potential future US bicycle routes.





Develop a corridor plan for a network of bicycle routes that connects states on regional and national levels, spurs the development of new routes, and creates alternative transportation options.

Work with State DOTs and other agencies through AASHTO to assist and encourage development and adoption of these routes.

Educate the public on a national and local level, with the potential of increased bicycle mode share for transportation and recreation.



The results will be more transportation options, more people cycling, better health for Americans, and a cleaner environment.

**Most routes will
be on existing
roads and
facilities.**



Design will be an important component in the future.





WHO ARE WE?



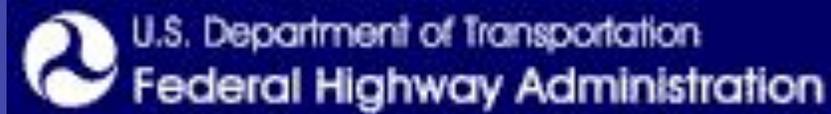
Task Force Members

- ***Task Force Chair***
 - *Richard Moeur, Arizona*
- ***Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering***
 - *Wes Dean, Mississippi*
 - *Barry Warhoftig, West Virginia*
 - *Ed Fischer, Oregon*
 - *Tim Crouch, Iowa*
- ***Technical Committee on Geometric Design***
 - *Ken Briggs, Maryland*
 - *David Hutchison, Springfield, Missouri*

Task Force Members

- ***Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation***
 - *Tom Dodds, South Carolina*
 - *David Bachman, Pennsylvania*
- ***Federal Highway Program***
 - *Christopher Douwes, National Trails Enhancement Program*
 - *Gabe Rousseau, FHWA Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator*
- ***Long Distance Bicycle Routes***
 - *Ginny Sullivan, Adventure Cycling Association*
 - *Karen Votava, East Coast Greenway Alliance*
 - *Terry Eastin, Mississippi River Trail*

