
Advocacy Column

Sue Barker, advocacy@nbwclub.org

Bike Access in North Kingstown

Ten years ago the RI Department of Transportation conducted a feasibility study of off road bike ways and on road bike routes in North Kingstown. The study concluded that an off road bikeway from Wickford Village to Quonset was not feasible and recommended painting a bike lane and placing "Share the Road" signs along Boston Neck Road. Over the years commercial development has continued along that stretch of road, resulting in more strip malls and numerous curb cuts leading from parking areas fronting the road. The study recommendations were not carried out. Bike lanes and "Share the Road" signs never appeared to improve cycling conditions along that section of Boston Neck Road between Quonset and Brown Street.

After 10 years there are new plans to improve conditions on Boston Neck Road for cyclists. In 2004 North Kingstown passed a Post Road Corridor Plan including recommendations to improve the roadway with accommodations for bicycles. Subsequently the town received a state grant to develop plans for road improvements from the RI state Police barracks to the East Greenwich town line.

A group of bicycle advocates has emerged in North Kingstown to pursue the creation of an off road bikeway along as much of that section of road as possible. The group has developed plans to improve the three mile stretch from Brown Street to Quonset. They hope to find help of other cyclists in North Kingstown to meet with town leaders and present the case for better road conditions. Anyone who wants to work on this project is invited to contact **Rick Godley** at rickgodley@cox.net

Other plans to improve bicycle accommodations around the state move along slowly.

Jamestown Bridge

The old Jamestown Bridge is still undergoing demolition. Before bicycle and pedestrian access on the new bridge will be created, another study must be completed.

Sakonnet Bridge

The contract to construct the Sakonnet Bridge will go out to bid in the near future.

(Editor's note: There is a nice graphic of the multi-use bike path planned for the new bridge on Rt. 24 on the RIDOT web page, plus a view of the lane configuration of the bridge, showing the multi-use path on the north side. Access will be from Main Rd and Evans Ave in Tiverton, and from Anthony Rd in Portsmouth. See www.dot.state.ri.us/biker/)

Downtown Providence

The Providence Bike Plan will go out to bid soon. The City of Providence hopes to start construction in the spring. The best routes for bicycle commuting will be signed. Only Broadway will have a painted bike lane identifying the road as a bike route. Signs will be placed on all other roads identified as those best for bicycle commuting. The latest Providence Bike Plan map will be on the NBW web site home page soon.

Bike-to-Work Day is in the initial planning stages and will be held on Friday, May 18th.

Obey all traffic laws, lights and signs.



STATE LAWS

RI bike laws:
www.dot.state.ri.us/bikeri

MA bike laws:
www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/index.htm
(search for "bicycle")

CT bike laws:
[www.ct.gov/dot/LIB/dot/documents/dbikes/
cover_page.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dot/LIB/dot/documents/dbikes/cover_page.pdf)

Editor's note: The following report was received too late to include in the February issue.

New Year's Day Ride

Ray LaFazia

January 1, 2007, was the 31st annual New Year's Day ride. The weather conditions kept bicycle riders to a minimum. Only five stalwarts completed the short fifteen mile ride. They were: Dianne Robillard, Rick Schwartz, Mike Miller, Rich Walsh and Craig Mace. Prior years rider turnouts were a high of 102 and a previous low of 34 riders.

Our president, Ray Foulkes, and past president, Sue Steiner, were on the scene. Other NBW faithful came to share New Year's greetings and refreshments.