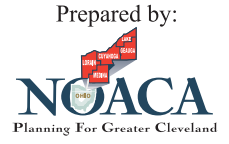


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**Legend:**

- Suitable for bicyclists having basic skills\*
- Suitable for bicyclists having intermediate skills\*
- Suitable only for experienced bicyclists\*
- Not suitable for bicyclists but there may be no alternate route
- Multi-Use path, separated Right-of-Way (suitable for all skill levels)

**Topography:**

- Hills (Arrows point uphill)
- Road with 3' wide paved shoulder
- Road with 4' or more paved shoulder
- Gravel/Dirt surface
- Interstate or Limited Access Highway
- Railroad
- County boundary
- AYH Cycle Route

**Other Features:**

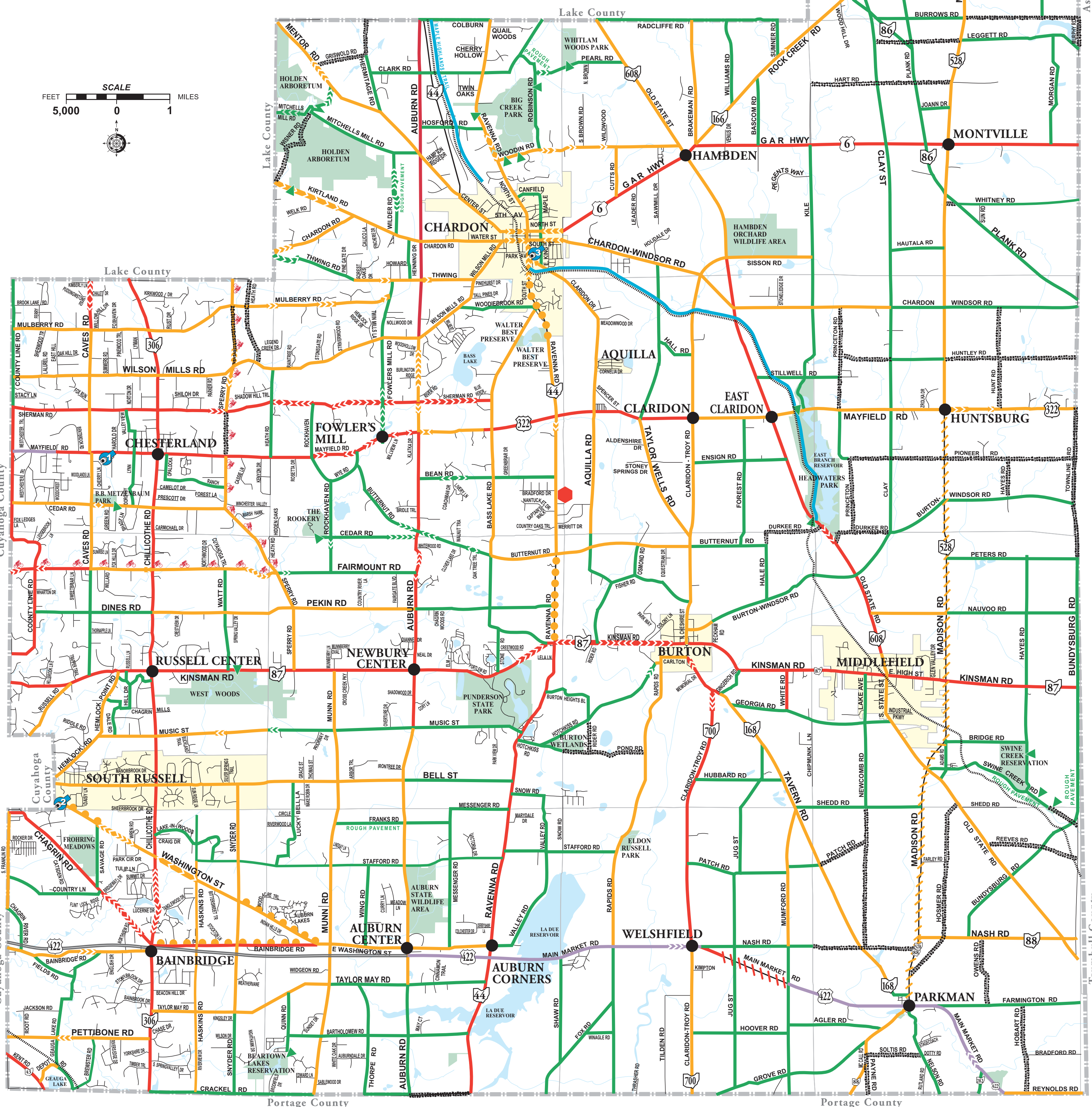
- Parks
- ▲ Park Entrance
- Cities & Villages
- Hospitals (Geauga Regional Hospital (GRHS))