Other National Organizations Supporting the USBRS



The Lazar Foundation



The Education Foundation of America



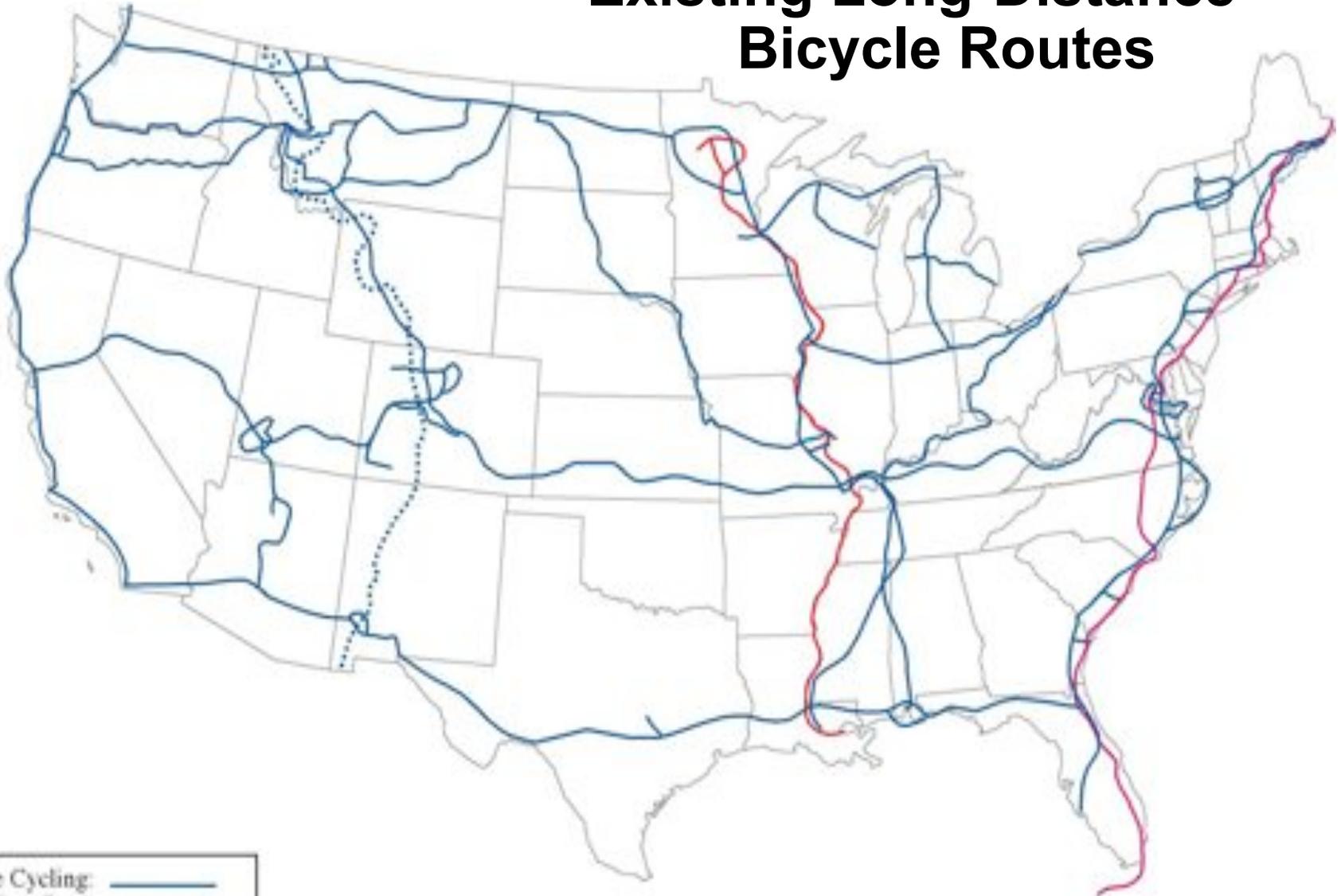
PHASE 1



Collect, compile and review information on existing and proposed multi-state bicycle routes. In 2005, the Task Force collected the data, formalized it into a multilayer spreadsheet, mapped the data and wrote a report of the findings.

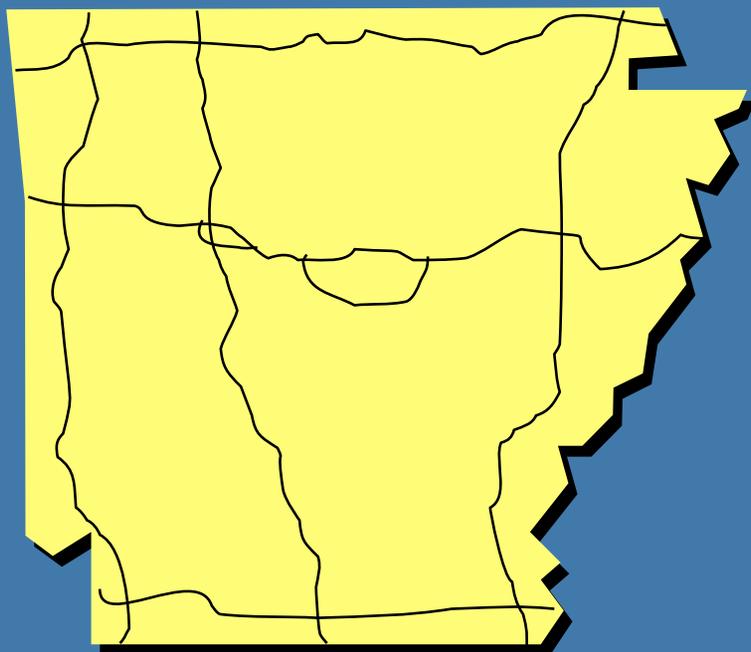
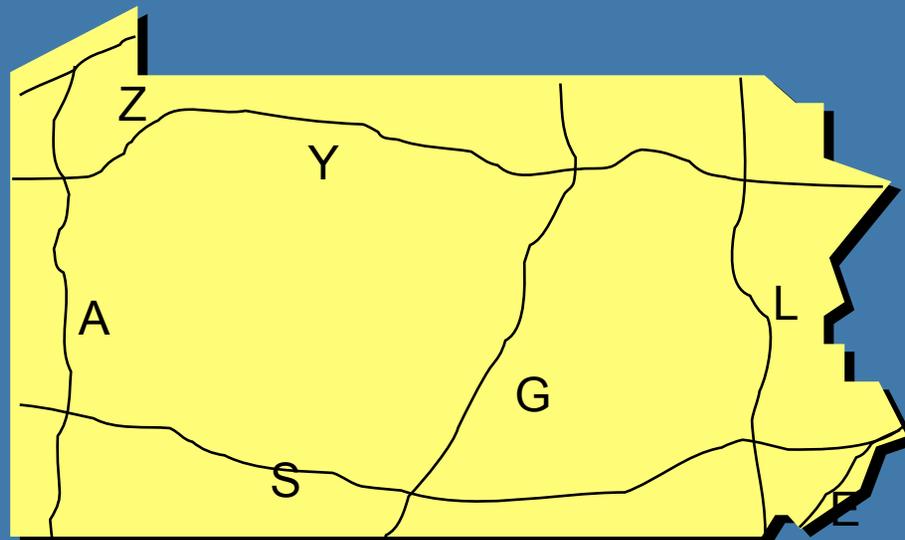
www.adventurecycling.org/usbrsinventoryreport

