

BIKE NETWORK MAPPING IDEA BOOK



U.S.Department of Transportation

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INTRODUCTION

This resource highlights ways that different communities have mapped their existing and proposed bicycle networks. It shows examples of maps at different scales, while also demonstrating a range of mapping strategies, techniques, and approaches. Facility types represented on the respective maps and legends are each different because they represent a community's unique context and needs.

It is intended to serve as a resource as communities work to identify, plan, and improve their bicycle networks.

Connected pedestrian and bicycle networks make walking, wheeling, and bicycling viable transportation choices for everyone. Networks enhance access to jobs, schools, and health care, while also promoting equity, physical activity, and health. Connected networks are comprised of a range of facility types (e.g. bike lanes, separated bike lanes, shared use paths, etc.), linked together to facilitate short trips to and from destinations and long linear connections across a city or region.

A first step to achieving connected networks is to document where bicycling infrastructure currently exists. It is also essential to establish a vision for the future network. This vision is often captured in the form of a map and it's developed as part of a local planning process that includes opportunities for public participation and input.

A community's existing and proposed bicycle network maps inform the day-to-day programming and prioritization of projects and help to ensure that all transportation improvements are enhancing the quality of the nonmotorized network and capturing opportunities to make linkages between existing and new facilities.

Network Principles

Cohesion

Directness

Accessibility

Alternatives

Safety and Security

Comfort

PRINCIPLES

This Bike Network Mapping Idea Book highlights a range of approaches and techniques for showing connected networks, conveying information in map form, and incorporating local context.



A bicycle transportation network consists of a series of interconnected facilities that enable bicyclists of all ages and abilities to safely and conveniently get where they need to go. By providing connected networks, communities are helping to facilitate all of the following types of bicycling trips:

- Access to work and school from residential areas
- Bicycling links to transit
- Recreation and physical activity opportunities
- Access to grocery stores, government buildings, health care, and other essential services

Understanding that different users have different needs, bicycle networks should be designed to provide options for continuous, safe, seamless, and convenient travel between all possible destinations.



Mapping Techniques

Various mapping conventions can help your community to convey complex information graphically in a simple and easily digestible manner. The following pages highlight some tools and techniques used to develop effective bike network maps.

Planners and designers use various computer programs to create visually compelling maps. A typical workflow consists of the following:

- 1. Import and organize data in a GIS-based program.
- 2. Export maps to Adobe Illustrator or a similar program for minimal to extensive post-production work, such as editing of colors, lineweights, patterns, and type.
- 3. If the map will be presented in a report or plan, compile maps in Adobe InDesign or a similar program as part of a report or plan.



Within a planning-level bike network map, local context helps to orient users to their surroundings as well as support information the cartographer wishes to showcase.

Including local landmarks and points of interest helps users to quickly orient themselves and understand key bike network connections.

For instance, a map might display parks and open space as a background layer. This helps to clarify the connections between existing and proposed bicycle facilities and recreational destinations.

These layers may include information such as land use, community destinations, transit access points, and other important information. These vary based on the unique needs of each jurisdiction.

MAP BASICS

Common approaches for bicycle infrastructure planning maps are highlighted below. The maps that follow demonstrate these general approaches to varying degrees.

(1) COMMON INFORMATION LAYERS

BIKE NETWORK LAYERS

Specific Facility Types

 Bike path, bike lane, buffered bike lane, bike boulevard, separated bike lane, greenway, etc.

OR

Flexible Facility Types

 On-street vs. off-street bikeway systems

LOCAL CONTEXT LAYERS

- · Transit lines & stations
- Bikeshare stations
- Community amenities: Schools, universities, libraries, community centers, hospitals etc.
- Building footprints
- Specific land use functions, such as commercial uses
- Study areas or corridors

BASE LAYERS

- Parks & open space
- Streets
- Waterbodies
- City boundaries
- Labels

(2) REPRESENTING DIFFERENT TYPES OF INFORMATION

PROPOSED VS. EXISTING NETWORK

 Identify ways to clearly denote what is existing and what is being proposed.



COLOR SCHEME

 Consider how color will play a role in highlighting the bicycle network. Bright, saturated colors stand out against softer and more subdued tones.

LEVEL OF INFORMATION

- Carefully consider the amount of information used to tell the story. More information can help, but it can also be overwhelming if not organized in a seamless way.
- Small icons and symbols can help to identify points of interest in a less obtrusive way

(3) LEVEL OF DETAIL ON EXISTING/PROPOSED FACILITY TYPES

Providing more information about facility types requires more complex color schemes and line types.

MULTIPLE LAYERS AND INFORMATION

Example: Boston, pg. 34

This scheme helps to convey multiple facility types and specific street conditions in a clear and easily digestible manner. It can also fully integrate a series of community base layers and contextual information, including supplemental data like bicycle counts or safety information to aid decision making.

Consider a similar palette if creating a map that:

- Identifies specific facility types
- · Needs a clear and concise color palette

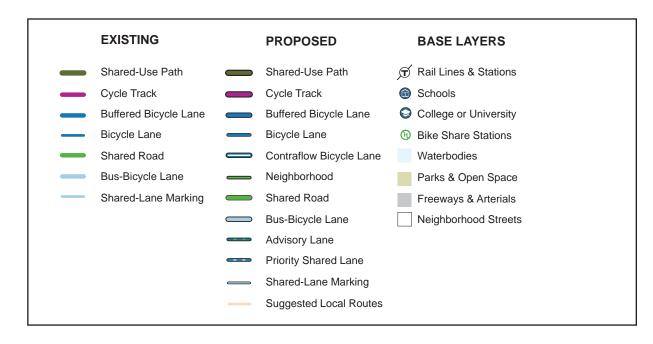
FLEXIBLE NETWORK MAPS

Example: Cedar Rapids, pg. 42

This scheme helps to convey a bicycle network that does not identify specific facility types.

Consider a similar palette if the map:

- Is not intended to identify specific facility types
- Is focused on existing & proposed routes





SUMMARY

The following chart identifies key features in each map.

DOES IT

≽

IDENTIFY: DOES IT SHOW:

MAP	SCALE	A GENERALIZED NETWORK	SPECIFIC FACILIT TYPES	LINKAGES TO LOCAL DESTINATIONS	LINKAGES TO SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS	BARRIERS	SPOT IMPROVEMENTS	OPPORTUNITIES TO RECONNECT COMMUNITIES	PAGE #
Arkansas	State	х		х	х			х	10
Yellowstone, WY-ID-MT	Regional	х		х			Х	х	12
Albemarle Region, NC	Regional		x		X			X	14
San Francisco Area, CA	Regional	х			X			X	16
Alameda County, CA	County	Х		х	X			X	18
Hennepin County	County	х			X			X	20
Idaho Falls, ID	City		X	х	X	X		X	22
Cambridge, MA	City	х		х		X		X	24
Santa Barbara, CA	City		X	Х				X	26
Atlanta, GA	City		x					X	28
Austin, TX	City	х		х				x	30
Fort Collins, CO	City		Х	Х				X	32

DOES IT

DOES IT SHOW:

MAP	SCALE	A GENERALIZED NETWORK	SPECIFIC FACILITY TYPES	LINKAGES TO LOCAL DESTINATIONS	LINKAGES TO SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS	BARRIERS	SPOT IMPROVEMENTS	OPPORTUNITIES TO RECONNECT COMMUNITIES	PAGE #
Portland, OR	City		x		x			x	34
Boston, MA	City		х	х	X			х	36
Salt Lake City, UT	City		х	х	х		х	x	38
Chicago, IL	City	х		х				x	40
Grafton, WI	City		x	х	х			x	42
Cedar Rapids, IA	City	х		х	х			х	44
Seattle, WA	City		х	х	х			х	46
North Santa Clara County, CA	Campus		х	х	x			x	48
Port of Portland, OR	Campus		x	х	х			x	50
Oregon State University	Campus	Х			Х	Х		Х	52
University of North Carolina	Campus		Х		X			X	54

ARKANSAS

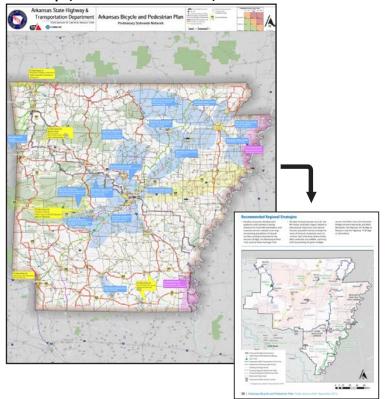
LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

STATE OF ARKANSAS

2015

ARKANSAS STATE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Full Map (Click to view full size)



Region-specific maps are identified in the plan with more detail provided

KEY MAP FEATURES



Calls out study corridors/areas



Features State-specific landmarks; shown here are proposed bridge preservation projects



