

Be safe when you ride

Wear a helmet.

Helmets save lives. The Massachusetts General Law states, "any person 16 years of age or younger operating a bicycle or being carried as a passenger on a bicycle on a public way, bicycle path or on any other public right-of-way shall wear a helmet." [Mass. General Law (M.G.L.) Chapter 85 Section 11B(2)]

Use a light and reflectors when riding at night.

When riding at night, the state law requires that bicycles must be equipped with a white light on the front, and a red light or red reflector in the rear that are visible from 500 feet. The bicycle or bicyclist must also be equipped with reflectors on each pedal or around each ankle that are visible from 600 feet. [M.G.L. Chapter 85 Section 11B (8) and (9)].

Follow the rules of the road for bicyclists.

- Ride right with the flow of traffic;
- Ride single file;
- Signal using either hand to alert motorist when stopping or turning (see M.G.L. Chapter 85 Section 11B);
- Look in all directions, before turning or merging;
- Ride in a predictable, straight line;
- Merge and turn as if you were driving a motor vehicle;
- Use your voice or a bell to alert pedestrians;
- Stay alert for vehicles coming out of driveways and side streets, and for people sitting in parked cars who may open a door; and
- Avoid the "right hook" (when a motorist who passes a cyclist on the left and turns right into the bike's path). Passing stopped or slow-moving cars on the right side places you in a driver's blind spot. Ride far enough into the lane to avoid riding in a driver's blind spot and parked cars.

Bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks outside of business districts when it is in the interest of safety, unless otherwise directed by a local ordinance.

Are you ready to ride? Before each ride:

- Check your brakes;
- Make sure your wheels are not loose;
- Secure any loose clothing with clips, velcro straps, or by tucking the cuff into your socks. Loose pant legs can get caught in bicycle spokes and gears;
- Use a secure bicycle luggage carrier to transport your belongings. Never try to hold packages in your hand while biking; and
- Be alert and do not wear headphones.



Teach children safe bicycling habits.

- Teach children to stop and look before coming out of a driveway, and to walk their bicycles across an intersection.
- Do not allow children to ride in traffic until they know the rules of the road.
- Never let children "play" with bicycles in the street.
- Always wear a helmet.



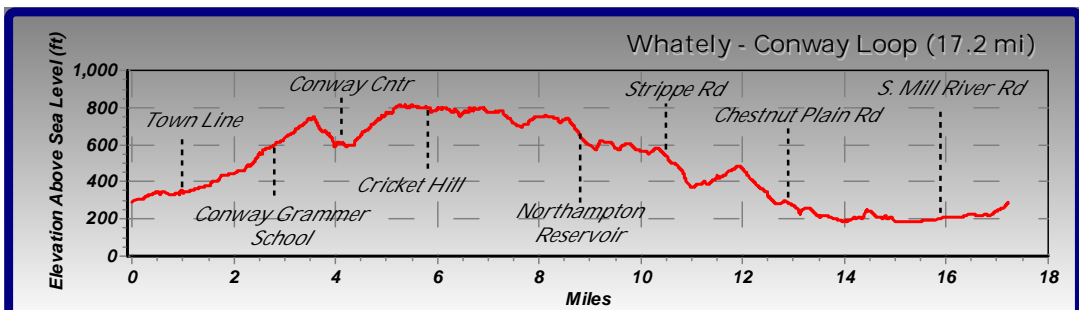
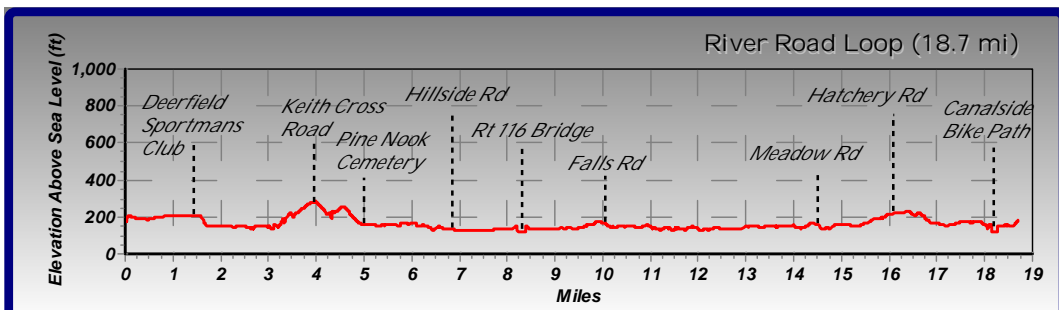
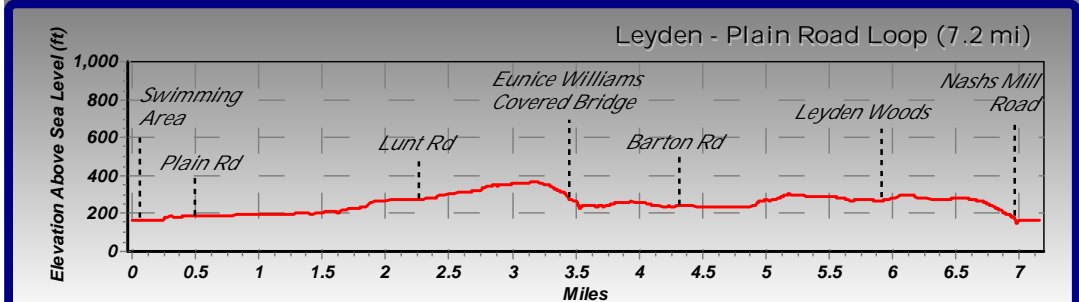
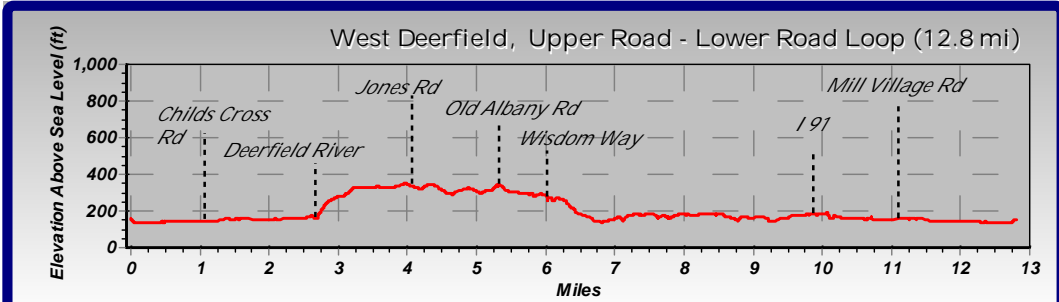
Central Franklin County Bikeway Routes