Existing Long-Distance Bicycle Routes



Adventure Cycling:	
Adv. Cycling (off road):	
East Coast Greenway:	
Mississippi River Trail:	

- Pennsylvania state designated routes
- Adventure Cycling's Northern Tier not shown



Arkansas

Memphis to Fort Smith cross state route from the Dept. of Parks & Tourism

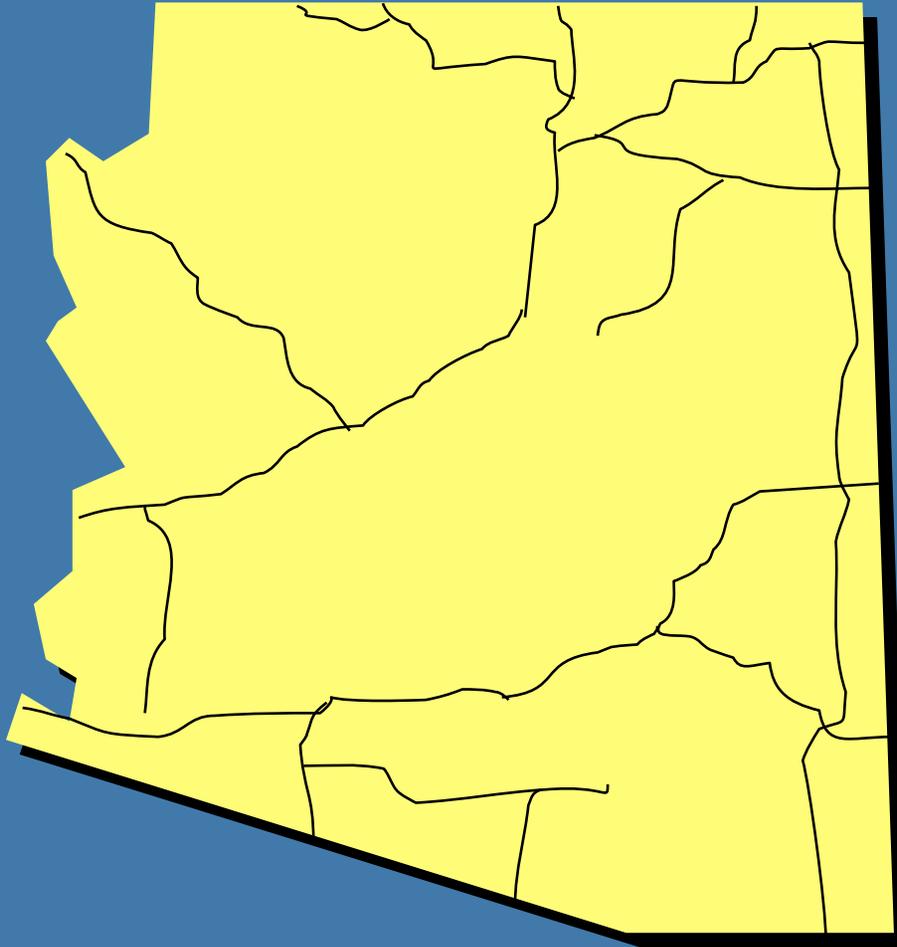
US-70, 49, 107, 64, AR-147, 50, 70, 1, 284, 306, 38, 31, 319, 60, 236, 89, 10, 176, 9, 154, 7, 155, 22

Per advocacy groups

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| AR-7 | a western-central north-south route |
| US-71 | western side north-south route |
| AR-1 | eastern side north-south route |
| US-62 | northern side east-west route |
| US-82 | southern side east-west route |

