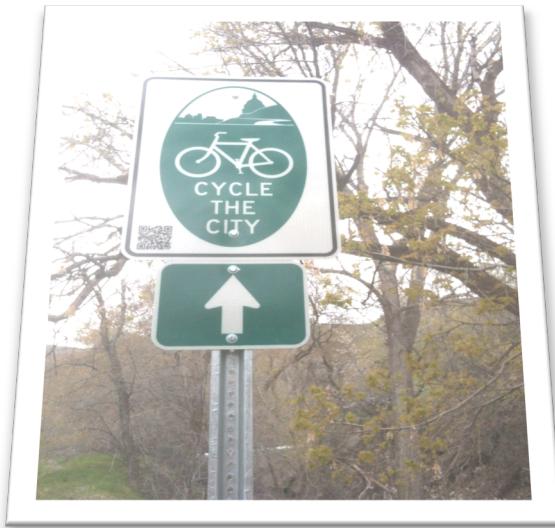


Proposal

# Utah (and National) Recreational Bike Route System



Salt Lake City's Cycle the City Route Sign

## Utah and National Recreational Bike Route System

Proposal: A network of one to several day Recreational Bike Routes in Utah and the U.S.

The routes would be geared toward recreational cyclists and would be either loop or out-and-back rides designed to be completed within 1- several days. The goal would be to provide standards for State and Municipal DOT's for route designation, signing, cataloging, accommodations, and mapping. Providing a system of routes would potentially improve conditions, usage, and safety along those routes by giving municipalities tools for designating and maintaining those routes.

Recreational riding makes up 50-73% of the market, yet bike planning is often geared towards transportation cycling. Increasing the facilities and accommodations for recreational riding will lead to more cycling for health, recreation, tourism, economic impact, and ultimately more cyclists - both recreational and commuter.

Recreational bike riding accounts for roughly 50% of all bicycle trips in the U.S. while 73% of cyclists identify themselves as recreational cyclists.

The U.S. Bike Route System, maintained by Adventure Cycling, AASHTO, and state DOT's, would dovetail with the NRBRS (<http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system/usbrs-101/>). The USBRS is a fantastic system, but is geared towards multi-day bike touring across states and the U.S. The NRBRS would target the recreational day or short tour rider.

The NRBRS would need standards and a database.

- Sign Standards – MUTCD M1-8a
- Naming Standards (e.g. Great Salt Lake Bike Route; New York State Bike Route 14)
- Wayfinding Standards
- Climb elevation and grade sign standards
- Caution signs for descents etc.
- A database (maintained by the states) of routes and maps
- Suggested accommodation improvements (e.g. water)
- Guidelines for possible route improvements and accommodations (e.g. bike lanes, rumble strips standards, system for cleaning up hazards)
- Guidelines for maintenance and inspection by municipalities along the routes (contact New York DOT for examples)



Figure 1 - photo from [cycling-challenge.com](http://cycling-challenge.com)



Figure 2 Photo from [bikestyletours.com](http://bikestyletours.com)



**Figure 3 - New York State Bike Route sign**



**Figure 4 - Various wayfinding signs (from Oakland, CA)**

## Utah – Potential starting routes

Utah has the opportunity to create a system as a test for the NRBRS.

To start, the primary need would be for sign and naming standards.

Potential Starting Routes in Utah

1. Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons
2. Salt Lake Valley Perimeter Route
3. Jordan River Parkway to East Canyon (Big Mountain Summit) and back.
4. Morgan Loop
5. Wasatch Loop Trail
6. Great Salt Lake Bike Route (3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Virginia Street to the Great Salt Lake Marina and Back in Salt Lake City).

## Salt Lake City and County Route Possibilities

Salt Lake City and County has the opportunity to create a system as a test for the NRBRS within Utah. A few potential routes worthy of designation in Salt Lake City and County (weighted toward Salt Lake City).