Franklin County is located in northwestern Massachusetts. It is the most rural county in Massachusetts, and is bordered by Vermont and New Hampshire to the north, Berkshire County to the west, Hampshire County to the south, and Worcester County to the east. Franklin County is a scenic place for bicycling. There are picturesque natural landscapes which consist of forests, hills, river valleys and vast areas of farmland.

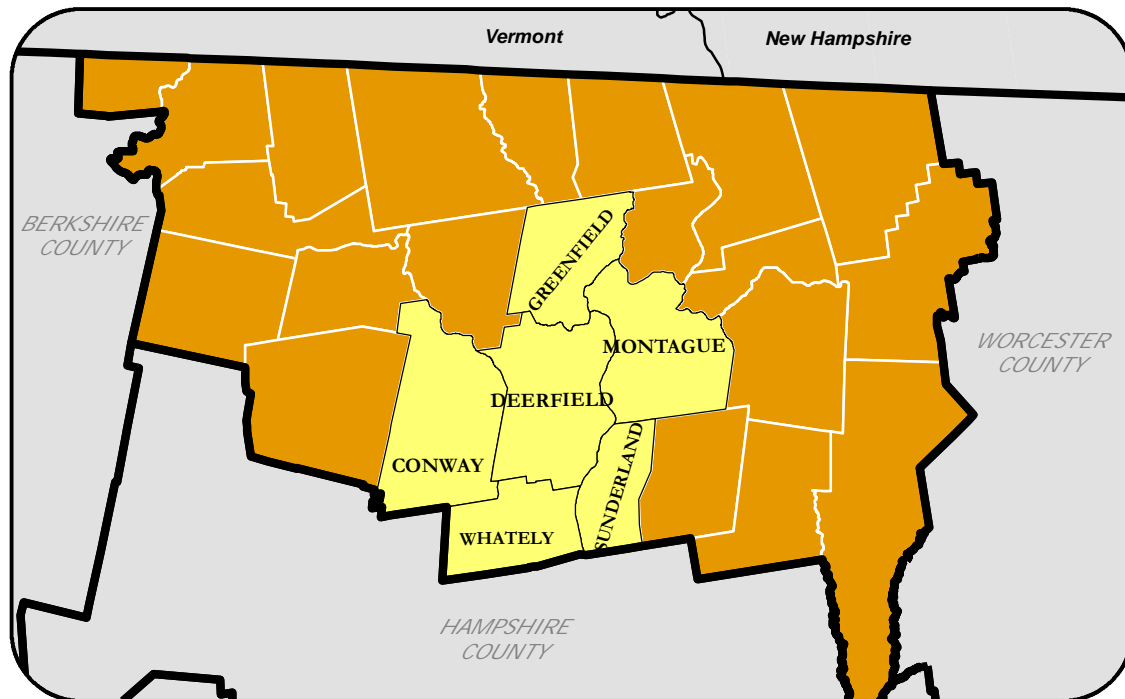
This Central Franklin County Bikeway Routes Map is part of a series of maps for the county which are intended to provide preferred routes for bicycling. This map consists of a series of shared roadway routes in which bicyclists travel with the flow of motor vehicle traffic in a shoulder or breakdown lane of the road. These routes may not be suitable for novice or less experienced bicyclists. It is important that all bicyclists consider their riding abilities when choosing the best route to ride. In order to assist bicyclists in determining which of the routes would be best suited to their abilities the narrative descriptions of the rides have been ranked as "novice", "intermediate" or "advanced". The map also contains information on the distance and elevation profile for each route.



Bike Route Distance and Elevation Profiles



Towns on the Central County Bikeway Map



The Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the cities and towns over whose roads you will travel, and the agencies and groups listed on this map are not responsible for your personal safety and in no manner certify the safety of these routes for use by bicyclists. These roads are suggested only as more suitable than others for bicycle travel. All users assume full responsibility for their own safety. This map includes roads that may be private. Please respect the rights of landowners. This map was prepared in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the US Department of Transportation under contract number 57373.

Other sources for bicycling in Franklin County and Massachusetts include: Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, enjoytheridebybike.com, MassGIS, MassDOT, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and The Franklin Regional Council of Governments www.frcog.org



For more information on bicycling in Franklin County please visit: www.enjoytheridebybike.com & www.frcog.org