Arizona - NO DESIGNATED CROSS STATE ROUTES

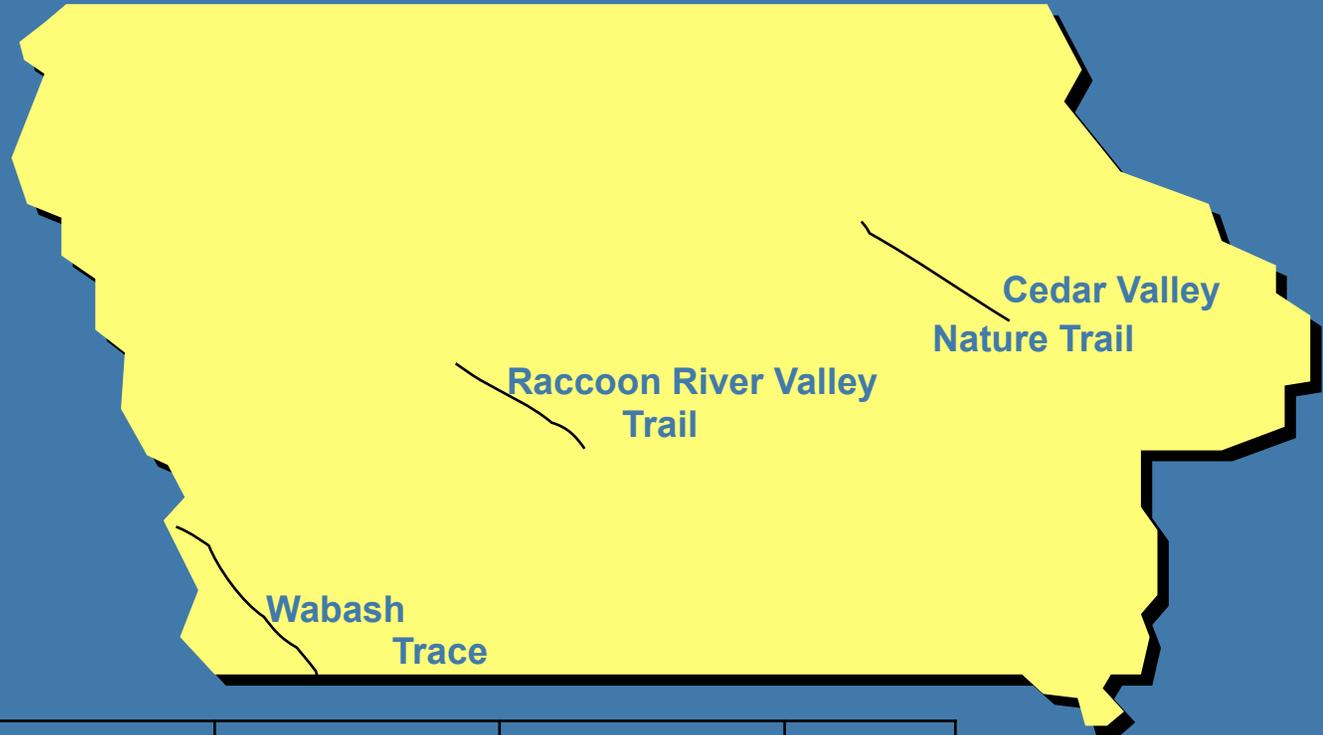
Description of possible routes based on suitability map



Route	
US-160	US-89 to eastern border
AZ-264	US-160 to eastern border
AZ-87	AZ-264 to AZ-260
US-191	US-160 to southern border
US-163	US-160 to northern border
AZ-85	I-8 to southern border
AZ-86	AZ-85 to I-19
AZ-286	AZ-86 to southern border
AZ-95/ US-95	AZ-72 to I-8
US-93	Hoover Dam to US-60
US-60	I-10 to US-93
US-89	I-40 to northern border
US-60	US-70 to eastern border
US-70	US-60 to eastern border
US-89A	US-89 to northern border
AZ-389	US-89A to northern border
US-8	Western border to I-10

Trails Systems ~ 50 Miles

Iowa
3 Trail Systems



Name	Start Point	End Point	Mileage
Wabash Trace Nature Trail	Council Bluffs	Blanchard	63
Raccoon River Valley Trail	Clive	Yale/Jefferson	56
Cedar Valley Nature Trail	Evansdale	Hiawatha	52

Phase 1 - Collection of data on existing or proposed State, Regional, and Local Routes



PHASE 2

-  **Develop recommended corridors** to comprise a logical national system, called the U.S. Bicycle Corridor Plan. Corridors demonstrate an area (+/- 50 mile radius) where a route should exist.
-  **Produce a map** of the draft U.S. Bicycle Corridor Plan.

www.adventurecycling.org/corridorplanmap

Phase 2 – Corridor Criteria

- **Identify:**
 - *Continuous routes*
 - *Routes of regional & national significance*
 - *Historic transportation corridors*
 - *Popular regional / national cycling routes*
- **Connect:**
 - *Population centers*
 - *Primary destinations*
 - *Scenic corridors*

www.adventurecycling.org/corridorplancriteria

Starting Point...



