



Bedford Friends of the Minuteman Bikeway

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Highlights:

- **Bay State Bike Week May 13-21: Log your trips with our Bedford Team!**
- **Bike Helmet and Safety Skills Day, June 3**
- **Easy bike mechanical check: ABC Quick Check (what to do on a rainy day)**
- **New Mileage Signage on Bike Path**
- **Minuteman Bikeway Extension Project to Concord: Status Update**



State Bike (9 day) Week: May 13 to May 21

Everyone is encouraged to get out and use a bike for fitness, shopping, an errand, to get to work or school, or just for fun during **Bay State Bike Week**.

Each year Bedford has a friendly competition with our two sister Minuteman Towns - Lexington and Arlington - to see which town can get the best turnout rate. It's been very close for a couple years but last year Arlington pulled away. We're looking to change that this year with your help!

Registration and logging trips is simple (instructions below, about 5 minutes).

Your trips will automatically accumulate to Bedford's town total. People can optionally join their business or school team and compete against similar sized teams.

Instructions:

Register at <http://masscommutebicyclechallenge.org/registration-step1/>

(If you have participated in previous years, click on "login" or "recover" to skip step1)

Provide your email address; create a password for this account. Or use your Facebook account. Click "not a robot", then **Step Two**

Provide some basic info. (The organizers want to ensure they are connecting w/ all demographic groups)

"Affiliated with"

if you are a Bedford Town Committee member or employee, click on "Business"
Then in the popup [select business] window, click and scroll way down to the "Town of .." entries and select "Town of Bedford Employees". If your college or company has registered a team, you may wish to affiliate with them instead.

Everyone else should simply select "individual". Your trips will automatically accumulate to Bedford's Community total.

Logging your trips

goto <http://masscommutebicyclechallenge.org/>
at top of window, click on "LOG MILES" (login if necessary)
adjust the time, distance, and then click "ADD TRIP"

HINTs/HELP

you can log or update any of your trips at any time during the event. Simply adjust the date.
The number of participants and trips are as important as total miles in our friendly competition.

Want to avoid Great Road - check out the Friends of the Bikeway: [Shop Bedford By Bike Map](#)

Questions or comments - send an email to BedfordBike@gmail.com, c/o Terry Gleason (Bike Committee)

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Bike Helmet and Basic Skills Day



Sat., June 3, 10 - Noon, Town Center Parking Lot

An annual event sponsored by Rotary, Bedford PD, and the Bedford Friends of the Bikeway. Free bike helmets handed out and fitted. This year we are adding a 'Bike Rodeo' appropriate for all, young and old, who wish to practice basic bike skills under the supervision of our trained instructors. Proper and safe signaling, lane changes, stopping, bike clothing, lights, bike path etiquette, rules of the road, and basic mechanical check will be demonstrated and practiced. Bring your bike and enthusiasm.

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Quick Mechanical Check (or what to do on a rainy day)

Many on-line examples. This has both video and text:
<http://www.landrys.com/about/abc-quick-check-pg85.htm>

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New Minuteman Bikeway Signage

The three Minuteman Towns will be updating signage along the bikeway as part of the wayfinding improvements project (2014). Bedford is proposing more informative mileage signs rather than only 'mileage markers'.



Proposed Town Mileage Sign



Proposed Mile Marker Signs (1 - 10)



Important events coming up

- **Public Review of Great Rd Master Plan**

The Bicycle Committee as well as the Transportation Committee will advocate for better bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on Great Rd. The current design options show "Level of Service" for automobiles but fail to address the Level of Service for pedestrians and bicyclists as required by our Complete Streets Policy (2016).

- **Public Review of Minuteman Bikeway extension design, resched'ed to Fall 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. 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.

Over 400 people have signed our on-line support letter to MassDOT. Please sign if you haven't already.

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



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

(on going)

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 or contact the COA.

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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