Highlights regional connections to cities



Identifies proposed U.S. bike routes

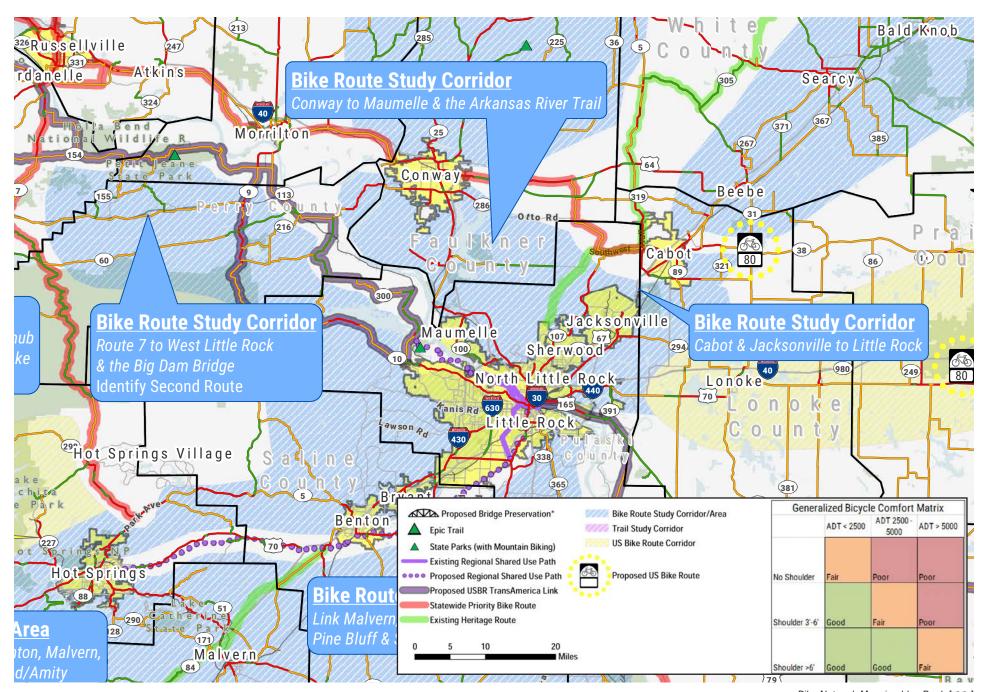








STATE



YELLOWSTONE, WY-ID-MT

LOCATION YEAR **PUBLICATION** RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

YELLOWSTONE REGION

2015

GREATER YELLOWSTONE TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

WYOMING PATHWAYS (NONPROFIT)

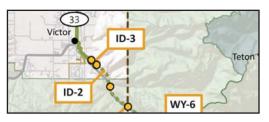
Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Shows the beginning and end points of projects and identifies project areas





Highlights connections to State and Federal lands





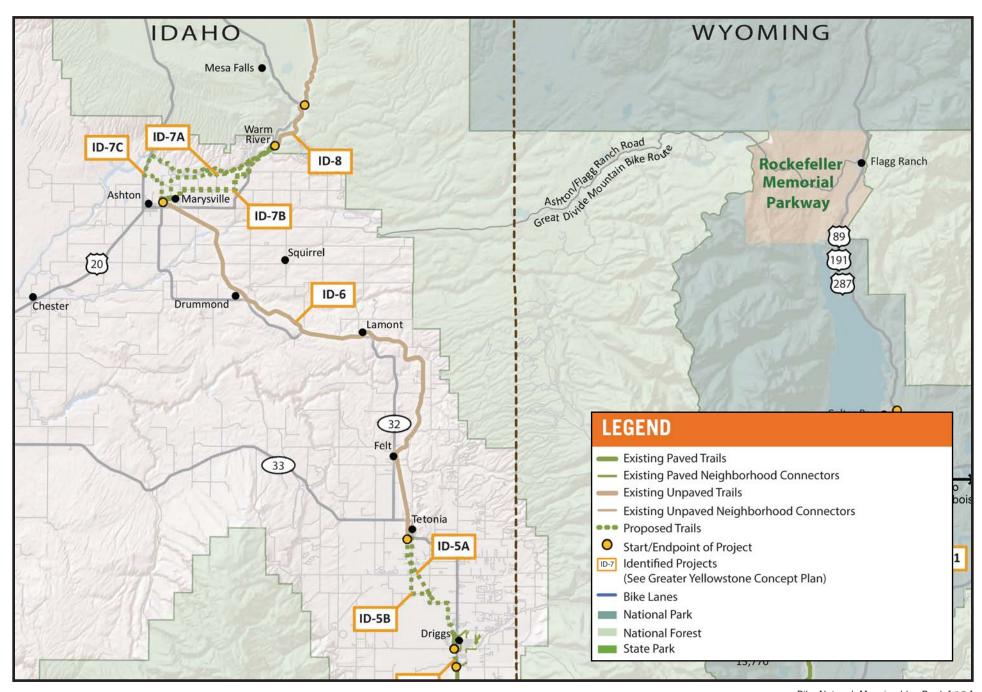
Legend highlights paved, unpaved, and proposed connections





Legend includes a numbered list of projects





ALBEMARLE REGION, NC

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

ALBEMARLE REGION, NC

2013

ALBEMARLE REGIONAL BICYCLE PLAN

ALBEMARLE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

One of a series of additional local maps (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Neighborhood maps show connections to community destinations



Highlights connections to State and Federal conservation lands



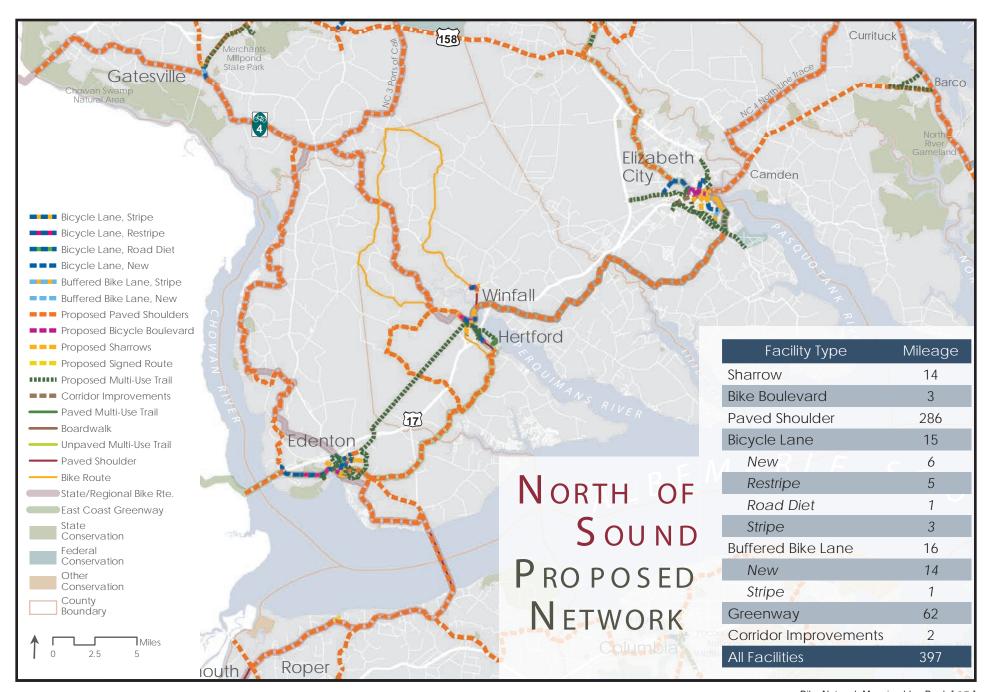
Includes the amount of mileage of each type of bike facility





Facility Type	Mileage
Sharrow	14
Bike Boulevard	3
Paved Shoulder	286
Pievola Lana	1.5

REGION



SAN FRANCISCO AREA, CA

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA 2008

REGIONAL BICYCLE PLAN NETWORK

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Identifies existing and planned connections to protected open space





Differentiates between inside and outside the jurisdiction

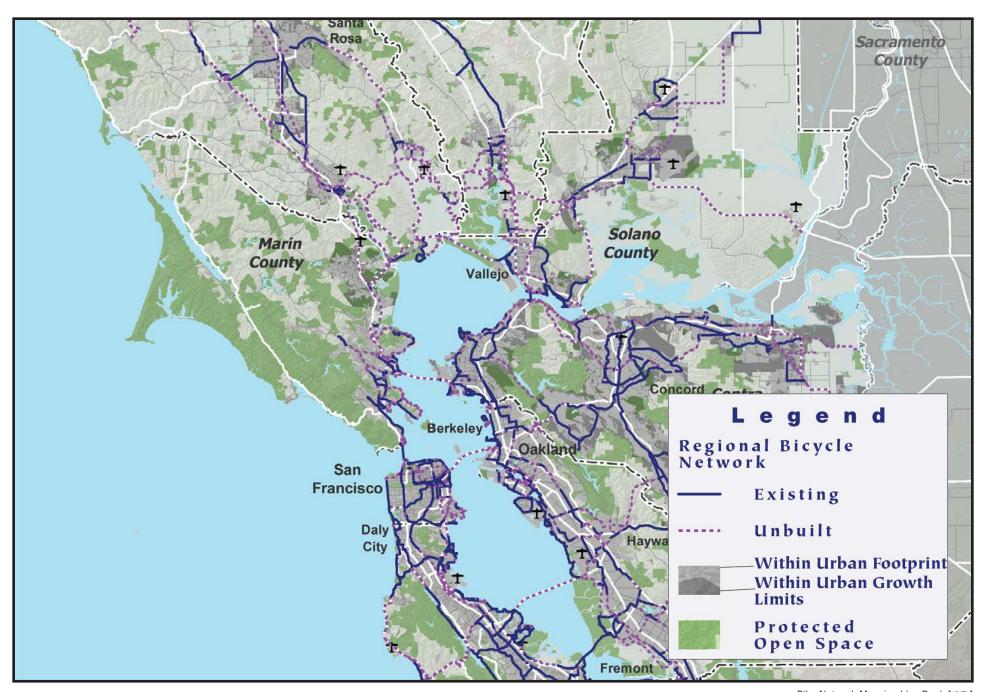




Identifies Urban Growth Limits, an important regional land use concept







ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

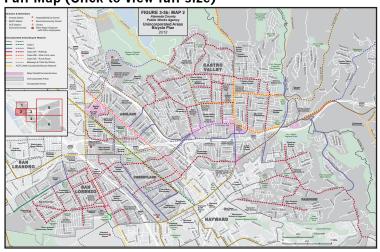
ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA

2012

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS

ALAMEDA COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



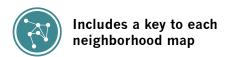
Highlights major employers, community centers, libraries, and hospitals

