



# Bedford Friends of the Minuteman Bikeway

## Winter 2017 Newsletter

### Highlights:

- ***Minuteman Bikeway Extension Project to Concord: Status and projected construction date***
- *Bike Safety Classes in Bedford Schools*
- *New Bicycle Infrastructure in Bedford*
- *Monday AM group bike rides from the COA*
- *Useful Bedford Bike Maps*

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### Important events coming up - your 'votes' will be helpful

- **Public Review of Minuteman Bikeway extension design, Spring 2017**

The project to extend our Minuteman Bikeway 2.2 miles out to West Bedford to the Concord Town line will pass a major milestone this spring. MassDOT (state transportation agency) will host (exact date TBD) a public review of the detailed design. Depending on funding availability, **construction could be begin as early as 2019!** The Town has been responsible for design costs. State and Federal transportation funds will cover the construction. The new design includes our recommendations for a sidepath instead of an on-road segment for Railroad Ave., and an underpass for the Concord Rd (wide, 40 mph traffic) crossing.

### Support the project by signing our on-line support letter to MassDOT:

[Massdot-letter-of-support-for-Bedford-Minuteman-Bikeway-extension](#)

- **Annual Town Meeting, March 27, 2017: Local Control of Speed Limits**

The Town will vote on an article granting the Selectmen the ability to set lower speed limits for roads and neighborhoods to address safety concerns. A law passed last year by the State Legislation enabled this new local control.

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### Bicycle Safety Classes at the Middle School

Do you have students in the Bedford Schools? Would you like to see bicycle safety classes as part of the phys ed program where students learn basic mechanical safety checks, rules of the road, bike path etiquette, and essential bicycle skills? If interested, send us an email at [BedfordBike@gmail.com](mailto:BedfordBike@gmail.com), for additional information.

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## Monday 10 AM Group Rides For Seniors From the COA (Town Center)

(expected to begin late March)

Rides are 15-20 miles long, depending on the preference of the riders. You should be able to maintain an average pace (including hills) of at least 10mph, and have a multi-speed bike in good condition. We may spend some time on busy roads, so you should be comfortable riding with traffic. After the ride have coffee and snacks at the COA.

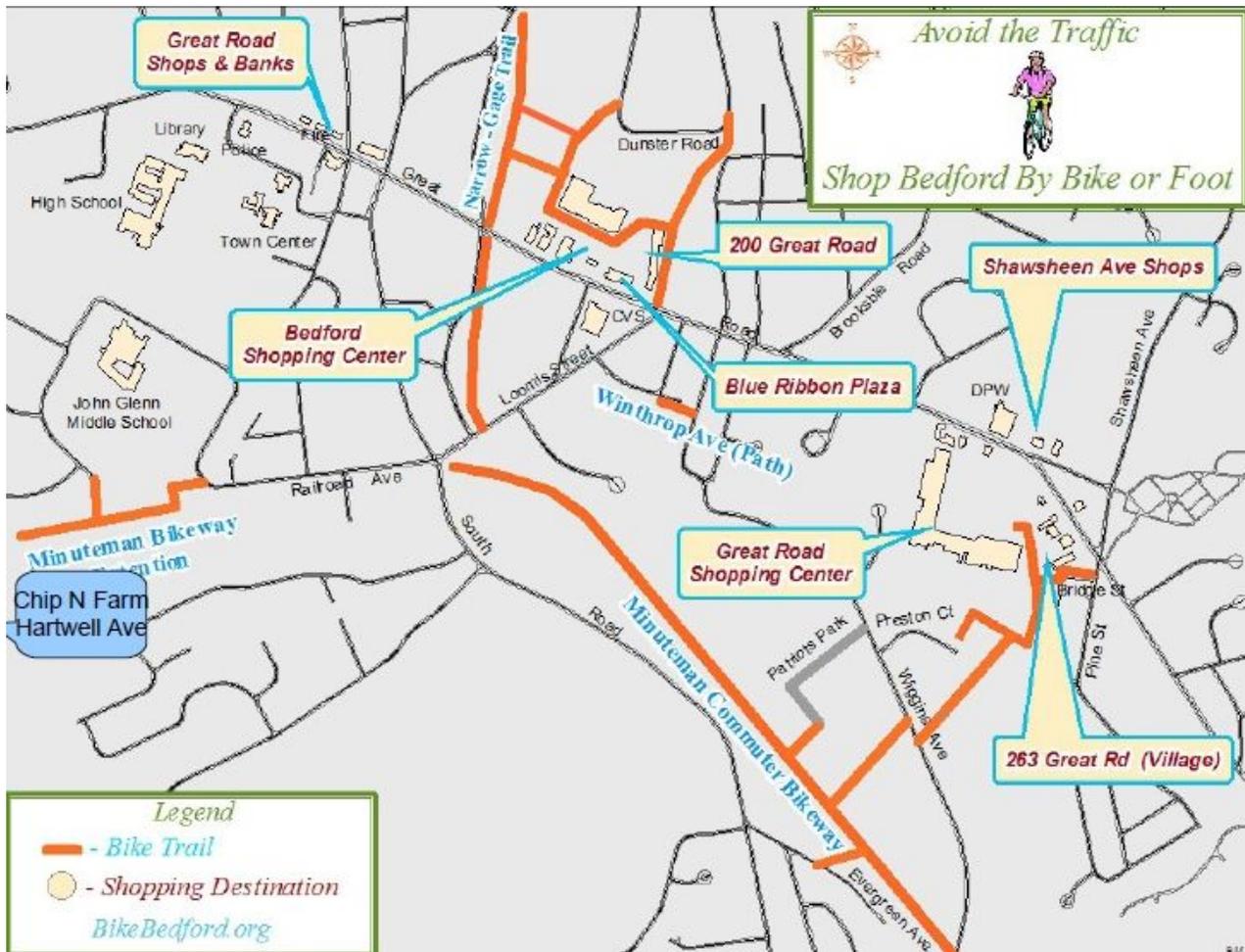
If you would like more information or to be put on the list to be notified of cancellations, email ride leader Jack Donohue at [jmdonohue@alum.mit.edu](mailto:jmdonohue@alum.mit.edu) or contact the COA.

