Western 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.

The Western Franklin County Bikeway Routes Map is a part of a series of maps for the county which are intended to provide potential 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 routes have been ranked as "novice", "intermediate", or "advanced". The map contains information on the distance and elevation profile for each route.

**Worcester County Greenway Connector (30.0 mi)**

- Map showing the route of the Worcester County Greenway Connector.

**Backlund - Ashfield Loop (34.7 mi)**

- Map showing the route of the Backlund - Ashfield Loop.

**Shelburne - Vermont Connector (33.5 mi)**

- Map showing the route of the Shelburne - Vermont Connector.

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**Be safe when you ride**

- Wear a helmet.
- Always wear a helmet. The Massachusetts General Law states: “any person, 16 years of age or younger operating a bicycle or being carried a passenger on a bicycle on a public way, bicycle path or on any other public right-of-way shall wear a helmet.” (Mass. Gen. Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 90 S. 1131a.

- Use a light and reflector when riding at night.

- When riding at night, the law requires that bicyclists wear a head or body light and a reflector on any article of clothing which are visible 500 feet.

**Are you ready to ride? Before each ride:**

- Check your brakes:
  - Make sure your brakes are not loose.
  - Secure any loose clothing with clips.
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- Use a mirror:
  - Use a leisure bicycle mirror or your hand, while cycling, and:

- Be smart and keep your head:
  - Keep your head up.
  - Keep your head up.

**Towns on the Western Franklin County Bike Map**

- Map showing the towns located in Western Franklin County.

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**Teach children safe bicycling habits**

- Teach children to stop and look before coming out of a driveway.
- Teach children not to ride in traffic until they have the rules of the road.

- Never let children "play" with bicycles in the street.
- Always wear a helmet.