Inventory of routes
overlaid by the
proposed corridor
system

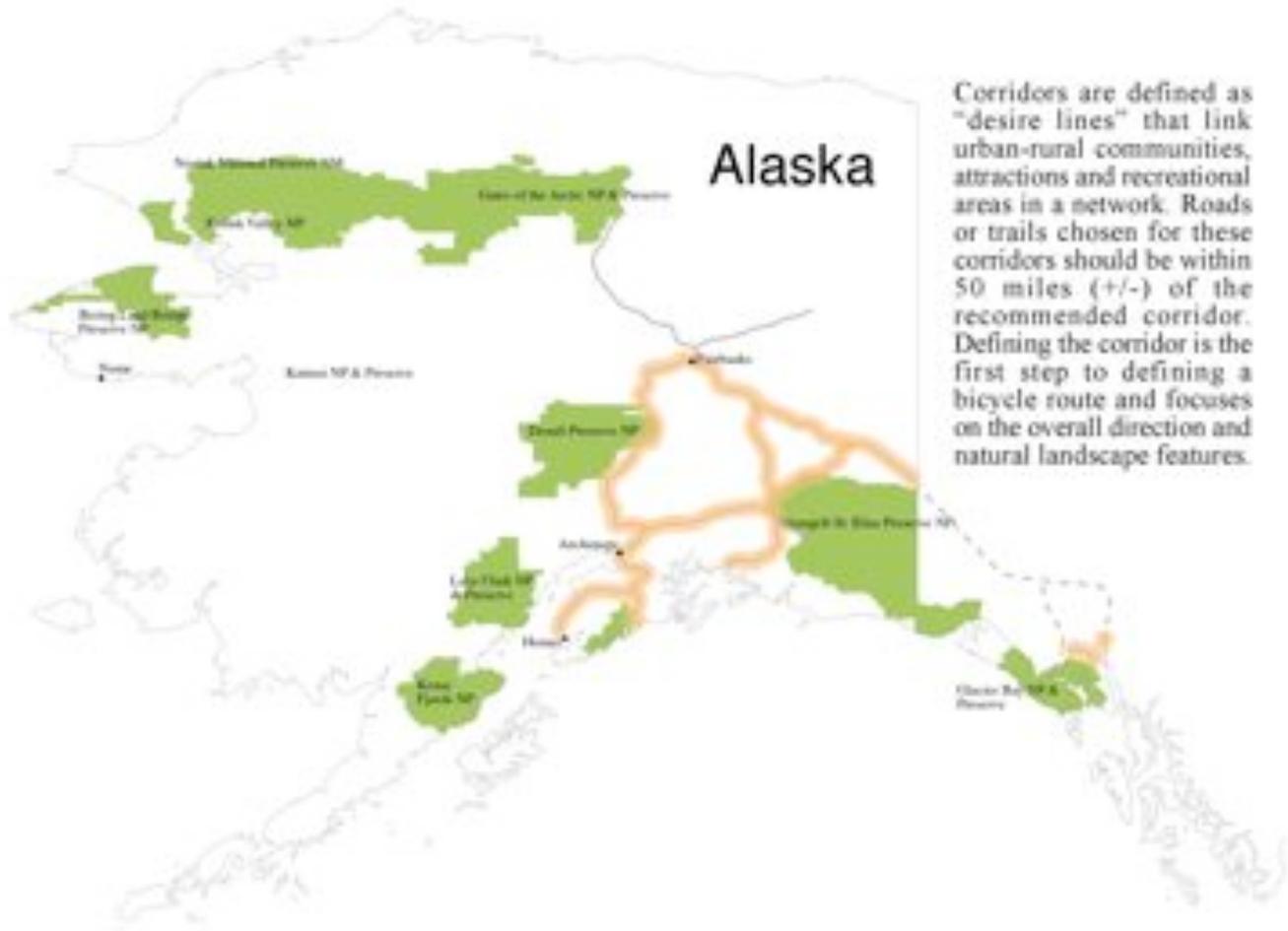
Corridor Plan

The draft Corridor Plan is a corridor level plan for the development of future U.S. Bicycle Routes.

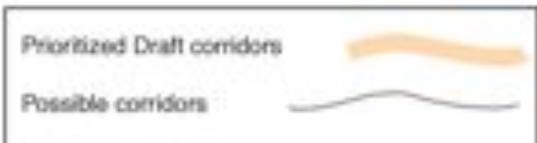
Corridors are not routes, but 50-mile wide swaths that link key destinations, urban centers, and take into account the natural landscape.

Corridors can be added, changed or shifted by states as needed.





Corridors are defined as "desire lines" that link urban-rural communities, attractions and recreational areas in a network. Roads or trails chosen for these corridors should be within 50 miles (+/-) of the recommended corridor. Defining the corridor is the first step to defining a bicycle route and focuses on the overall direction and natural landscape features.



