

WVDOH Bicycle/Pedestrian Initiatives



In the past, relations have not always been as warm as they could have been between the DOT and the bicycle/pedestrian community.



The bicycle/pedestrian community often felt it didn't have a voice that could be heard above that of motorized users.



Within the present administration, however, there has been a heightened interest in bicycle/pedestrian issues and design elements.

New bike rankings favor Washington

By Jayne Clark USA TODAY

Attention cyclists: If you're scouting for the best cycling environment in the nation, you might want to point your handlebars in the direction of Washington state — and steer clear of West Virginia.

Worst states for biking

- 1. West Virginia
- 2. Georgia
- 3. Alabama
- 4. Mississippi
- 5. North Dakota

Source: League of American Bicyclists

All 50 states were scored on 75 individual points in the six categories. Rounding out the top five after Washington are Wisconsin, Arizona, Oregon and Minnesota. West Virginia ranks dead last. (In

- USA Today September 5, 2008

"West Virginia, last in 2008 (Alabama gets that dishonor this year), moved to 42^{nd} place for instance. 'States like (West Virginia) see there's a lot they can do to improve things and that they're standing on a lot of potential."

-Andy Clarke, President of League of American Bicyclists USA Today May 7, 2009

WV Cycling Symposium - April 17-18

Friday night's dinner and presentations at the Governor's Mansion - Woo Woo!

- Excerpt from April 17-18 WV Cycling Symposium flier.

The WVDOT, responding to the League of American Bicyclist's negative rating, played a role is in initiating the very successful WV Cycling Symposium. Secretary of Transportation Paul Mattox addressed the assembled bicycle activists during the dinner meeting on April 17, 2009, stressing that the WVDOT was aware of the role bicycles play in the transportation network.



Secretary of Transportation Daul Mattox







Following the 2009 Cheat Mountain Challenge (August 15, 2009), a second meeting was held as a follow up to the April Bike Symposium. The WV Cycling Foundation and the WVDOT further developed the relationship that begun during the Symposium and mapped out the next year's strategy to advance road biking in West Virginia.



Some issues discussed were proposed legislation effecting bicycles, the WV Cycling Foundation assisting in the development of the new WVDOT bicycle/ pedestrian plan, and eliciting the assistance, through the WVDOT, of the MPOs and other planning organization to distribute the new WV Cycling Foundation poster and brochure that deals with the bicycle helmets





WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Division of Highways

Joe Manchin III Governor 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 110 Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430 • 304/558-3505

March 21, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO:

All District Engineers/Managers

All Division Directors

FROM:

Marvin G. Murphy, P. E., P. L. S.

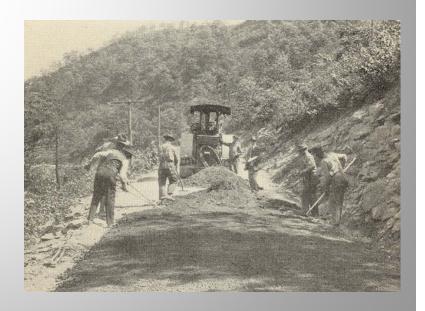
State Highway Engineer

SUBJECT: PAVED SHOULDERS GUIDELINES

Effective immediately ALL PROJECTS for new construction, widening and resurfacing will include Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) paved shoulders as outlined below.

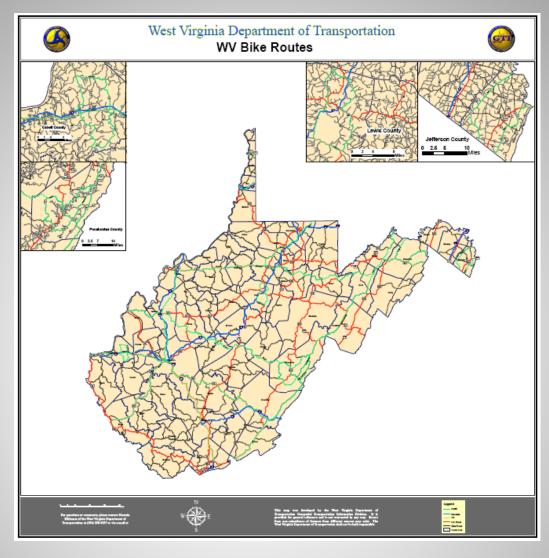
- The paved shoulder width for new construction on Freeways and Divided Arterials will be in accordance with the project plans.
- Paved shoulders will be provided on all two lane Arterial, Collector and Local Road construction and resurfacing projects.
- Paved shoulders should not be confused with road or pavement widening. It is essential that edge line striping be placed at the previous pavement edge.
- 4. The maximum paved shoulder width is to be 8 ft. It is not intended to remove and reset guardrail to achieve the maximum width. Variable widths are to be considered where predominately narrow shoulders have wide sections 500 ft. or greater in length. The width transition should be achieved at a taper rate based on average driving speed for the area (speed:1). Any remaining shoulder width, outside the 8 ft. paved width, is to be stabilized and existing shoulder aggregate can be used for this purpose.
- Narrow shoulders are to be paved in accordance with the TYPICAL SECTIONS AND RELATED DETAILS, dated 2000, page 11, Resurfacing Roadway With Narrow Shoulders.