**Want to ride but need a beginner refresher ride and a basic bike mechanical check?**

Contact the COA at 781-275-6825 and sign up for the Spring Beginner Bike Refresher class.

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### Shop Bedford by Bike Map



Would you like to patronize (shopping, eating, errands) Great Rd businesses but biking on Great Rd is too uncomfortable? Look at our "Shop Bedford by Bike Map" put together by our volunteers which shows the numerous walkable and bikeable paths into the shopping areas avoiding Great Rd. Please respect any signage posted by private property owners.

## Local Updates

### Great Road 'Master Plan' workshop hosted by Planning Board

The well attended workshop (March 4) began with an overview of the many zoning related issues that affect the 'look and feel' of our Great Rd. Attendees then broke into groups to discuss the issues and vote on what features they want to see. Every group included **better bicycle accommodation and connectivity on Great Rd** as a high priority. Bike lanes, connections to the bike paths, and safe bike and pedestrian connectivity between parking lots were common suggestions.

## Regional and State Updates

- **State Bike Lane Protection Bill** signed into law. It prohibits motor vehicles parking or obstructing bike lanes - Thanks MassBike for your advocacy on this!
- **3.7 mile extension of Cape Cod Rail Trail** connecting Yarmouth to the Dennis Trail Head.
- **Arlington**, Oct 17, approved a **bike repair stand** for the Minuteman Bikeway near the Mystic St. intersection.
- The Arlington Bike Committee is organizing a **Minuteman Bikeway 25 Year Anniversary event (Fall, 2017)** with help from the Bedford and Lexington Friends of the Bikeway.
- MassBike executive director, Richard Fries, a resident of **Lexington**, joined other Lexington bicyclists in advocating for better bicycle infrastructure in Lexington following the fatal crash of resident Bernard Lavins last fall in Porter Sq.
- **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail** - Phase 2 construction began in Acton. Eventually our MM Bikeway will connect with the BFRT in Concord. Full updates at [BruceFreemanRailTrail](#)

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## Bedford Bicycling Year 2016 in Review

### New Bicycle Infrastructure in Town

- Sharrows: South Rd
- Sharrows: Railroad Ave
- Bike Lane: Loomis Ave
- Public Bike Repair Stand @ Depot Park

[On-line Map of Existing Bed-Lex-Arl Bicycle Infrastructure](#)

(toggle the 'view' options to see planned vs existing infrastructure)

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### Great Road to Middle School bike lanes/sidepath

Seven years ago the Bedford Friends of the MM Bikeway joined with Principal Ackerman (Job Lane) to initiate the school's participation in the State's new Safe Routes to School (**SRTS**) program. With help from parents and town officials, the program was eventually extended to Davis and John Glenn (JGMS) schools, with twice-a-year walking and bicycling events.

As an incentive and reward for Bedford's award-winning program, the State funded a much needed 'safe route' from Great Rd to JGMS. It will double the existing bike lanes on Great Rd, provide a signalized crossing at Mudge Way, crosswalks for the playground and library, and an improved path from BHS to JGMS. Surveying has begun. Construction to occur once school ends.

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Your comments and inputs are always welcomed. Email to **BedfordBike@gmail.com**

Donations to our non-profit 501(c3) organization to support our events and bicycle programs welcomed:  
Yearly membership is \$10. Make out checks to:

**Bedford Friends of the Minuteman Bikeway**  
c/o **Laurie Gleason (treasurer)**  
**10 Lido Ln**  
**Bedford MA, 01730**

Special thanks to our financial and 'serviceable bike' donors this year.