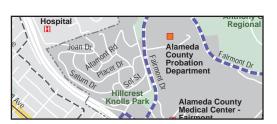


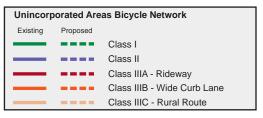
Streamlined legend labels



Identifies areas inside and outside the planning jurisdiction



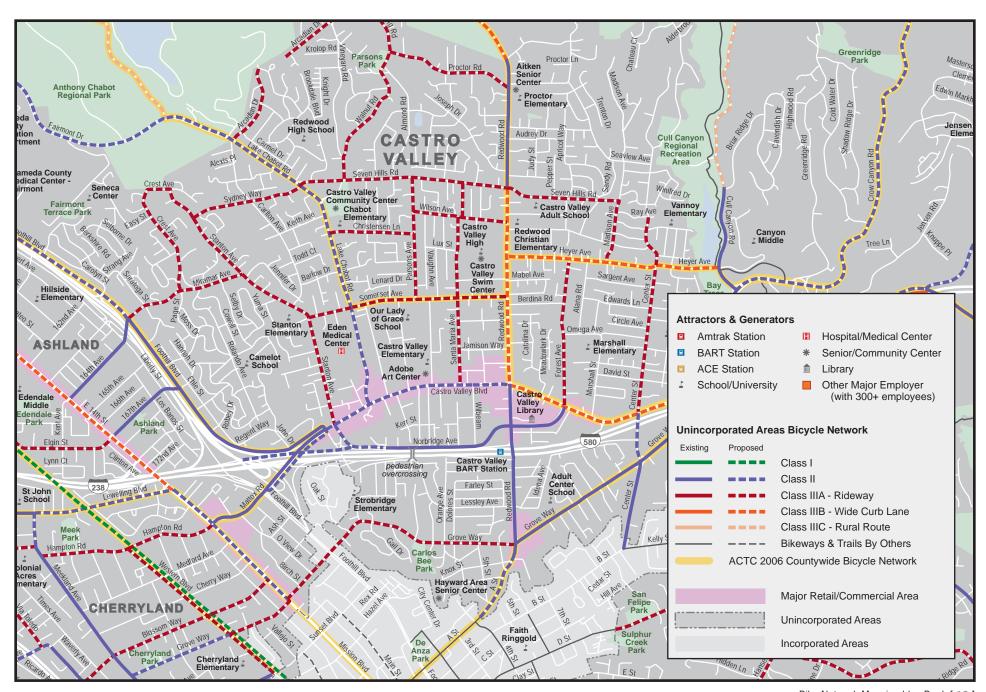












HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

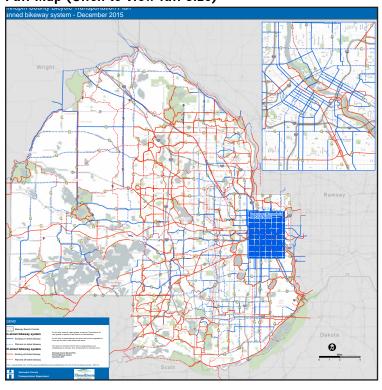
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN

2015

HENNEPIN COUNTY BIKE PLAN

HENNEPIN COUNTY

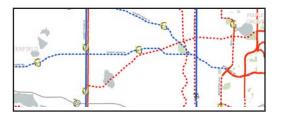
Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Simple symbology - Two colors and two line types



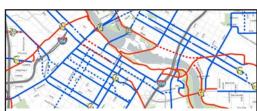


Map focuses on county and state roads. Local roads not shown to improve legibility.

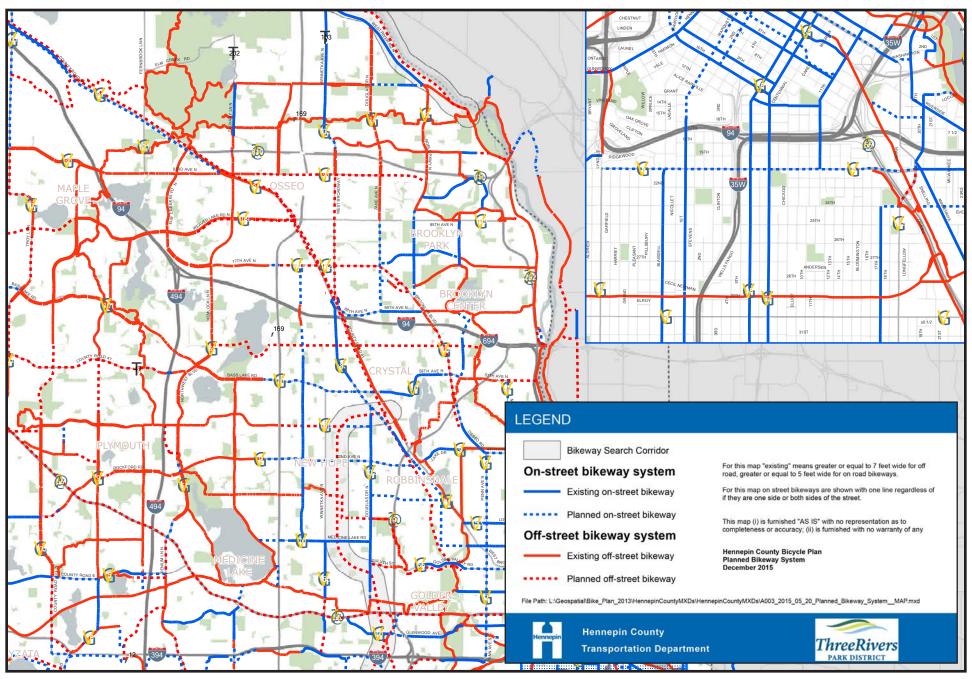




Downtown area is shown in more detail for closer inspection



COUNTY



IDAHO FALLS, ID

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

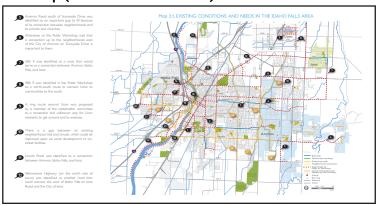
IDAHO FALLS, ID

2014

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

IDAHO FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION AND THE BONNEVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Incorporates community feedback gathered from a range of public workshops and committees





Highlights connections to nearby jurisdictions





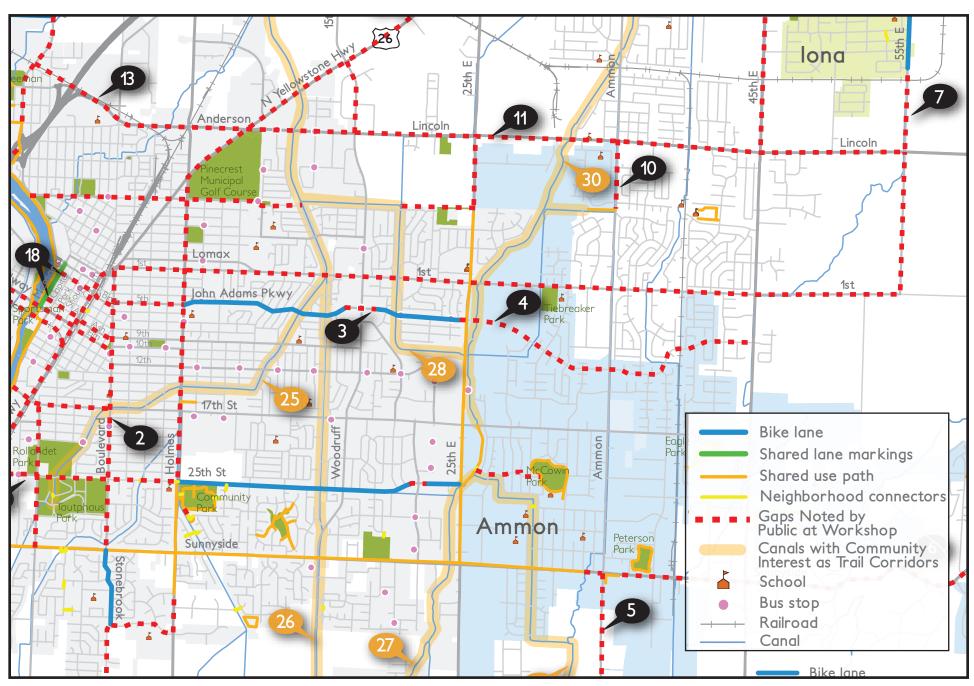
Community comment sidebar included





Notes gaps in the bikeway network





CAMBRIDGE, MA

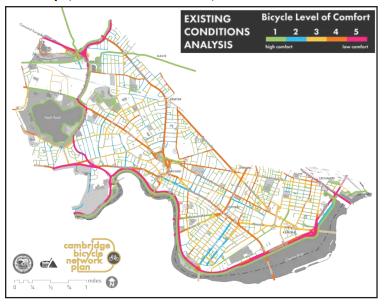
LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

CAMBRIDGE, MA 2015

INTERNAL PLANNING MAP

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Identifies access points to transit hubs

