

# BOSTON

## Bicyclist Safety Bill

Yes, it's true: the Bicyclist Safety Bill is law after eight years and four legislative sessions. **What it does:** requires police training on bicycle law and dangerous behavior by bicyclists and motorists; explains how a motorist should safely pass a bicycle; explains how a motorist should safely make a turn in front of a bicycle; makes "dooring" (opening a car door into the path of a bicycle or other vehicle) subject to ticket and fine; permits bicyclists to ride two abreast when it does not impede cars from passing; and adds legal protections for bicyclists who choose to ride to the right of other traffic. [www.massbike.org](http://www.massbike.org)

## Map Methodology

The first edition of this map was created in 2009 with input from more than 200 cyclists.

Cyclists assigned suitability ratings to segments based on whether they felt a given road was appropriate for cyclists of all levels, or only for more experienced cyclists. Their subjective opinions take into account factors such as vehicle speed, pavement quality, road width, hilliness, intersection safety, bike accommodations, parking turnover and more.

To objectify this data, we took a weighted average of their recommendations, collected and added feedback from local cycling groups, and visited all the roadways ourselves before assigning a final suitability rating for each segment. The suitability levels of this map, therefore, represent a consensus opinion.

We understand that individuals may disagree with the ratings. To update the map for the 2010 Second Edition, we asked for feedback from cyclists who use the map. In response to more than 100 comments, we adjusted some suitability ratings, filled in some gaps in the routes, and added some new markings. We also added much more information about routes and bike facilities in surrounding cities, including Cambridge, Somerville, Brookline, Newton and Milton.

## Massachusetts Law States That Bicycles Are Vehicles

**The top five things you need to know about bikes and the law:**

- Bicycles are considered vehicles, and therefore they belong on the road.
- Bicycles must stop at all stop signs and red lights, ride in the same direction as traffic, and obey all other traffic laws.
- Front and rear lights are required if riding after dark.
- Bicycles may use the entire lane of traffic if need be for safety.
- Bicycles may only ride on sidewalks outside of business districts, unless otherwise prohibited. Riding in the road is recommended.

**Within the State of Massachusetts, a cyclist's rights allow:**

- Riding on any public road, street, or bikeway in the Commonwealth, except limited access or express state highways where signs specifically prohibiting bikes have been posted.
- Riding on sidewalks outside business districts, unless local laws prohibit sidewalk riding.
- Using either hand to signal stops and turns.
- Passing cars on the right.

## BikeShops (Boston)

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231 Grove St., West Roxbury 617-325-2453
- Back Bay Bicycles**  
366 Comm Ave., Boston 617-247-2336
- Bicycle Bill's**  
253 North Harvard St., Allston 617-783-5636
- Bikes Not Bombs**  
18 Bartlett Sq., Jamaica Plain 617-522-0226
- Codman Cycle Company**  
353 Adams St., Dorchester 617-282-5585
- Community Bicycle Supply**  
496 Tremont St., Boston 617-542-8623
- Eastern Mountain Sports**  
1041 & 1045 Comm Ave., Boston 617-254-4250  
855 Boylston St., Boston 617-236-1518
- Ferris Wheels Bike Shop**  
64 South St., Jamaica Plain 617-524-2453
- Federico's Bike Shop**  
126 Emerson St., South Boston 617-269-1309
- Giant Cycling World**  
Kilmarnock St., Boston 617-424-6400
- International Bicycle Center**  
89 Brighton Ave., Brighton 617-783-5804
- Landry's Bicycles**  
890 Comm Ave., Boston 617-232-0446
- Mel's Hyde Park Bike**  
74 Fairmount Ave., Hyde Park 617-361-3441
- MyBike**  
516 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St., #B15, South Boston 888-738-1731
- REI**  
401 Park Dr., Boston 617-236-0746
- Revolution Bicycle Repair**  
383 Centre St., Jamaica Plain 617-524-5510
- Superb Bicycle**  
842 Beacon St., Boston 617-236-0752
- Urban Adventures**  
103 Atlantic Ave., Boston 617-670-0637

