



Welcome to the Dane County Map for Bicyclists

Dane County is a wonderful place to live, work and bike! Our rolling hills, farms and countryside, small towns and villages are terrific places to visit by bike. Many new bike paths and trails offer wonderful recreational opportunities for the whole family. And today, a growing number of people are choosing bicycling for their commute to work. Enjoy traveling on two wheels!

Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive
Scott McDonnell, Dane County Board Chair

About the Contributing Agencies

The Dane County Map for Bicyclists was prepared by staff for the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board - A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) (formerly Madison Area MPO). Funding for printing of the map was provided by the Dane County Department of Public Works, Highway and Transportation.

The Madison Area Transportation Planning Board is the designated policy body responsible for cooperative transportation planning and decision making for the Madison metropolitan planning area. The *Regional Transportation Plan 2030: Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County (2006)*, adopted by the MPO, is an overall system-level plan that serves as a guide for transportation system planning and development in the region. The *Bicycle Transportation Plan: Madison Urban Area and Dane County (2000)* is an element of the regional transportation plan.

Dane County Bicycle Map

This guide map is designed to assist bicyclists in identifying the safest, most enjoyable bicycling routes between their origins and destinations. The map depicts the relative condition of rural roadways in the county for bicycling. The bicycle suitability ratings are intended for use by adult bicyclists who have had drivers training, and possess the skills and knowledge to handle shared bicycle/motor vehicle situations.



Keep in mind that roadway conditions vary considerably by day of the week and time of day. For example, roads that experience significant commuter traffic may be more suitable for bicycling during off-peak periods or on weekends. All bicyclists are encouraged to select routes with riding conditions that match their own skill level.

Bicycle Organizations

Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 1224, Madison, WI 53701-1224
Phone: 251-4456
E-mail: info@bfw.org
Website: www.bfw.org
(For state bicycle maps, bicycling events, and resource info.)

Bicycle Transportation Alliance of Dane County
P.O. Box 641, Madison, WI 53701-0641
E-mail: bikies@danenet.org
Website: danenet.wicp.org/bcp/bta

Wisconsin Off-Road Bicycling Association
P.O. Box 1681, Madison, WI 53701-1681
Website: www.worba.org

Bicycling Community Page
Website: danenet.wicp.org/bcp
(Serving Madison and Dane County bicyclists with links to many other bicycle-related sites)

Bicycle Suitability of Roadways

The bicycle suitability ratings depicted on the map were determined by an analysis conducted using roadway and traffic count data from 2005. The ratings are designed for the average adult bicyclist in Dane County. The primary factors used to determine the bicycle suitability of the roadways were: (1) pavement width (travel lanes plus paved shoulder, if any); (2) seasonally adjusted average daily traffic volume; and (3) motor vehicle traffic speeds. The percent truck volume and the percent yellow line (where passing is not allowed) were also considered where that information was available (generally only for the state roadways). For county roadways, consideration was given to whether it is a designated local truck route. The pavement condition of the roadways was not factored into the analysis.



The methodology used for rural roadways is designed to identify the frequency of occurrence of "bicyclist squeeze points" where a bicyclist is squeezed off of the roadway by a passing motorist who simultaneously meets an oncoming vehicle. Narrow, lightly traveled roads (e.g., less than 1,500-2,000 cars a day) are generally suitable for bicycling. There are few trucks and the low traffic volume allows passing motorists to easily get around bicyclists. Roadways with moderate traffic volumes (less than 5,000 cars a day) and paved shoulders (at least three, but preferably four or five feet) are also generally suitable for bicycling, because they provide enough space for passing motorists to prevent bicyclists from being squeezed off the road.

Because "every road is a bicycling road," bicycling conditions are shown on all rural state and county roadways, except on freeways where bicycling is prohibited. Bicycling conditions are also shown on some local roads for which traffic volume data was available. Local roads in rural areas that have not been evaluated can generally be assumed to be most suitable for bicycling. Bicycling conditions for roadways in urban areas are not shown on the map. A different methodology is used to evaluate urban roadways due to their generally higher traffic volumes, lower speeds, and different designs. For information on the bicycling conditions of Madison urban area roadways, see the Madison Bicycling Resource Guide & Route Map published by the City of Madison Traffic Engineering Division (See Contacts).

Safety Information

- Obey Traffic Laws**
Familiarize yourself with Wisconsin traffic laws. Remember – a bicycle is a vehicle.
- Wear a Helmet**
Equip yourself with an approved helmet of the proper size and fit.
- Ride as Near as Practicable to the Right Edge of the Road**
Always ride on the right side of the road, with the flow of traffic. Situations when it is not practicable to ride on the right edge of the road include when preparing to make a left-turn, when passing another vehicle or bicyclist (in which case three (3) feet of clearance is required), and when necessary to avoid unsafe conditions.
- Communicate to Motorists and other Bicyclists**
Use hand signals well in advance of turning or stopping to let motorists and riding companions know what you are about to do. Make eye contact with motorists where possible.
- Equip and Maintain Your Bicycle Properly**
Make sure that brakes and other parts are in good working condition. Carry an extra bike tube and an air pump. When riding after dark, you must use a white light visible at least 500 feet to the front, and a red reflector visible up to 500 feet to the rear.
- Avoid Riding on Rural Roads at Night**
Rural roads are not lit up like streets in urban areas.
- Dress Appropriately**
Wear brightly colored clothing and carry a water-resistant jacket for protection from sudden changes in weather and temperature.
- Be Aware of Hazards**
Watch the road ahead for surface hazards like broken glass, sand, tree branches, potholes, and railroad tracks.
- Maintain a "Safety First" Attitude**
Select appropriate routes based on your riding abilities. Use extra caution at intersections, and on rural roads where the most severe crashes occur due to higher vehicle traffic speeds.

