



# AASHTO

## Ad Hoc Task Force on US Bicycle Routes

**Presentation for AASHTO Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering**

**June 2004**



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# History Of US Bike Routes

- **Initial concept of transcontinental bicycle routes established in 1970s**
- **M1-9 route marker added to 1978 MUTCD**
- **First AASHTO policy on US Numbered Bike Routes developed in 1979**
- **Current AASHTO policy in place since 1982**
  - similar to AASHTO US Highway policy

# History Of US Bike Routes

- **Two US numbered routes established by state DOTs & AASHTO in 1982**
    - **76 - Illinois to Virginia**
    - **1 - North Carolina to Virginia**
- ...but no new routes or extensions established since 1982

# Partners

- **AASHTO**
- **States**
- **County and local agencies**
- **National & regional bicycle route organizations**

# AASHTO

- **“Owners” of the US Bicycle Route system**
- **US Bicycle Routes are administered by AASHTO through same committees and processes as the US Highway System**



# State and Local Agencies

- **Routes may follow roads under varying jurisdictions**
  - State
  - County
  - Local / municipal
    - Intergovernmental agreements may be needed
- **State DOTs will need to serve as liaisons with AASHTO**

# **Bicycle Route Organizations**

- **Adventure Cycling Association**
- **East Coast Greenways**
- **Mississippi River Trail**
- ... and others
- **These organizations perform a role similar to the one filled by national auto trail associations in the 1920s prior to the US Highway System**

# Recent Developments

- **March 2003 - meeting at US DOT**
  - FHWA, AASHTO, Adventure Cycling, East Coast Greenway, and state DOT representatives
- **June 2003 - AASHTO Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering meeting**
  - State traffic engineers drafted a resolution endorsing the expansion of the US Bicycle Route Network

# AASHTO Resolution

- **WHEREAS**, Thousands of bicyclists every year engage in multi-state and long-distance bicycle travel; and
- **WHEREAS**, AASHTO has an established policy on the designation of US Bicycle Routes; and
- **WHEREAS**, A number of US Bicycle Routes have been established by several States in accordance with this policy; and
- **WHEREAS**, The establishment and signing of US Bicycle Routes provides important route guidance for bicycle travel; and
- **WHEREAS**, US Bicycle Routes can provide tourism and economic development opportunities for States and local jurisdictions; and
- **WHEREAS**, National and regional bicycle route organizations for over two decades have spent considerable effort in researching, mapping, and developing networks of continuous national routes for bicycle travel for over two decades; now therefore be it
- **RESOLVED**, That the AASHTO Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering will work in partnership with the AASHTO Task Force on Nonmotorized Transportation and national and regional bicycle route organizations to encourage the establishment and extension of US Bicycle Routes; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, That the AASHTO Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering will work in partnership with the AASHTO Special Committee on Route Numbering in reviewing and recommending updates and changes to AASHTO's policy on US Bicycle Routes; and finally be it
- **RESOLVED**, That the AASHTO Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering recommends adoption of this Resolution by the AASHTO Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH).
- **Approved by the AASHTO Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH) on September 6, 2003.**

# Recent Developments

- **September 2003 - AASHTO Task Force on Nonmotorized Transportation meeting**
  - State coordinators are very receptive to concept
- **March 2004 - National Bike Summit**
  - Meetings with AASHTO, route organizations
- **May 2004 - Creation of *ad hoc* Task Force**
  - Development of action plan
  - Recruitment of members
- **June 2004 - AASHTO SCOTE meeting**
  - ...the ball is rolling!