## BikeShops (Greater Boston)

- ACE Wheelworks**  
145 Elm St., Somerville 617-776-2100
- ATA Cycles**  
1773 Mass Ave., Cambridge 617-354-0907
- Belmont Wheelworks**  
480 Trapelo Rd., Belmont 617-489-3577
- Bicycle Exchange**  
2067 Mass Ave., Cambridge 617-864-1300
- Broadway Bicycle School**  
351 Broadway, Cambridge 617-868-3392
- Cambridge Bicycle**  
259 Mass Ave., Cambridge 617-876-6555
- Hub Bicycle**  
918 Cambridge St., Cambridge 617-441-2500
- Open Bicycle**  
21A Union Square, Somerville 601-666-6736
- Paramount Bicycle**  
104 Bristol Rd., Somerville 617-666-6072
- Park Sales & Service**  
510 Somerville Ave., Somerville 617-666-3647
- Quad Bikes**  
51 Shepard St., Cambridge 617-496-5955



# BIKEROUTES OF BOSTON

**SUITABILITY RATING LEVELS**

- BEGINNER** (Green line): Suitable for all types of bicyclists including newer cyclists, cyclists with limited on-road experience and/or children. These segments tend to be off-street paths or very low volume/speed roadways.
- INTERMEDIATE** (Blue line): Suitable for riders with some on-road experience. Traffic volume and speed tends to be moderate. Roadways may have shoulders, bike lanes, or marked shoulders.
- ADVANCED** (Red line): Suitable for experienced and traffic-confident cyclists. These are often the most direct routes. Traffic volumes and/or speeds can be high. Intersections might be complex.

**BICYCLE ACCOMODATIONS**

- Path, trail or car-free roadway
- Roadway marked for bicycles with bike lane or bike boulevard
- Roadway marked for bicycles with shared road symbols and/or signage
- Recommended bicycle route with no bicycle markings on roadway

**Other Symbols:**

- Dangerous Intersection
- MBTA
- Water Ferry Stop
- Train Station
- Historic Site
- Museum
- Bicycle Shop
- East Coast Greenway
- One Way Route
- Town Boundary
- Park, Playground, Open Space
- Cemetery

City of Boston  
Mayor Thomas M. Menino

**GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK**

We welcome your feedback as a user of this map to help us continue to make it better.

**Nicole Freedman, Boston Bikes Director**  
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Telephone: 617-918-4456  
[www.cityofboston.gov/bikes](http://www.cityofboston.gov/bikes)

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## BASICS OF CYCLING IN TRAFFIC

Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as automobiles. You are a part of traffic and you have a right to expect to be treated the same as other drivers. Obey all traffic laws and regulations. Be visible, be aware, and always wear a properly fitting helmet.

- 1 Go with the flow of traffic.** Stay on the road; sidewalks are designed for pedestrians, not vehicles.
- 2 Ride in a straight line.** If you must deviate from that line to pass any impediment, check over your shoulder for approaching traffic, signal, then move to the left.
- 3 Pick the correct position at intersections.** Generally, you should stay to the right. If there is heavy right-turning traffic and you are going straight, move towards the center of the lane to prevent being "hooked" by a right-turning motorist. When turning left, ride on the right side of the lane if there is a dedicated turning lane; otherwise, ride on the left side of an unmarked lane.
- 4 Lane positioning strategies.** Ride on the right portion of the travel lane, being sure to allow 1' of space from the edge of good pavement, 2' from a raised curb, and 3' from parked cars to avoid getting hit by an opening door. Ride in the center of a lane that is too narrow to share. Always pass other cyclists on their left.
- 5 Use lights when riding at night!** Use both a white front light and a red (preferably blinking) rear light to be visible both to traffic approaching from behind and to yielding traffic in front.



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## Advocacy AND Education

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- Allston Brighton Bikes  
www.allstonbrightonbikes.bostonbiker.org
  - Boston Cyclists Union  
www.bostoncyclistsunion.org
  - Boston Biker  
www.bostonbiker.org
  - Dot Bike  
www.dotbike.bostonbiker.org
  - JP Bikes  
www.jpikes.bostonbiker.org
  - Livable Streets  
www.livablestreets.info
  - Rozzie Bikes  
www.rozziebikes.org
- YOUTH**
- Bikes Not Bombs  
www.bikesnotbombs.org
  - Trips For Kids  
www.tripsforkidsboston.wordpress.com
- UNIVERSITY**
- Boston University  
www.bubikes.org
  - Suffolk Bikes  
www.suffolkbikes.org
- STATEWIDE**
- Mass Bike  
www.massbike.org
  - WalkBoston  
www.walkboston.org
- NATIONAL**
- Alliance for Biking and Walking  
www.peoplepoweredmovement.org
  - Bikes Belong  
www.bikesbelong.org
  - League of American Bicyclists  
www.bikeleague.org
- RENTALS & TOURS**
- Urban AdvenTours  
www.urbanadventours.com
  - Bike Rides for Ordinary People  
www.bikeridesforop.com

BELMONT WHEELWORKS  
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HIGH QUALITY RENTALS

We pride ourselves on renting the highest quality bikes in Boston and beyond. UA offers a wide variety of bicycle rentals, including hybrid, road, kid, trailer, and tandem bikes. All rentals include bike, helmet, lock, and map.