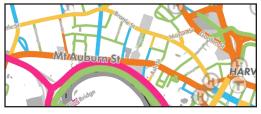


Bright and easily understandable color scheme

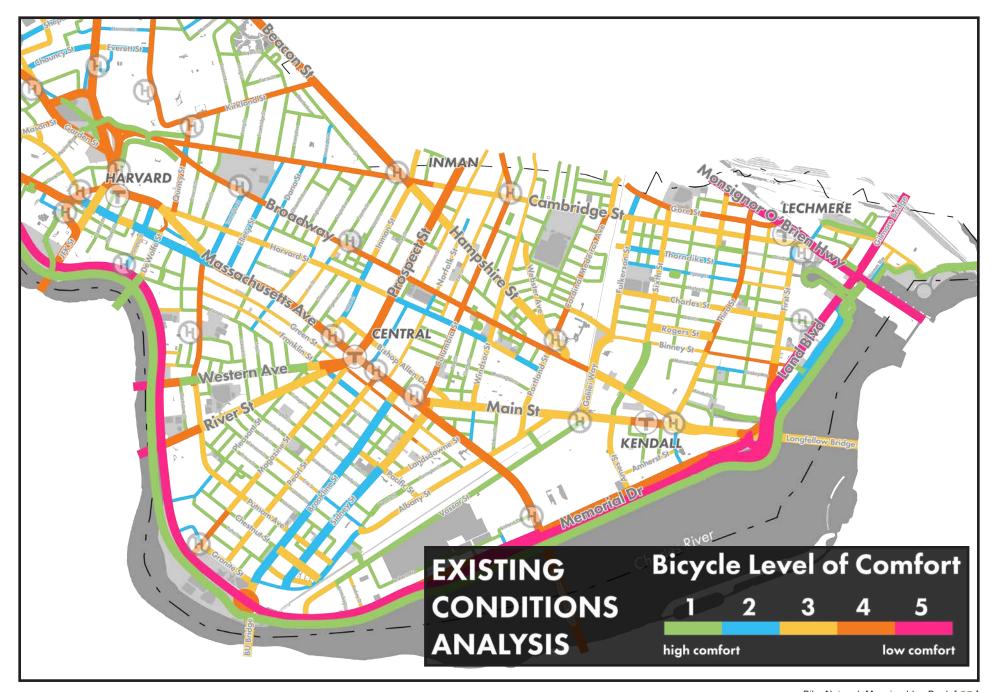


Highlights how low and high stress networks connect









SANTA BARBARA, CA

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

SANTA BARBARA, CA

DRAFT 2016

SANTA BARBARA BICYCLE MASTER PLAN **CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Vibrant color palette while maintaining legibility



Shows alternate bikeways that were considered

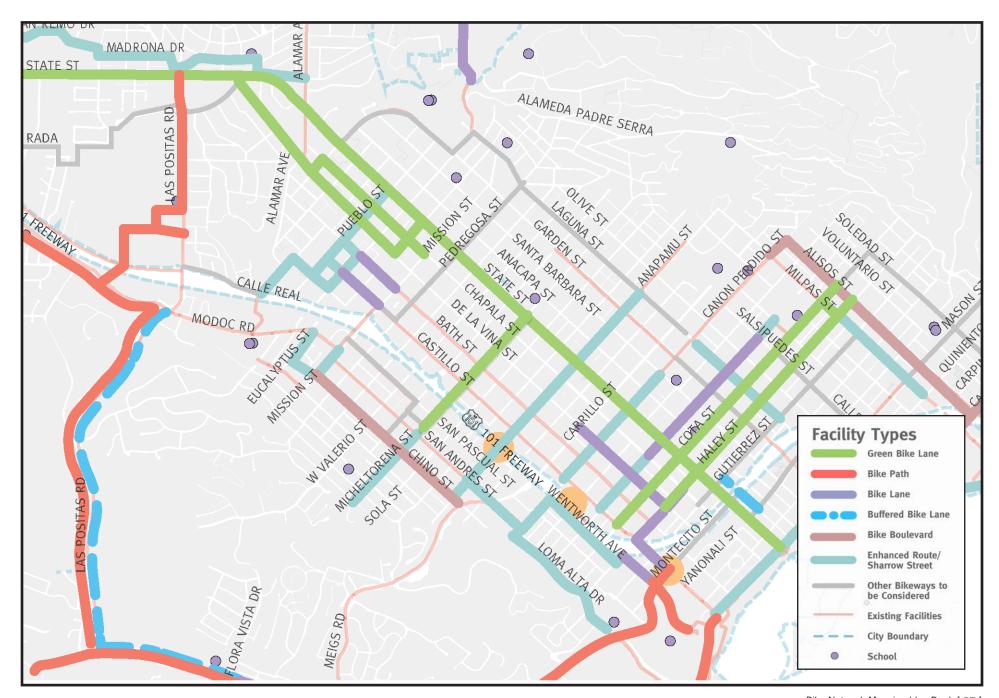


Clearly symbolizes two facilities on the same road









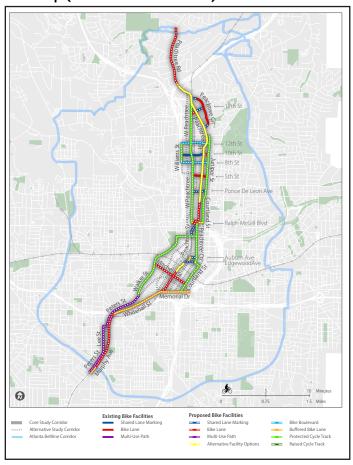
ATLANTA, GA

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

ATLANTA, GA 2015

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN -CONNECT ATLANTA **CITY OF ATLANTA**

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



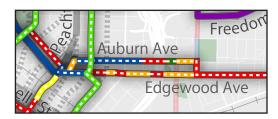
Highlights corridors and transitions between facility types



Unique line convention for proposed facilities

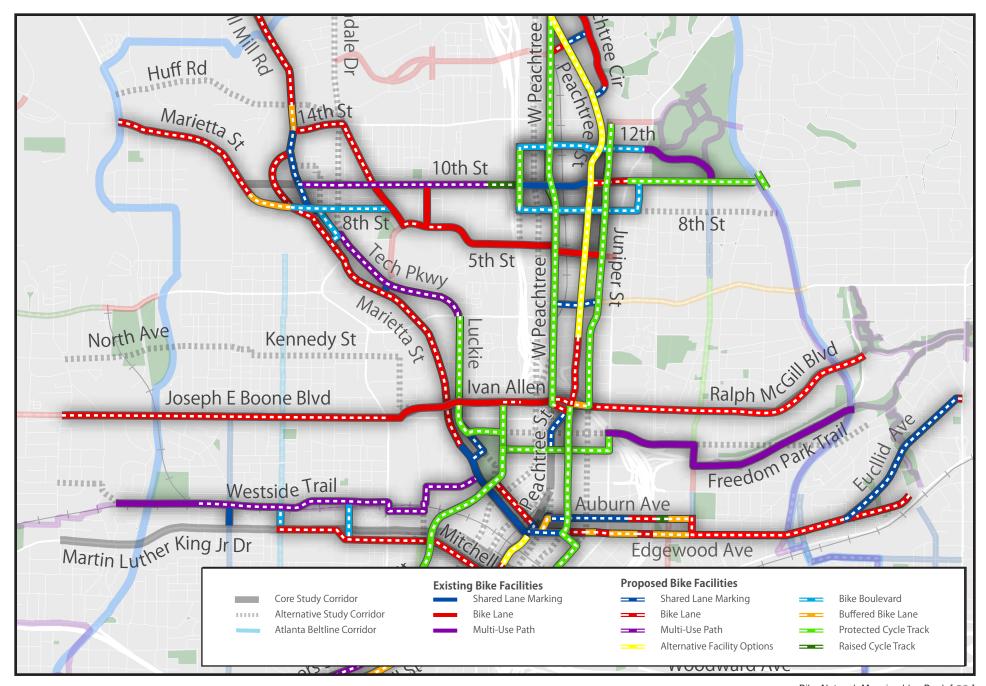


Scale communicates to user how long travel will take







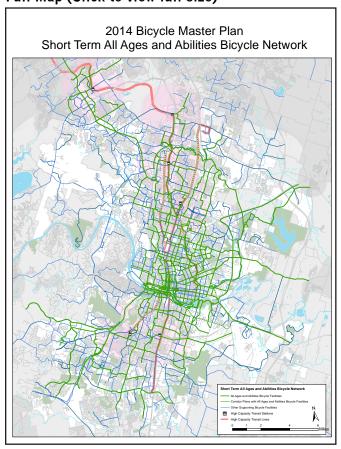


AUSTIN, TX

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

AUSTIN, TX 2014 AUSTIN BICYCLE MASTER PLAN CITY OF AUSTIN

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Highlights connections to high capacity transit stations and lines





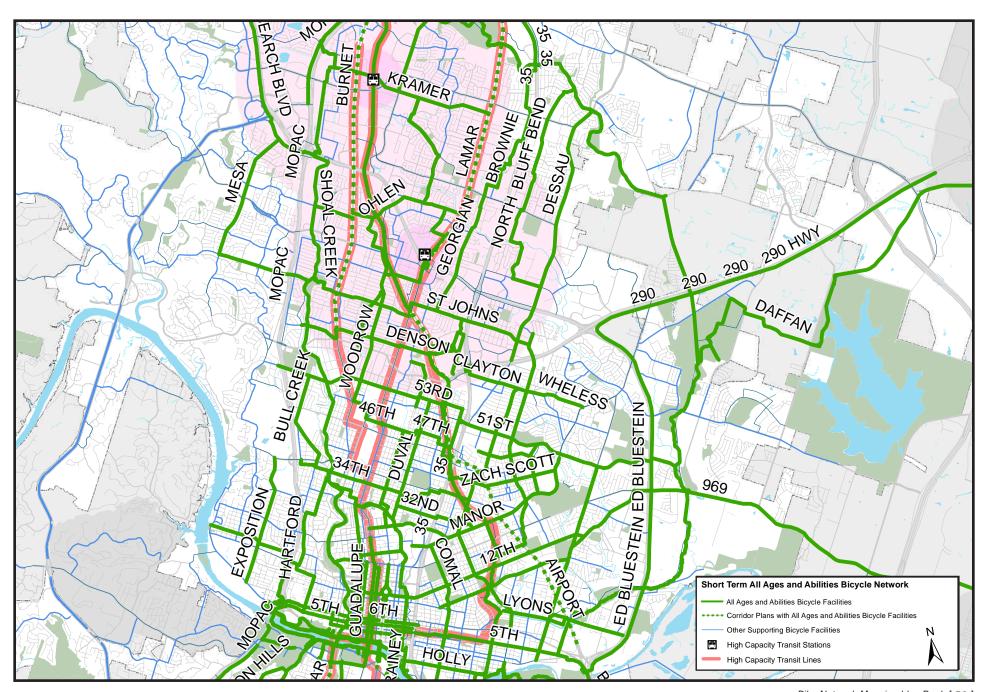
Highlights 'all ages and abilities' network





