

Welcome to the 2015 Wisconsin Bicycle Map

Wisconsin has long been considered a premier state for bicycling. This map will help bicyclists get from one location in the state to another. The map includes roadway bicycling conditions utilizing a classification scheme based on traffic volume and roadway characteristics. Also on the map are statewide bicycle trails, mountain bike trails, rustic roads, Scenic Byways, and bicycle shop locations. The map is a product of a partnership between the Wisconsin Bike Fed and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

BIKE CONDITIONS MAPPED

The Wisconsin Bicycle Map highlights the most favorable bicycling conditions while presenting the full continuum of roadways—from narrow town roads to U.S. Highways. This approach enables bicyclists of all abilities to select their own routes to meet their individual transportation and recreational needs. The methodology used with this map is applicable to rural roadways, but not urban streets. Increased traffic volumes, lower speeds, and changing road design affect bicycle travel in urban areas in ways that cannot be accurately depicted on this map. Thus, the bicycling condition ratings for roadways stop at urban fringes; however, the major streets are still depicted. Local bicycle maps are available for many communities and are listed on the WisDOT website - www.wisconsin.gov.

DISCLAIMER

The user of this map bears full responsibility for his or her safety. The bicyclist assumes the risks encountered and is advised to use good judgment and obey traffic laws on all roads, regardless of the classification depicted on this map. The State, counties, cities, villages and their officers and employees, the Wisconsin Bike Fed, and the University of Madison-Cartography Lab shall not be answerable or held accountable in any manner for loss, damage or injury that may be suffered by bicyclists who use this map.

The information on this map should be used by state and local transportation planners to improve conditions for bicyclists, especially in areas that are currently less suitable for bicycle travel and experiencing growth or increased auto congestion. Transportation planners should also consult the WisDOT State Bicycle Plan 2020, as well as bicycle groups and local bicycle plans, before any decisions are made that could affect the use of a route for bicycling.

LEGEND & HOW TO USE THIS MAP

The map is provided to assist bicyclists age 16 and over who have had drivers training and are capable of riding longer distances between communities. As you use the following legend, know your level of skill and comfort in sharing roadways with motor vehicles, and select routes with conditions that match your abilities.

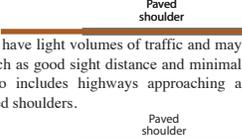
Town Roads

This is the most extensive system of local roads in the state. These could not be individually evaluated or classified as part of this map in the same way county and state highways were. Most are likely to have narrow pavements with no paved shoulders and low volumes of traffic. Traffic volumes are likely to be heavier when traveling these roads into cities. Town roads will be quite steep with poor sight lines in the Southwestern and Mississippi Valley areas of the state. The map depicts whether town roads are paved or unpaved, as well as identifying undesirable town roads with higher levels of traffic.



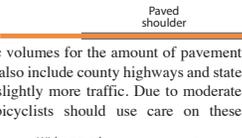
Best Conditions for Bicycling

These county and state highways will have light volumes of traffic and may have many other favorable factors such as good sight distance and minimal truck traffic. This classification also includes highways approaching a moderate level of traffic but with paved shoulders.



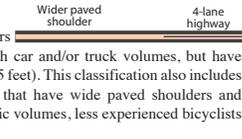
Moderate Conditions for Bicycling

These roadways have moderate traffic volumes for the amount of pavement width present. This classification may also include county highways and state highways with paved shoulders, but slightly more traffic. Due to moderate traffic volumes, less experienced bicyclists should use care on these segments.



Higher Volume, Wider Paved Shoulders

These roadways have moderately-high car and/or truck volumes, but have wider paved shoulders (generally 4 or 5 feet). This classification also includes a select number of 4-lane highways that have wide paved shoulders and moderate levels of traffic. Due to traffic volumes, less experienced bicyclists should use care on these segments.



High Volume, Undesirable Conditions

These roadways have moderately-high traffic volumes with no paved shoulders, or high traffic volumes with narrow paved shoulders, and many have moderate to high truck traffic. This classification could also include some moderate volume roadways, but with an assortment of negative factors for bicycling. Bicyclists should try to plan around these roads and/or use considerable caution when using them. Bicyclists should have appropriate amounts of expertise with these types of riding conditions if choosing these roads.



Bicyclists Prohibited

These roadways are 4-lane Interstates and freeways posted as "Pedestrians Bicycles Non Motorized Traffic Motor Bicycles Prohibited". There are some 4-lane divided highways that will permit bicycling, but pay close attention to how they are rated on the map.



Bicycle Touring Trails

These are bicycling trails that include state, regional, and local trails. The state trails are often a finely screened limestone. These trails are excellent for use with hybrid and mountain bikes and most are also suitable for road bikes. Most of the trails are paved in urban areas. Many of these trails are particularly good for children and inexperienced bicyclists.