DOWNTOWN BIKE SHOP

We're proud to be Boston's downtown bike shop in the North End, and happy to serve Boston's cycling community. Whether you are in need of a flat-fix, a new bike, or need a loaner bike while your ride is in service, we'll keep you on the road. Proud supporters of Boston Bikes

LOCATIONS

HEADQUARTERS 103 ATLANTIC AVE BOSTON, MA 02110

SHOWROOM 109 ATLANTIC AVE BOSTON, MA 02110

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URBANADVENTOURS.COM

"A MUST-DO ACTIVITY WHEN IN BOSTON" - TRIP ADVISOR

## Dear Boston Cyclists,

In September 2007, I formed Boston Bikes, a city-wide initiative to encourage citizens and visitors to use bicycles for fun, exercise, and transportation. Our goal is to make Boston a vibrant and healthy city that benefits all its citizens. By creating safe and inviting conditions for all residents and visitors, we seek to make our home into a world-class bicycling city.

The map you hold in your hand is the product of collaboration between Boston Bikes and cyclists in our city. We asked commuters, couriers, and other bike enthusiasts about the routes they prefer to use while traveling through the city. Then we combined all their input to create this new Boston bicycling map. Roads are color-coded, indicating their rating for beginner, intermediate, or advanced riders.

Whether you are a lifelong cyclist or someone who has never ridden a bike before, this map will help you plan rides through the city and discover new routes or shortcuts.

This map will help you discover Boston in a way that's only possible by bicycle. Enjoy the unique landmarks, spacious parks, and the riverfront and shoreline that make our city so special.

Sincerely,  
**Thomas M. Menino**  
Mayor of Boston

Learn more about  
Boston Bikes.

Visit: www.cityofboston.gov/bikes  
www.facebook.com/bostonbikes  
Or call: 617-918-4456



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**BIKES ARE PERMITTED ON:**

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Only 2 bikes per car.  
Bikes are not allowed on the Green Line, the Mattapan Trolley, or the Silver Line.

**BUS**  
Only on buses equipped with external racks.  
Not permitted on buses that substitute for rail.

**COMMUTER RAIL**  
All trains except during weekday peak hours in the peak direction.

**T BOATS AND FERRIES**  
ALL times.

**Folding bikes**  
Folding bikes are allowed on Subway, Commuter Rail and buses at any time when folded.  
Exceptions apply during holidays and special events.

Further details are available at  
[www.mbta.com/riding\\_the\\_t/bikes](http://www.mbta.com/riding_the_t/bikes)

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278 Salem St.  
Reading, MA 01867  
1781.944-9103

REI Hingham  
88 Derby St.  
Hingham MA 02043  
1781.740-9430

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**COMMUTER BASICS**

- 1. Share the road** Bicycles are vehicles and should act and be treated as such on the roadways. Always allow pedestrians the right of way.
- 2. Signals and signs** Obey all stop signs, traffic lights, and lane markings. Use hand signals to indicate when you plan to stop or turn.
- 3. Safety** Always wear a helmet. Be visible and predictable at all times. Using a headlight and taillight when riding anytime after sunset or before sunrise. Take the lane if necessary.
- 4. Picking a route** Consider distance, traffic volume, road width and condition, and terrain.
- 5. Bike parking** Lock your bike to an immovable object in a visible area, or look for indoor parking in your office. If no parking is available, ask your employer to provide it.
- 6. Clothing options** If you have a short commute, ride at a relaxed pace in your work clothes. Cycling-specific clothing is an option for longer rides.
- 7. Showering** Many workplaces have showers located in the building; inquire about access. Some health clubs offer shower-only memberships for a small fee.
- 8. Maintenance** Any bike in good working order is suitable for commuting. Have your bike checked over by your local bike shop. Have them show you how to repair a flat, fix a chain, and inspect your brake pads for wear.
- 9. Weather** Fenders and rain gear keep out the rain. Use layers and wind proofing for cold days. Some cycling-specific gear can provide relief on hot days, and you'll also enjoy a breeze while you pedal!

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City of Boston  
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