Denotes facilities from corridor plans





FORT COLLINS, CO

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

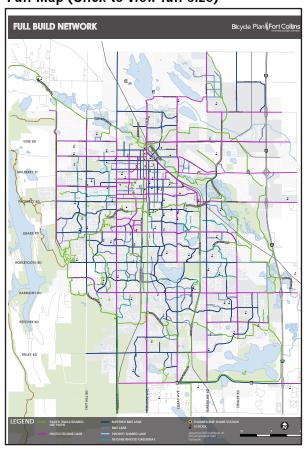
FORT COLLINS, CO

2014

CITY OF FORT COLLINS BIKE PLAN

CITY OF FORT COLLINS

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Simple symbology and color scheme



Shows planned bike share stations

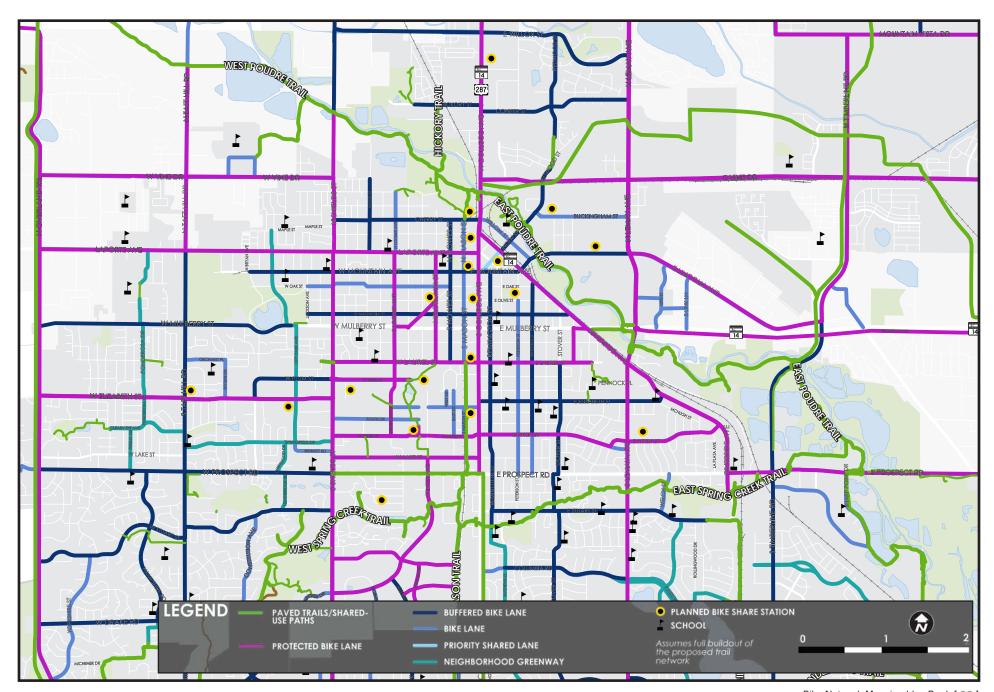


Lower stress facilities more visible









PORTLAND, OR

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

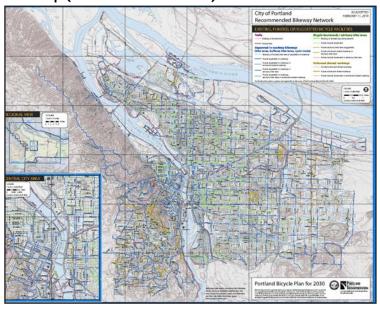
PORTLAND, OR

2010

CITY OF PORTLAND BICYCLE PLAN FOR 2030

CITY OF PORTLAND

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Highlights connections to regional trails and parks



Identifies both 'existing and funded' and 'planned' bike routes

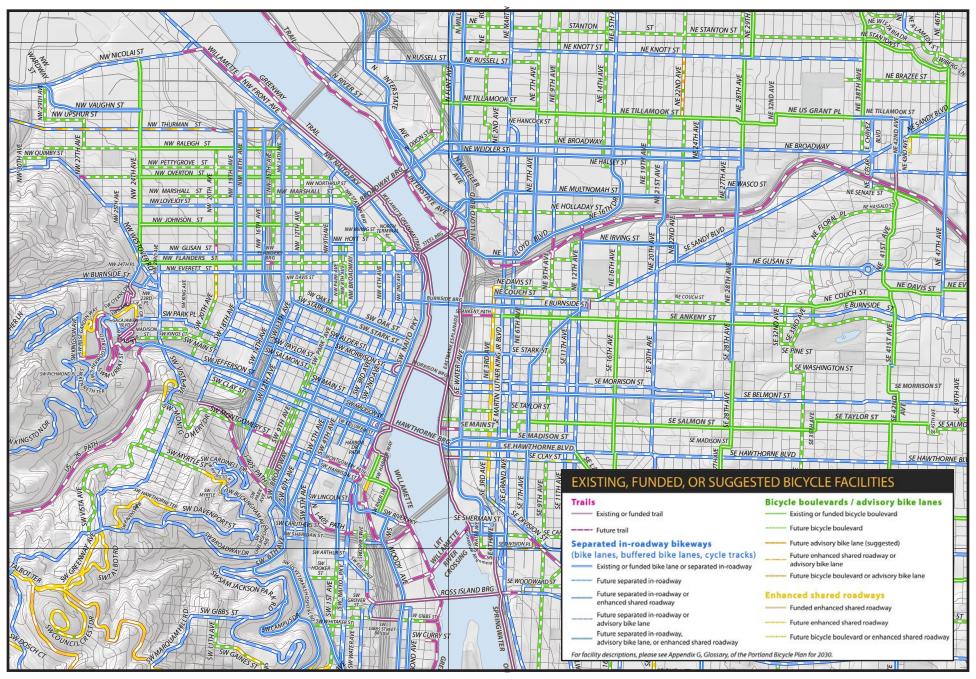


Shows elevation change









BOSTON, MA

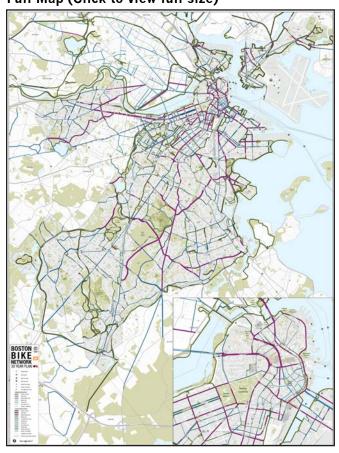
LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

BOSTON, MA

2015 BOSTON BIKE NETWORK PLAN

BOSTON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

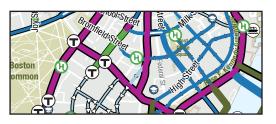
Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Shows connections between bike network and transportation hubs including rail and bike share stations





Shared use paths is similar to the color used for parks to indicate low-stress





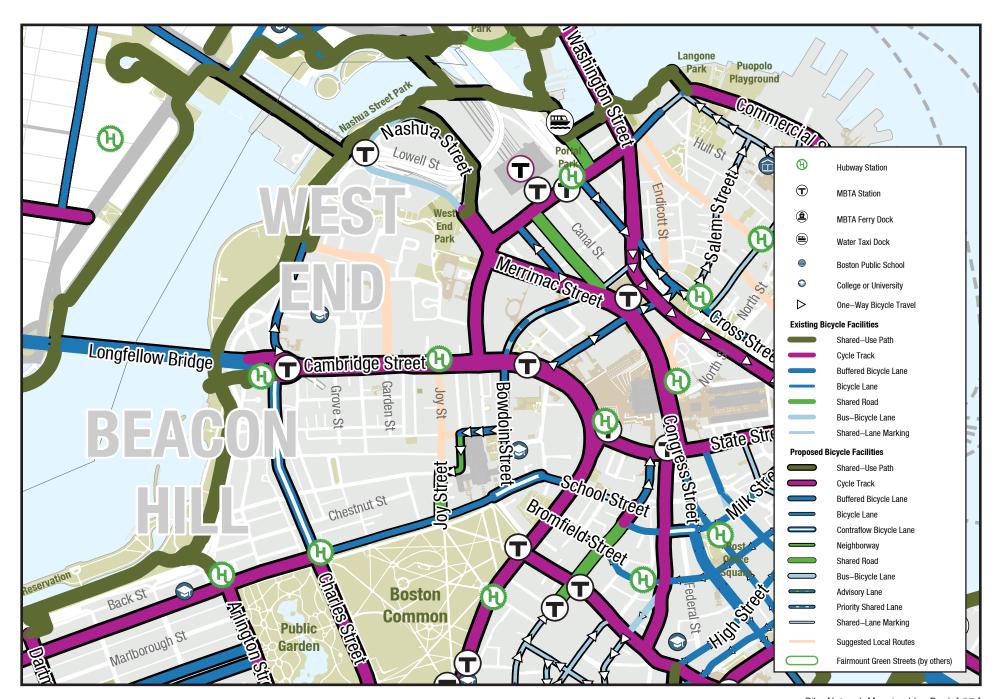
A dominant color is used for cycle tracks, emphasizing the high comfort level this facility type provides





Neighborhood scale maps are included within the plan for more specific details





SALT LAKE CITY, UT

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

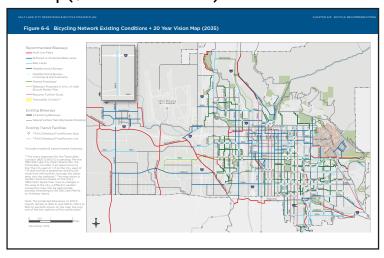
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