PHASE 3



Develop a logical system of designations for U.S. bicycle routes and assign appropriate designations to each corridor. Designations will comprise of a number, name, letter or combination system that will accommodate future expansion of the system.

The Power of Designation

- *The street or route name changes, but the designation goes on and on...*
- *With a consistent route designation, travelers can follow a route*
 - *Across town*
 - *Across the state*
 - *Across the country!*







Proposed Route Designations

- *Five different proposals developed:*
 - *2 digit (similar to US highways) with some 1 digit (historical)*
 - *1 digit (for X-country) & low 2-digit*
 - *Single letter (alphabetical)*
 - *Name/Abbreviation (of route name)*
 - *Letter / number combination*

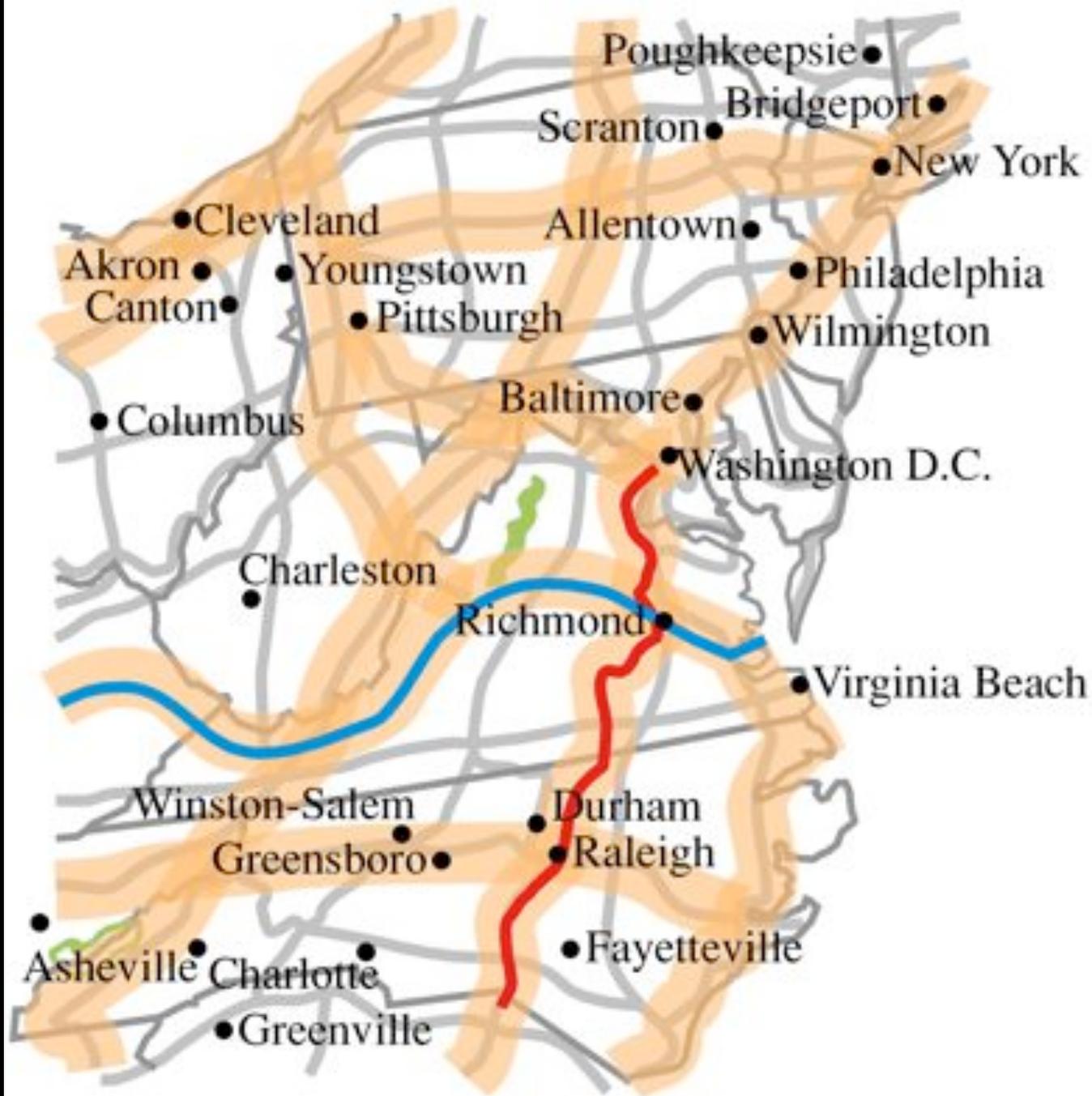
2 Digit Number Designation

A logical and easily implemented designation system that will accommodate expansion over time is a key component to the U.S. Bicycle Route System. The Task Force on US Bicycle Routes reviewed existing systems from each state and other countries. Proposed systems from members, bike/pedestrian coordinators and others were also considered. Five versions were mapped and reviewed. Below is the preferred designation system as ranked by the Task Force in March 2008.