1. **Great Salt Lake Bike Route** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and Virginia Street to the Great Salt Lake Marina and back via 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, N. Temple, the International Center, and I-80 Frontage Road (See proposal previously submitted to SLC)
2. **Jordan River Parkway to East Canyon Summit** (Big Mountain Summit) and back along 800 S/Sunnyside to Emigration Canyon to East Canyon.
3. **Salt Lake Valley Perimeter Route** – a to be determined route circumnavigating the Salt Lake Valley (credit to Jim Byrne for the idea).
4. **Cycle the City Route** – this exists already within Salt Lake City -  
<http://bikeslc.com/WheretoRide/CycletheCity.html>
5. **Avenues Loop** - Memory Grove to Bonneville Blvd to E. Capitol Blvd and back to 11<sup>th</sup> Ave to Virginia St. to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to Memory Grove.
6. **City Creek Canyon**
7. **Jordan River Parkway/Legacy Parkway** (in place already).
8. **North Salt Lake – Salt Lake Loop**: 600 N and 200 W to Beck St. to Beck St/NSL Bike Path to Center St. to 2200 W. to 700 N to 1200 W to 300 N to 200 W and back to 600 N.
9. **Big Cottonwood Canyon**
10. **Little Cottonwood Canyon**
11. **Mill Creek Canyon**
12. **Suncrest**

## Example State Systems

1. Explore Maine by Bike - <http://www.exploremaine.org/bike/index.shtml>
  - a. And <http://www.bikemaine.org/>
2. New York State Bike Routes - <https://www.dot.ny.gov/bicycle>
3. Oregon Scenic Bikeways - <http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/BIKE/Pages/index.aspx>

## References

1. *Trips for recreation, exercise, and sports accounted for 49% of bike trips in 2009. Between 2001 and 2009, the share of all bike trips made for utilitarian reasons increased from 43% to 51%. Pucher, J., et al., 2011 - Walking and cycling in the United States, 2001-2009: Evidence from the National Household Travel Surveys, American Journal of Public Health, Supplement 1, Vol 101, No S1*
2. "However, bicycles and related products continue to appeal primarily to a recreation market in the United States. NBDA research conducted by the Bicycle Market Research Institute in 2006 reported that 73% of adult cyclists rode for recreation, 53% for fitness, 10% for commuting, 8% racing and 6% sport. The figures add up to more than 100% because some ride in multiple ways." <http://nbda.com/articles/industry-overview-2012-pg34.htm>
3. Oakland, CA Wayfinding sign guidelines -  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/PWA/o/EC/s/BicycleandPedestrianProgram/OAK024653>
4. Wayfinding sign examples -  
[http://www.google.com/search?q=bicycle+wayfinding+signs&client=safari&rls=en&source=lnms&tbo=isch&sa=X&ei=swdCUo\\_1DaPkiwKtnYGgDQ&ved=0CAkQ\\_AUoAQ](http://www.google.com/search?q=bicycle+wayfinding+signs&client=safari&rls=en&source=lnms&tbo=isch&sa=X&ei=swdCUo_1DaPkiwKtnYGgDQ&ved=0CAkQ_AUoAQ)
5. Climb signs -  
[http://www.google.com/search?q=bicycle+route+signs+galibier&client=safari&rls=en&source=lnms&tbo=isch&s\\_a=X&ei=zQ5CURrDLaOhiALQo4C4Aw&ved=0CAkQ\\_AUoAQ&biw=1973&bih=1171&dpr=1](http://www.google.com/search?q=bicycle+route+signs+galibier&client=safari&rls=en&source=lnms&tbo=isch&s_a=X&ei=zQ5CURrDLaOhiALQo4C4Aw&ved=0CAkQ_AUoAQ&biw=1973&bih=1171&dpr=1)
6. Bicycling Salt Lake City – by Gregg Bromka, Falcon Guides.
7. Road Biking Utah – Wayne Cottrell, Falcon Guides.
8. Strava Heat Maps - <http://www.strava.com/saturday-heatmap> (sample data that can show where people are riding for recreation).
9. MUTCD - <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part9/part9b.htm#figure9B04>
10. US Bike Route System - <http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system/usbrs-101/>

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