2015

SALT LAKE CITY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

SALT LAKE CITY

Full Map (Click to view full size)



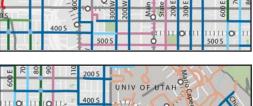
KEY MAP FEATURES



Shows connections to transit lines and stops



Highlights a university campus master plan

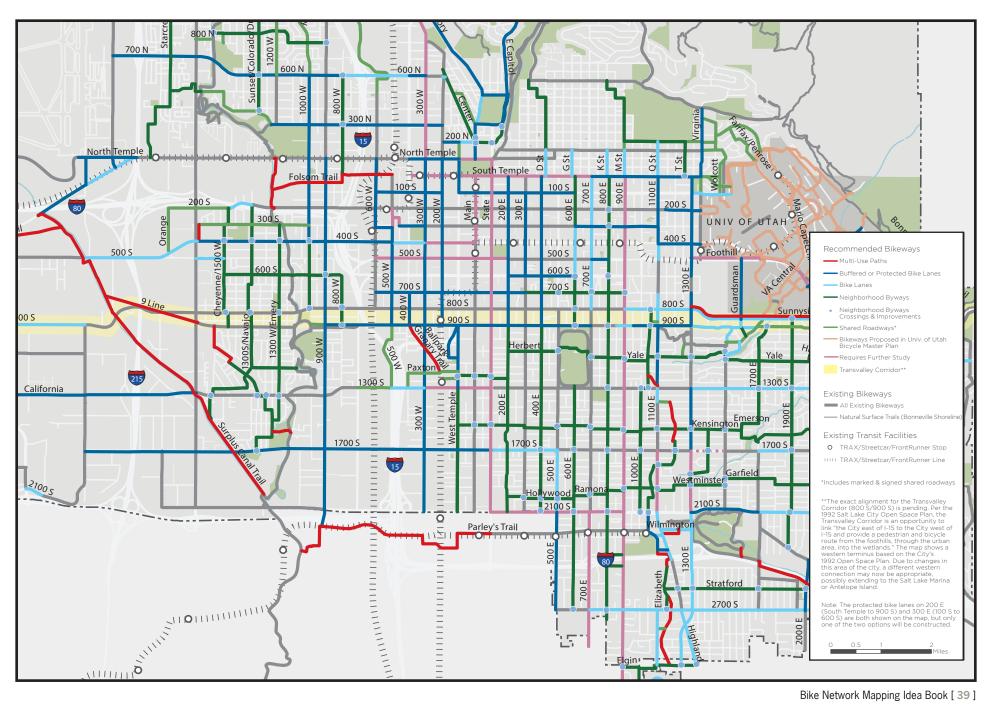






Highlights the Transvalley corridor, a planned future investment





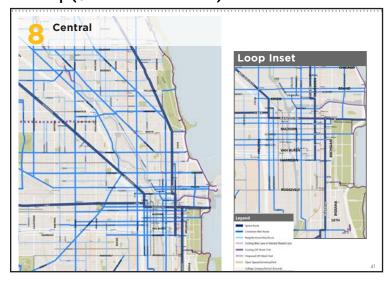
CHICAGO, IL

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

CHICAGO, IL 2012

CITY OF CHICAGO

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES

CHICAGO STREETS FOR CYCLING 2020



Inset map provides additional information about important area





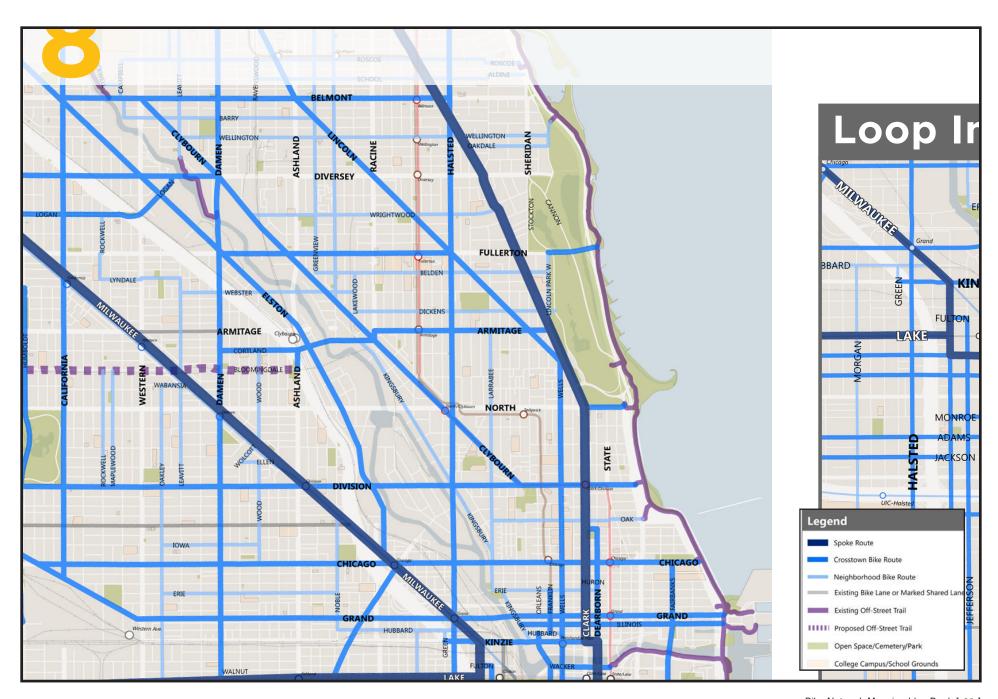
Route hierarchy shown using line thickness and color saturation





Shows connections to network of off-street trails





GRAFTON, WI

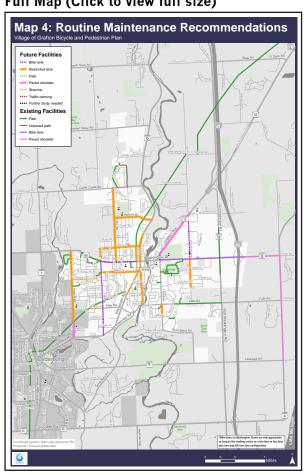
LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

GRAFTON, WI 2015

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Shows 'restricted lanes,' a unique facility where bicyclists share a lane with parking and right-turning vehicles



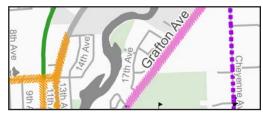


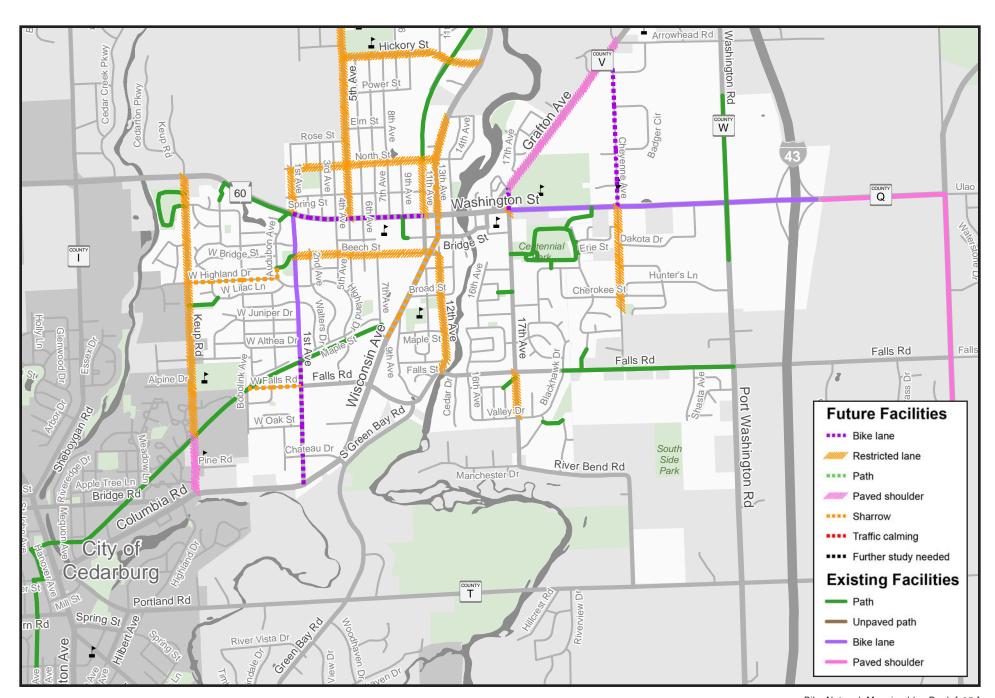
Highlights future and existing paved shoulders, an important bike facility in more rural communities





Highlights streets keyed for future traffic calming





CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

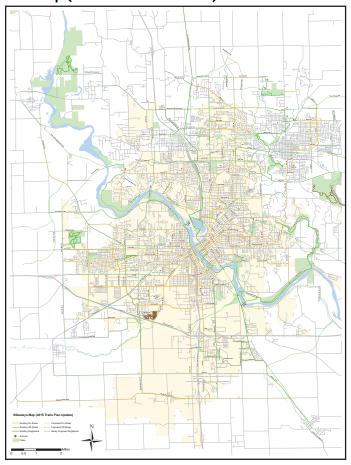
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