# Ad Hoc Task Force

- **Vision**
  - To encourage the development of a coordinated system of US Bicycle Routes across the country
- **Charge**
  - To develop a recommended national systems-level or corridor-level plan for use by the State DOTs in designating potential future US Bicycle Routes

# Task Force Members

- **Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering**
  - Tim Crouch, Iowa
  - Wes Dean, Mississippi
  - Ed Fischer, Oregon
  - Barry Warhoftig, West Virginia
- **Subcommittee on Design**
  - **Task Force on Geometric Design**
    - Ken Briggs, Maryland
    - ~~Wayne Kinder, Nevada~~
  - **Joint Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation**
    - John Balicki, Maine
    - David Bachman, Pennsylvania

# Task Force Members

- **External Members**
  - **Adventure Cycling Association**
    - Tom Robertson
  - **East Coast Greenway**
    - Karen Votava
  - **Mississippi River Trail**
    - Pat Nunnally
- **AASHTO Liaison**
  - Jim McDonnell

# Task Force Plan

- **Collect, compile, and review information on existing and proposed multi-state bicycle routes**
- **Designated by:**
  - **States**
  - **Local jurisdictions**
  - **Route organizations**
    - Adventure Cycling
    - East Coast Greenway
    - Mississippi River Trail
    - others?

# Task Force Plan

- **Develop recommended corridors to comprise a logical national system of bicycle routes**
- **Create US Bicycle Route Corridor Plan**
  - Selection of specific paths, roads and highways will be left to each State DOT
  - Corridor plan will be used as the basis to propose the designation of coordinated bicycle routes through multiple states

# Task Force Plan

- **Develop logical system of designations for US Bicycle Routes**
- **Assign appropriate designations to each corridor**
- **Designation system should include the opportunity for future expansion**

# Task Force Plan

- **Produce map of draft US Bicycle Route Corridor Plan**
- **Distribute draft Corridor Plan for review**
  - AASHTO Joint Task Force on Nonmotorized Transportation
  - AASHTO Subcommittee on Design
  - AASHTO Subcommittee on Traffic Engineering
- **Comments on Corridor Plan will be reviewed and resolved by task force**

# **Task Force Plan**

- **Forward revised draft Corridor Plan for review by Standing Committee on Highways**
- **Endorsement by SCOH as "official corridor plan" for US Bicycle Routes**
- **State DOTs use US Bicycle Route Corridor Plan in proposing designation of roads and highways as part of interconnected system of US Bicycle Routes**

# Task Force Schedule

- **May 2004**
  - Assemble task force members (completed)
- **June 2004**
  - Begin information collection
  - Solicit information from AASHTO committees
  - Present task force info to SCOTE in Juneau
- **July 2004**
  - Continue data collection
- **August 2004**
  - Begin compiling data

# Task Force Schedule

- **September 2004**
  - Continue compiling data
  - Update JTCNMT on progress in Port Angeles
- **October 2004**
  - Begin map creation
- **November 2004**
  - Draft map for review
- **December 2004**
  - Review draft map
- **January 2005**
  - Begin route evaluation

# Task Force Schedule

- **February 2005**
  - Continue route evaluation
- **March 2005**
  - Preliminary recommendations on routes
- **April 2005**
  - Review route recommendations
- **May 2005**
  - Develop route designations
- **June 2005**
  - Draft map of route designations
  - Present to SCOTE for review

# Task Force Schedule

- **September 2005**
  - Refine map of route designations
  - Present to JTCNMT for review
- **November 2005**
  - Final map to SCOH
- **Spring 2006**
  - Approval by Special Committee on Route Numbering
  - Approval by AASHTO Executive Board

# MUTCD Changes

- **Revised M1-9 sign design**
  - Emphasizes bicycle symbol
  - Better accommodates 3-digit or lettered routes
  - Approved by NCUTCD January 2004



**Old M1-9**



**New M1-9**

# MUTCD Changes

- **Revise wording in MUTCD (Section 9B.20)**
- **Emphasize importance of coordinating multi-state route plans and applications through the AASHTO US Bicycle Route System**
  - Approved by NCUTCD January 2004

# What Happens Next?

- **FHWA rulemaking on M1-9, Part 9 changes**
- **Coordination between route organizations, AASHTO, and local jurisdictions on implementation**
- **Coordinated application to AASHTO by DOTs for routes across multiple states**
- **AASHTO review and approval of applications**
- **Sign installation by state DOTs and/or local agencies**

# What Happens Next?

**...many happy bicyclists following these routes across the United States**