Advantages of this system:

- Follows existing U.S. Bicycle Route System established in the 1970's.
- Allows for orderly expansion of U.S. Bicycle Routes over time.
- Easy to determine designation as system is implemented.
- Opposite Interstate Highway System.
- States/Organizations can also co-designate or name routes using their own system.





Update!

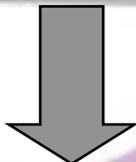
- ***Approval by AASHTO - summer/fall 2008***
 - ✔ ***Webinars hosted by FHWA for State DOTs***
 - ✔ ***Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering***
 - ✔ ***Technical Committee on Geometric Design***
 - ✔ ***Subcommittee on Design***
 - ✔ ***Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation (state B/P coordinators)***
 - ✔ ***Standing Committee on Highways***
 - ✔ ***AASHTO Executive Board***



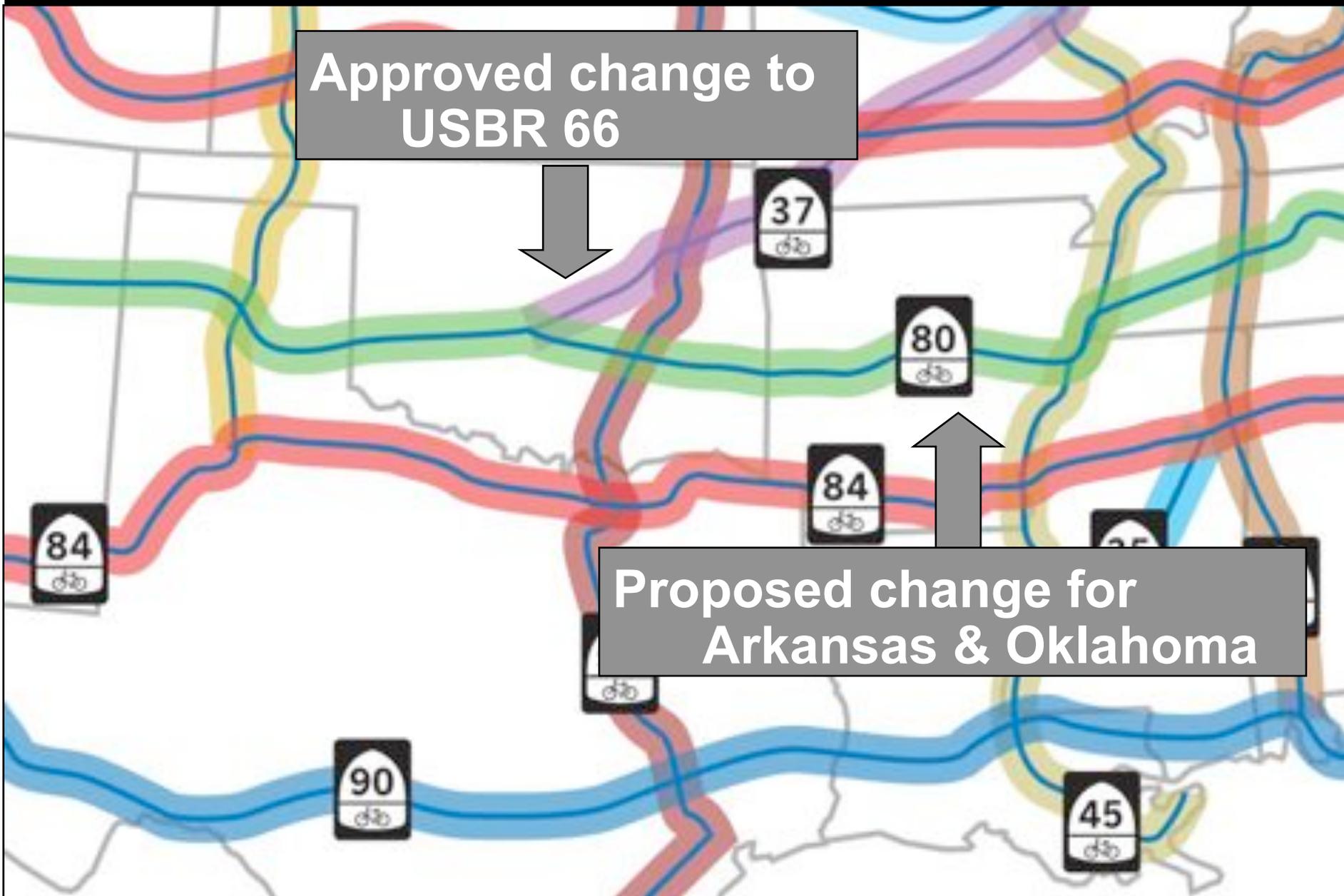
Implementation: Step 1

- *State & local agencies review Corridor Plan*
- *Suggest changes based upon the Goals of the USBRS*
 - *Link national, state and local recreation areas*
 - *Link urban hubs*
 - *Best roads available for traveling cyclists*
 - *Availability of services*
- *Neighboring States come to agreement*

Approved change to
USBR 66



Proposed change for
Arkansas & Oklahoma



Implementation: Step 2

- *State & local agencies determine best route along each corridor*
 - *State DOTs work with their divisions, counties, townships and MPOs*
 - *Also work with neighboring states*
- *Who in turn work with*
 - *Local bike advocacy groups*
 - *Trail & greenway organizations*
 - *Touring cyclists & clubs*
 - *City bike/peds*

Virginia's USBR 1 & 76

Part of their State
Bike Plan

Realigned Routes
in 2007

Signed throughout
state

VA Bike Federation
uses USBR 1 & 76
for events and
club rides



Implementation: Step 3

Route applications submitted to AASHTO by State DOTs

- Neighboring states submit together*
- Include maps and route descriptions*
- Sign-off from DOTs*
- Installation of signs & trailblazing*
- Expansion of the system*
 - Spur & loop routes*
 - New routes & corridors*

US Bicycle Routes Info

hosted on Adventure Cycling's website:

www.adventurecycling.org/usbrs



**AASHTO
US Bike Routes
Application:**

<http://cms.transportation.org/?siteid=68>

- HOME
- ABOUT US
-
- ROUTES & MAPS
- GUIDED TOURS
- ADVENTURE CYCLIST
- CYCLISTS' YELLOW PAGES
- OUTREACH & EDUCATION