2015

CEDAR RAPIDS COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS PLAN

CORRIDOR METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



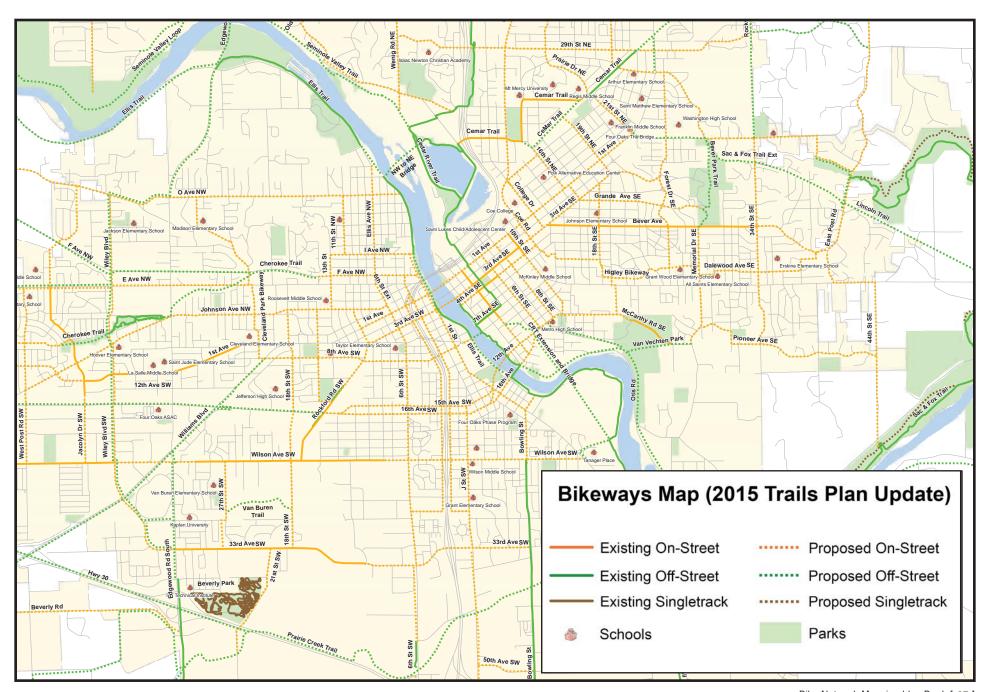
Highlights nearby jurisdictions





Includes flexible facility typologies





SEATTLE, WA

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

SEATTLE,WA 2015

SEATTLE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Unique symbology for proposed facilities





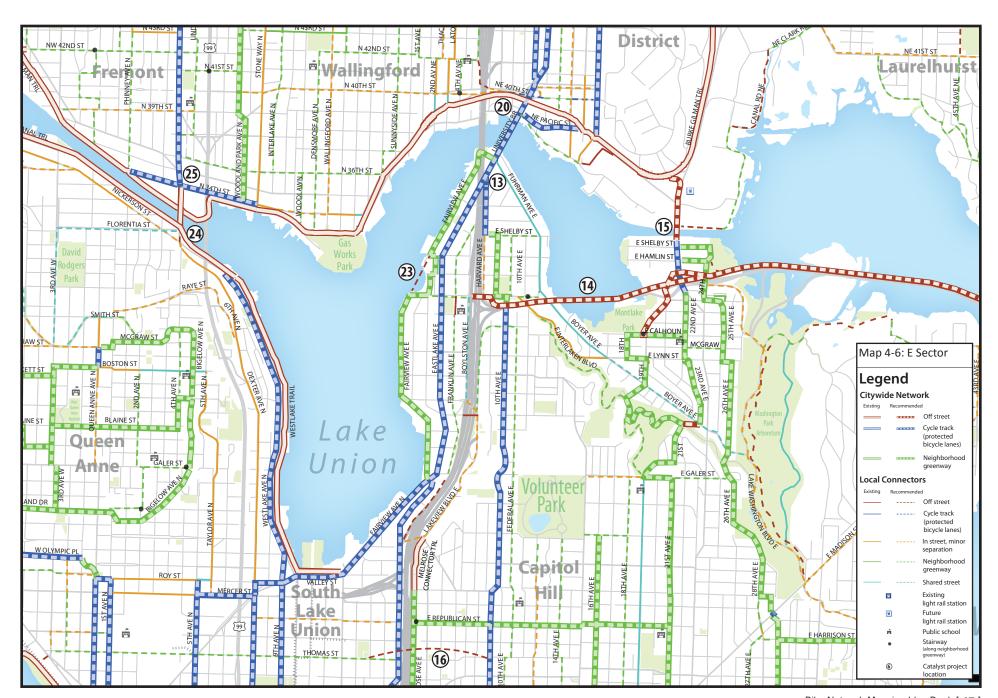
Recommendation hierarchy delineated by line weight





Neighborhood names highlighted to orient users





NORTH SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CA

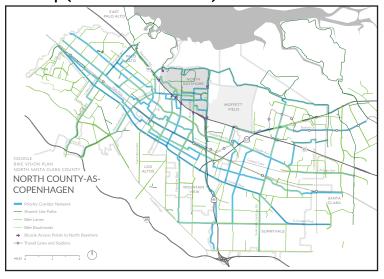
LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

NORTH SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CA 2015

GOOGLE BIKE VISION PLAN

GOOGLE

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



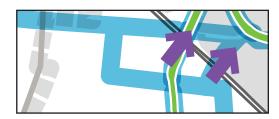
Identifies bike access points to Google's North Bayshore campus

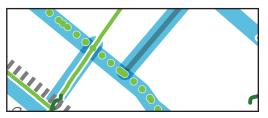


Different line weights allow for layered information



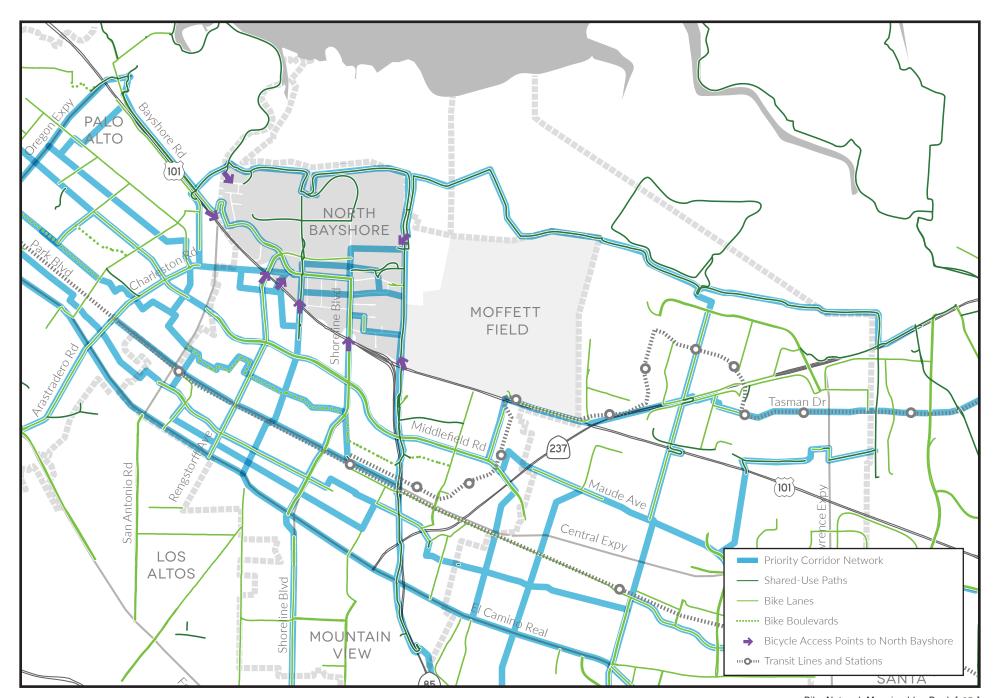
Clear color scheme and organization







CAMPUS



PORT OF PORTLAND, OR

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

PORTLAND, OR

2014

PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

PORT OF PORTLAND

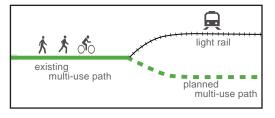
Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Legend integrates facility types with user types





Simple color palette and contextual background layers including buildings and waterways