Bicycle Clubs



There are numerous touring, racing, and off-road bicycle clubs in Dane County. The clubs organize group rides and special events, and sponsor and participate in races and other events. Visit the Bicycling Community website listed under Bicycle Organizations for information on these clubs and their activities. Bike shops sponsor some of the clubs, and also have information on many of them, including their ride schedules.

Contacts for Bicycling and Related Information

- Government**
- City of Madison**
Division of Traffic Engineering266-4761
(for Madison area bike map and other info.) Website: www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/bicycling.cfm
Pedestrian-Bicycle Coordinator.....266-6225 E-mail: traffic@cityofmadison.com
Pedestrian-Bicycle Safety Educator.....267-1102 E-mail: smeiers@cityofmadison.com
Bicycle Registration Program 266-4474 E-mail: traffic@cityofmadison.com
Madison Area Transportation Planning Board266-4336 Website: www.madisonareamp.org
(bicycle plan and facility funding info.) E-mail: wschaefer@cityofmadison.com
- Dane County**
Highway & Transportation Department.....266-4261 Website: www.countyofdane.com/pwht
(county road construction info.)
Parks Department242-4576 (24-Hour Info. Line)
(county trails and parks info.) Website: www.co.dane.wi.us/lwd/parks
Email: dane-parks@co.dane.wi.us
- State of Wisconsin**
Department of Transportation
Bicycle Coordinator267-7757 E-mail: thomas.huber@dot.state.wi.us
Pedestrian-Bicycle Safety Program Mgr.267-3154 E-mail: larry.corsi@dot.state.wi.us
Road Construction Information.....1-800-ROADWIS (in Madison, 246-7580)
Website: www.dot.state.wi.us/travel/road/workzones.htm
Department of Tourism1-800-372-2737 (in Madison, 266-2161)
(bike tours, lodging info.) Website: http://agency.travelwisconsin.com/
Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Parks and Recreation.....266-2181
(state trails and parks info.) Website: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails/tbike.html

Disclaimer

The user of this map bears full responsibility for his or her safety. Bicyclists should exercise good judgment and obey traffic laws on all roadways, regardless of their bicycle suitability rating on this map. The State, Dane County, cities, villages, and towns, and the agencies and individuals who have contributed to the development of this bicycle guide are not responsible for the personal safety of bicyclists who use this map, and do not warrant the safety of the roads on this guide map for use by bicyclists.

The bicycle suitability information on this map should be used by state, county, and local transportation planners and engineers to improve bicycle facilities, especially on roadways that are less suitable for bicycling and experiencing increasing motor vehicle traffic. Transportation planners and engineers should consult the *Bicycle Transportation Plan: Madison Urban Area and Dane County (2000)*, bicycle element of the *Regional Transportation Plan 2030: Madison Metropolitan Area & Dane County, Wisconsin Bicycle Facility Design Handbook* published by WisDOT, and any local community plans prior to making decisions on the design of roadway improvements to ensure consideration of bicyclists' needs.

Map Legend

- Most Suitable for Shared Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Use
 - May be Suitable Depending on Individual Bicyclist's Skills Operating with Motor Vehicle Traffic
 - Least Suitable for Shared Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Use
 - Roadways with Paved Shoulders/Most Suitable
 - Roadways with Paved Shoulders/May be Suitable
 - Roadways with Paved Shoulders/Least Suitable
 - Bicycles Prohibited or Not Recommended
 - Local Roadway Not Evaluated*
 - Multi - Use Trail or Path**
 - Future Multi - Use Path
 - Connecting Bicycle Routes through the Madison Area***
 - Recommended Bicycle Routes into and out of the Madison Urban Area
 - Ice Age Trail (Hiking Only)
 - Public Recreation Lands
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Over/Underpass or Bridge
 - Future Bicycle and Pedestrian Over/Underpass or Bridge
 - State or County Park
 - Community Parks
 - Mountain Biking Trails
 - Trailhead and Other Parking
 - Park and Ride Lot
- * assumed to be most suitable due to generally low traffic volumes and lower speeds than on county and state highways
- ** generally crushed stone within rural areas; paved within urban areas
- *** generally not signed on the periphery of the Madison urban area
- Data Sources:
Biking Suitability: Madison Area Transportation Planning Board: An MPO (2007).
Bike Paths, Trails and Routes: Madison Area Transportation Planning Board: An MPO (2007).
Streets: Dane County Land Information Office (2006).
Public Recreation Lands: DNR Managed Lands (2007), Dane County Parks (2007), Dane County Parcels (2007).
Ice Age Trail: Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation (2007).