Urban Escape Routes

These routes are likely to be the best connections into and out of large cities and are often routes recommended by area bicyclists. However, many have moderate or high traffic volumes without bike lanes or paved shoulders.



Major Urban Streets

Bicycling conditions are not presented for these streets. They are likely to have high volumes of traffic. The urban boundaries depicted on this map are based on a combination of municipal boundaries, speed zones, and built-up areas.



Rustic Roads

Wisconsin's designated system of scenic, lightly-traveled country roads. Many of these roads are identified with the word "Rustic" near the name of the road. See wisconsin.gov for additional information.



Scenic Byways

Wisconsin Scenic Byways are formally designated routes that maintain and promote some of our most scenic and historic state highway corridors. These routes offer wonderful scenery and access to unique recreational or cultural opportunities. These highways may have moderate conditions for bicycling or higher traffic volumes and are identified with scenic byway logo signs along the route.



Mountain Bike Trails

The mountain bike trails identified on this map include both off-road single and double track trails. Several off-road trails are also open to All-Terrain Vehicles and other motorized uses. Check the web or contact the trail manager for local conditions and details.



Amtrak Service

Passenger rail service is available through part of the state. However, only certain stations (Milwaukee, Columbus, La Crosse and Winona, MN) provide the baggage service necessary to transport a bicycle. Bicycles must be boxed; you may provide the carton or purchase one from Amtrak. The boxed bicycle will be included as one of the two allowed pieces of checked luggage and a nominal fee is charged. See www.amtrak.com for the most current information.



Ferries

There are six ferry services in Wisconsin. All ferries charge a fee except the publicly owned Coscag II at Merrimac/Highway 113, (608) 246-3871, on the Wisconsin River. Contact ferries directly for schedules and rates, or visit www.wisconsin.gov. Washington Island Ferry, (920) 847-2546; Madeline Island Ferry, (715) 747-2051; Mississippi River Ferry (Cassville, Wis. to Turkey Creek, Iowa), (608) 725-5180; Lake Michigan Ferry (Manitowoc, Wis., to Ludington, Mich.), (888) 337-7948; Lake Express (Milwaukee to Muskegon), (866) 914-1010.



Important Note: By including a ferry trip across Lake Michigan, bicyclists are able to ride cross-country and into Canada without having to route around the lake.

CONTACTS FOR OTHER STATE & NATIONAL BICYCLE ROUTE INFORMATION

Detailed state trails information is available at dnr.wi.gov.

Detailed national guide maps for two Adventure Cycling routes that run through Wisconsin are available from Adventure Cycling, www.adventurecycling.org. Information on the Mississippi River Trail, including a long segment of trail in Wisconsin (Great River Road Bicycle Route), is available at www.mississippirivertrail.org.

A map of the Great River Road Bicycle Route is available at www.wisconsin.gov.

To promote recreational trips within Wisconsin, the Department of Tourism publishes the Wisconsin Biking Guide, a detailed ride guide including attractions and amenities along 30 bicycle tours and trails. The guide is free from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, www.travelwisconsin.com or Toll-free (800) 432-TRIP

CONTACTS FOR LOCAL BICYCLE ROUTE INFORMATION

A number of local communities and counties offer detailed and complete maps and information on recommended routes through their respective areas. An assortment of map information can be obtained by going to www.wisconsin.gov.

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES

Lodging

Wisconsin's hospitality industry ranges from small inns and bed & breakfasts to resorts and hotels. Reservations are recommended, particularly on weekends. Call the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, (800) 432-TRIP or go to www.travelwisconsin.com. The Wisconsin Lodging Directory or the Wisconsin Bed & Breakfast Directory can be downloaded from that site or ordered for mail delivery.

Campgrounds

Campgrounds are located throughout Wisconsin offering a variety of services and facilities. For information and locations of state campgrounds, visit dnr.wi.gov, or contact the Wisconsin Department of Tourism at (800) 432-TRIP, or www.travelwisconsin.com, for a Campground Directory.

Youth Hostels

In Wisconsin, youth hostels provide inexpensive accommodations for self-propelled travelers. For information contact the Hostelling International-American Youth Hostels at www.hiusa.org. Currently hostels are located in Eagle, West Bend, and Madison, Wisconsin.

National Forests

For information on National Forests, contact the Chequamegon National Forest Office, 1170 Fourth Avenue S., Park Falls, WI 54552, (715) 762-2461; or the Nicolet National Forest Office, 68 S. Stevens St., Rhineland, WI 54501, (715) 362-1300.



Scale