One of the most important recent developments affecting the bicycle/pedestrian situation has been the Governor's order for the WVDOH to pave the shoulders when work is being performed on the roadways.





This new emphasis on bicycle/pedestrian issues by the WVDOT has led to several initiatives:



The first initiative to be developed in reaction to the League of American Bicyclists' survey was a statewide map of bicycling routes on the state highway system.

This map is being developed to assist West Virginia citizens and tourists from out of state that wish to bicycle in West Virginia using the state road system.



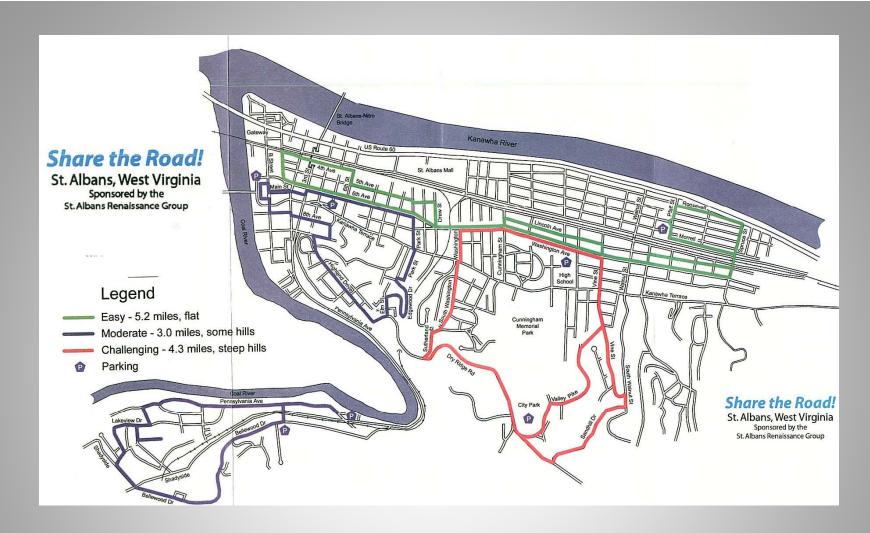
It is envisioned to contain several categories of routes.



The first category is Tier I cross-state routes. We get many inquiries from out-of-state bicyclists on how to cross West Virginia. This tier of bicycle routes will address that need for the traveling public.



The second category is Tier II, or recreational rides. These ride may encompass several counties, but are basically recreational in purpose. We are already in contact with several bike clubs/ individuals who are providing information on their favorite rides.



The third category is Tier III.
These routes are designated bicycle routes in municipalities.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodation	
Date:	
State Project Number:	
Federal Project Number:	
Project Title:	
*Urbanized	Mileage
*Rural	Mileage
*Designer shall consider continuity of pedestrian walkway facilities where classification changes from urban to rural in relatively short distances. (D. 813)	
Project Cost:	
Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodation Cost	
Estimated classification of the majority of bicyclists using this proposed accommodation:	
A., B. or C. or combination of A., B. or C.	
Comments	
Classification of Roadway	
Category I	Mileage
Category II	Mileage
Accommodation method:	
Designation as Bikeway/Bicycle Route	
Bicycle Lane(s)	
Ricycle/Shared Use Path	

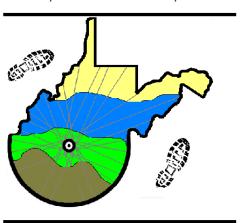
Federal code Title 23 USC 217 states: "Bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways shall be considered, where appropriate, in conjunction with all new construction and reconstruction of transportation facilities..."

To record that consideration process, the WVDOH is developing a form for design engineers/ project managers that will provide a lasting record of the decision-making process for bicycle/ pedestrian accommodation.

A group E-mail has been set up as well to inform the interested parties of bicycle/pedestrian developments and solicit comments from the public on bicycle/pedestrian activity that could affect WVDOH projects.

<u>WEST VIRGINIA</u> WHEELS AND HEELS:

A Statewide Plan for Accommodation of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation



West Virginia Department of Transportation Division of Highways Program Planning and Administration Division

Revised: August 09

The WVDOT is also allocating resources to develop a new bicycle/pedestrian plan. The previous plan, dated 1997, was a good effort, but dated. The new plan will attempt a "snapshot" of where the WVDOT is today and what directions it wants to move in the coming years. This plan is being developed using information from both planning organizations and citizen's groups across the state.



The planning and mapping efforts are also leading to discussions within the WVDOT about setting up a West Virginia system of designated bike routes on the state highway system.



It is anticipated that the routes to be shown on the first edition of the WVDOT bicycle map will also be the routes initially designated.







The last exciting development to discuss today is the first bicycle/pedestrian projects to be funded with awards from the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) program. The Paul Ambrose Trail for Health in Huntington and the Little Kanawha Connector in Parkersburg has set a precedent of using CMAQ funding for urban bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. The WVDOT is pleased to have a role in these projects by utilizing this funding in a new and innovative way.



My time is about up....





Thank you...