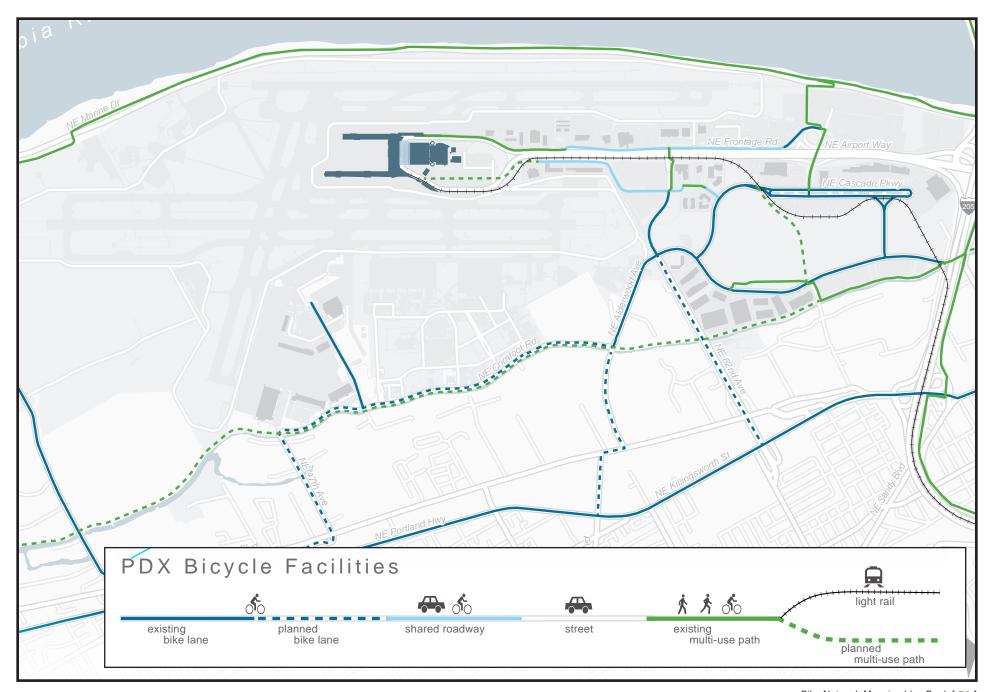




Highlights connections to citywide bike network and other multimodal options



CAMPUS



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

LOCATION YEAR PUBLICATION RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

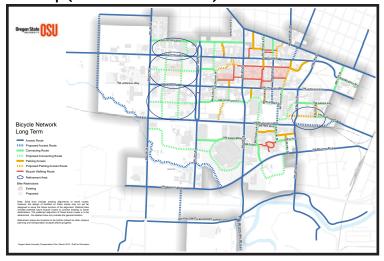
CORVALLIS, OR

2015

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION PLAN

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Highlights dismount zones



Identifies areas for further refinement



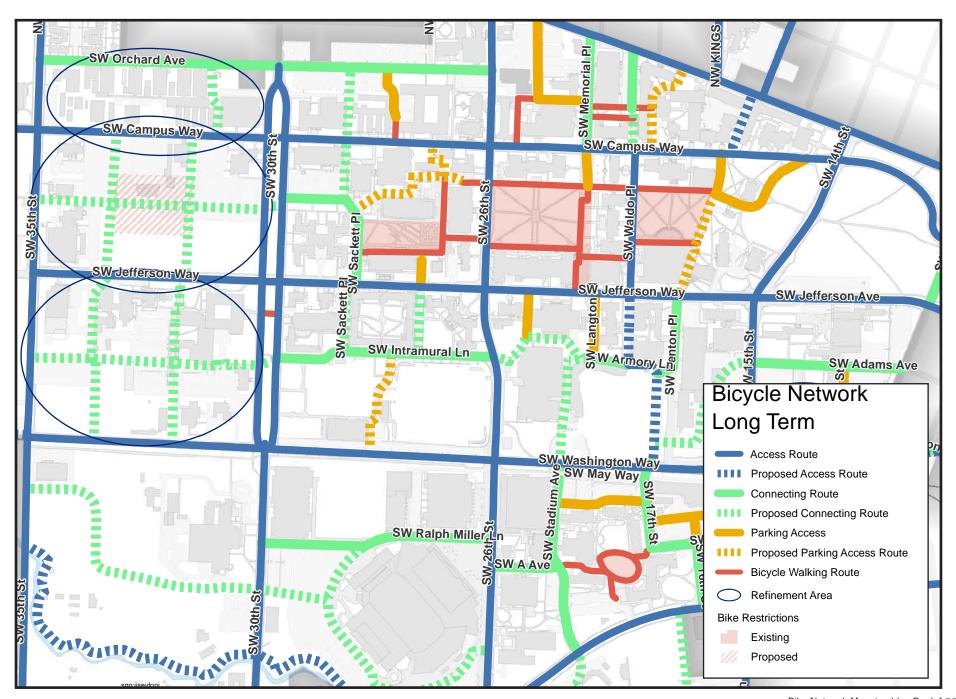
Highlights bicycle parking access routes











UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

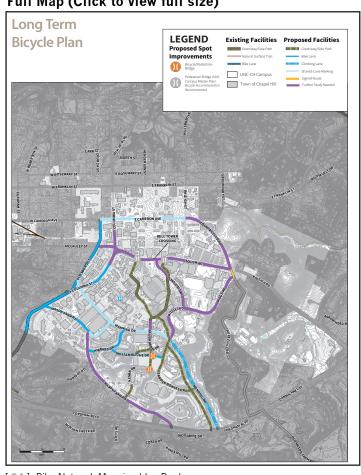
LOCATION YEAR **PUBLICATION** RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

CHAPEL HILL, NC

2014

UNC CHAPEL HILL BIKE MASTER PLAN UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Full Map (Click to view full size)



KEY MAP FEATURES



Shows recommended bridges with clean icons





Clever symbology for climbing lanes

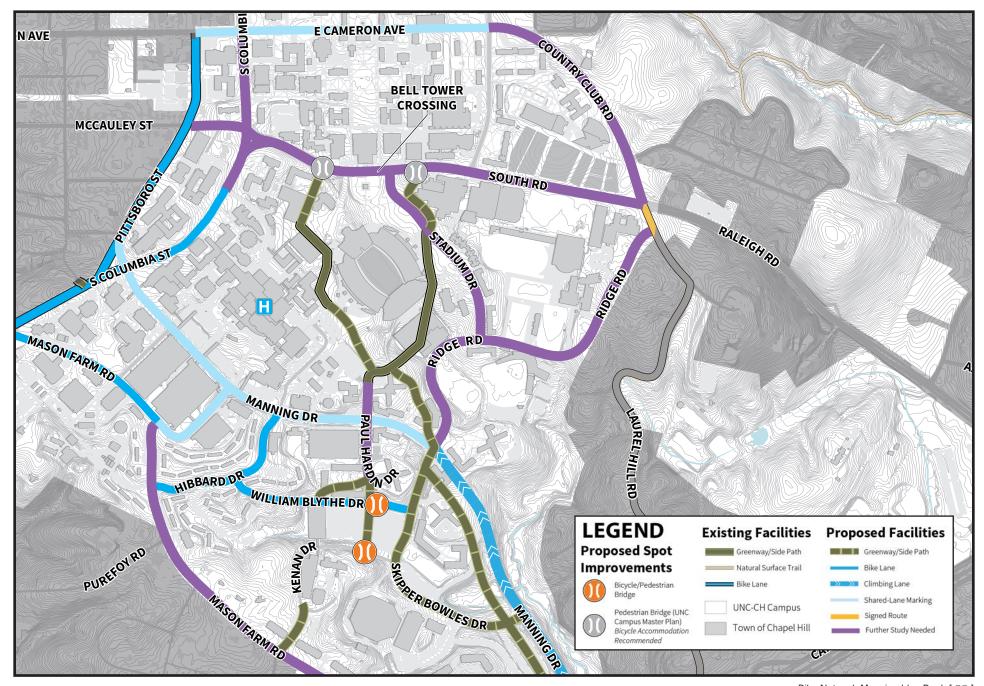




Shows greenways







NEXT STEPS

This resource highlights different approaches and techniques for mapping existing and proposed bicycle networks.

As demonstrated by the best practices highlighted here, there have been significant positive advances in this area in recent years.

To build on this progress, it will be important to institutionalize these techniques so that they become standard practice across jurisdictions and at all scales.

The following next steps are offered to inform the continued development of this national capacity and they will involve partners and stakeholders at all levels.

- 1. Identify a consistent set of bicycle facility types and community destinations that can serve as a baseline for bicycle network planning efforts across jurisdictions and geographic locations. The tables below are intended to inform this conversation.
- 2. Undertake a significant national push to research, apply, and document methodologies for measuring bicycle network connectivity and tracking change in connectivity over time.
- 3. Examine ways to integrate bicycle network infrastructure data into national infrastructure databases and data management systems.
- 4. Continue to identify and promote strategies for integrating bicycle network planning into ongoing planning processes at the local, MPO, and State level (e.g. resurfacing, TIP and STIP, Highway Safety Improvement Program, project design and development, MPO certification review).

BICYCLE FACILITY TYPES

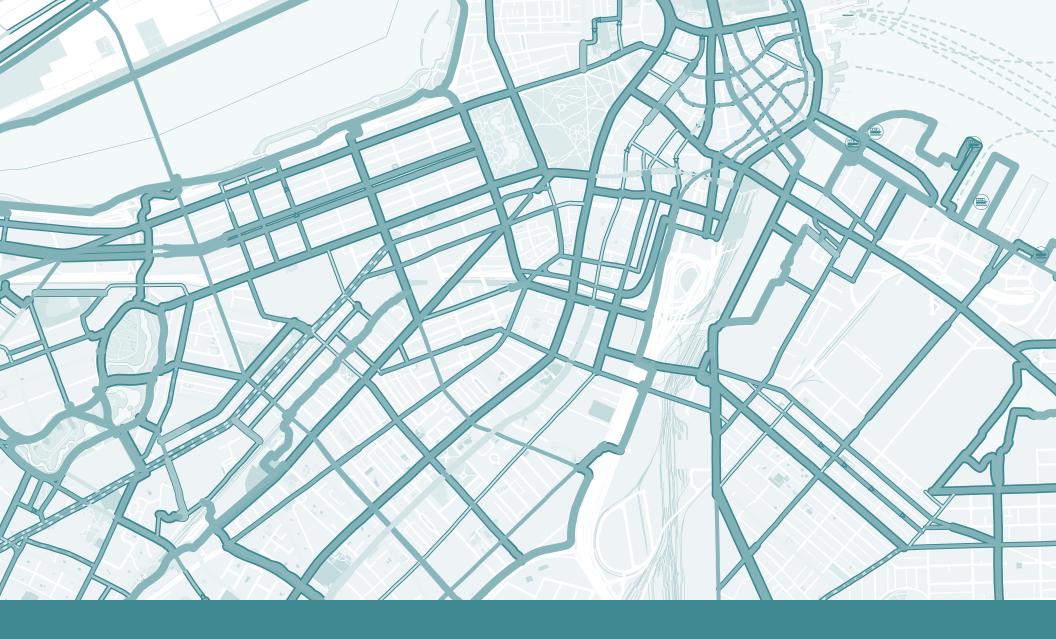
- Bike Lane
- Buffered Bike Lane
- Climbing Lane (i.e., bike lane on uphill side only)
- Separated Bike Lane or Protected Bike Lane or Cycle Track
- Bike Boulevard
- Shared Use Path
- Other (such as shared lane marking and paved shoulder)

COMMUNITY DESTINATIONS

- Bike share stations
- Bus stops
- · Community centers
- Community colleges
- Community service center
- High density residential

- Major retail and entertainment
- Parks
- Places of worship
- · Public libraries
- Retirement homes
- Schools

- Government offices
- Universities or colleges
- Major tourist destinations
- Hospitals and other health care facilities
- Transit centers





U.S.Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

For More Information Visit: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian Publication Number: FHWA-HEP-16-054