-
- JOIN NOW
- DONATE
- SHOP OUR STORE
-
- REQUEST INFO
- UPDATE MEMBER INFO
-
- SITE MAP
- CONTACT US

Google Custom Search

SEARCH OUR SITE

Wednesday, Nov 12, 2008



There is something magical in the ceaseless rush of the cyclist, as he comes in to view, passes by and disappears.

- Popular Science, 1944



Developing a U.S. Bicycle Route System

Adventure Cycling Association is part of an initiative to develop a national bike route system called the U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBR2). We serve on the Task Force for U.S. Bicycle Routes and have provided staff support to [AASTHO](#) (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) since 2005. AASTHO is a national nonprofit that supports the work of state departments of transportation (DOTs), including policy, design standards, and roadway designations. The AASTHO Task Force was charged with developing a national corridor-level plan and designation system that transportation agencies can utilize for the development of bicycle routes.

THE U.S. BICYCLE ROUTE SYSTEM VISION

The vision of creating a national bike route system is not new. Indeed, many countries across the world have been working diligently for decades to create a comprehensive bicycle route system.

ROUTE NETWORKS

-
- ACA ROUTE NETWORK
- U.S. BIKE ROUTE SYSTEM
-
- U.S. BIKE ROUTE SYSTEM
-
- USBR2 VISION
- PROJECT UPDATES
- USBR2 FAQ
-
- PDF DOCUMENTS / 396k
- USBR2 FACT SHEET 95k
- 10 FACT FACTS 55k
- INVENTORY REPORT 4.3M
- INVENTORY MAP 754k
- CORRIDOR CRITERIA 144k
- CORRIDOR PLAN MAP 9.8M
- PLAN DEVELOPMENT 9.3M

OUTSIDE LINKS

-
- AASTHO
- BICYCLED COOP
- FWHA BICYCLED PROG-
- E-COAST GREENWAY
- EUROPE'S DURO VELO
- LE ROUTE VERTE
- MISS. RIVER TRAIL
- RAILS TO TRAILS
- SWITZERLAND MOBILITY
- UK'S CYCLE NETWORK





Helping touring bicyclists is one of the most enjoyable parts of my job as Bicycle Program Manager for the California Department of Transportation - because I know they are about to embark on an adventure. I often wish I were going along.

The USBRS network will greatly enhance the bicycle touring experience – for adventurers who are anxious to climb and descend mountain passes, explore back roads and meet the people who are America.

*-- Ken McGuire, Bicycle Program Manager
California Department of Transportation*



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