
Blackstone River Bikepath Reopens: Berkeley Bridge and Martin St. Bridge open



The long-awaited re-opening of the Blackstone River Bike path, after major work on the Berkeley Bridge and the Martin Street Canal Bridge, was celebrated by a ribbon cutting ceremony Aug 28, attended by your President, Ray

Foulkes, and riders Lee Sproul and Monica Foulkes, who tested the whole route out under a clear, sunny sky. The bridges are beautiful and we are extremely happy to be able to ride this historic route, criss-crossing both the Blackstone River and the Blackstone Canal, with 19th century mill buildings (now converted to posh condos) and historic houses along the way. There's a magnificent rest stop (ice cream!) at the Visitor's Center in Cumberland, the approach to which gives you a little hill workout. This is quite a different ride from the East Bay Bike Path, gentle and surprisingly rural (not many road crossings!). Only about 7 miles long at present, but Lee and Monica rode to both ends (Manville and Lonsdale) and were pleased to see work nearing completion on both extensions—North towards Woonsocket and South towards Pawtucket. The mid-week "casually-employed" group immediately seized the opportunity to ride its length on their way to the Beef Barn in N Smithfield for lunch. Already we saw many riders and walkers taking advantage of this resource.

We applaud RI Dept of Transportation for the sensitive work done along this old river and look forward to its completion. Now if Massachusetts can only step up to RI's example and get cracking on the extension up to Worcester

George Redman Linear Park Washington Bridge



Photo: courtesy of RI Dept of Transportation

George Redman displays a plaque that was recently presented to him as work progresses on the new Washington Bridge (Rt. 195) and its linear bike and pedestrian park to be named after him, in recognition of his years of advocacy for bicycle and pedestrian access in RI. On the RI-DOT website there are photos and animations of the proposed linear park on the new bridge, which will have not only a bike path, but scenic lookouts and some of the historic bits of the old bridge. See www.dot.state.ri.us/biker/

The old Washington Bridge sidewalk has been closed since spring and until the new linear park is built riders should use the Henderson Bridge (the "Red Bridge"). For details of how to do this, see our NBW website home page: www.nbwclub.org



How to ride on NBW rides

"Car back!"

When you hear this call from riders behind you it means you should **SINGLE OUT!**
Move to the right to allow cars waiting to pass do so safely.

Inconsiderate riders who refuse to do this, ride 3 and 4 abreast—or just like to doddle around in the middle of the road—are creating hazards for the rest of us. Drivers waiting to pass a bunch of riders get frustrated and may try to pass on the wrong side of the road, or crowd close to riders as they try to squeeze past.

"On your left"

When you hear this call from riders behind you it means you should hold your line steady and be prepared to be passed, AND

If you are doddling around in the middle of the road (unfortunately we have some members with this bad habit!) instead of the recommended 3 or so feet from the right-hand side, it means you should **MOVE TO THE RIGHT**, so the passing rider doesn't have to go on the wrong side of the road to pass you, or be forced in frustration to pass you on your right — neither of which we want to see on a club ride.