\* See chart on other side for definitions of basic, intermediate and experienced.

**Disclaimer:**  
No warranty is made or intended as to the safety or fitness of the highways, roads, streets, paths or other byways for bicycle travel. These are merely suggestions and require the exercise of caution and discretion by an individual. The State of Ohio, its counties, cities and other subdivisions as well as their elected officials, officers and employees disclaim any responsibility whatsoever and shall not be liable in any manner for loss, damage, or injury occasioned by bicyclists who, of their own volition, travel along the highways, roads, streets, paths, or other byways of Ohio.

**Map Suggestions and Corrections:**  
This map will periodically be revised and reissued. If you notice any needed corrections or have suggestions for future maps, please call 216-241-2414, extension 273 or email to shanley@mpo.noaca.org and let us know.

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was financed by appropriations from the counties of and municipalities within Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation.



## SAFETY TIPS AT A GLANCE

**OBEDIENCE TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS**  
Bicycles must drive like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.

**NEVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC**  
Motorists aren't looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road.

**HAND SIGNALS**  
Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, of courtesy, and of self-protection.

**DON'T WEAVE BETWEEN PARKED CARS**  
Weaving between parked cars makes it difficult for motorists to be aware of you on the road.

**SCAN THE ROAD BEHIND**  
Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or weaving. Some riders use narrow mirrors.

**USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT**  
The law requires a white headlight (visible from at least 500 feet ahead) and a red rear reflector or taillight (visible up to 500 feet from behind).

**DON'T PASS ON THE RIGHT**  
Motorists may not look for you on the right. Learn to scan the road behind you while riding. Look back over your shoulder without weaving to the left, or use a rearview mirror.

**FOLLOW LANE MARKINGS**  
Don't turn left from the right lane. Don't go straight in a lane marked "right-turn only."

**CHOOSE THE BEST WAY TO TURN LEFT**  
There are two ways to make a left turn: (1) Like an auto signal, move into the left turn lane and turn left. (2) Like a pedestrian, go straight to the far-side crosswalk. Walk your bike across.

**AVOID ROAD HAZARDS**  
Watch out for parallel sewer grates, gutters or ditches. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

**DRESS APPROPRIATELY**  
Avoid loose fitting clothing. Wear tight, visible colors, in inclement weather dress in layers. And always wear a helmet, preferably white for greater visibility.

**KEEP BOTH HANDS READY TO BREAK**  
There are two ways to make a left turn: (1) Like an auto signal, move into the left turn lane and turn left. (2) Like a pedestrian, go straight to the far-side crosswalk. Walk your bike across.

**KEEP BIKE IN GOOD REPAIR**  
Adjust your bike to fit you and keep it working properly. Routine maintenance is simple and you can learn to do it yourself.

**NEVER RIDE WITH HEADPHONES & ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET**  
Never wear headphones while riding a bike. Always wear a helmet.

**MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS**  
Assume that other drivers do not see you until you are sure that they do. Eye contact is important with any driver who might pose a threat to your safety.

**OHIO REVISED CODE BICYCLE LAWS**

A significant number of Ohio's traffic laws apply to bicyclists as well as to motorists. In addition to these laws, bicyclists are required to adhere to some special rules. The following statutes are paraphrased. For the official version refer to the Ohio Revised Code. The portions that are underlined are changes that became effective September 15, 2006.

**4511.01 DEFINITIONS**  
Vehicle: Every device used for the purpose of transportation on a highway. Exemptions are devices powered by overhead electrical wires, or which move on stationary rails, or are powered by humans (other than a bicycle). A bicycle is a vehicle.

**4511.02 Obeying Traffic Control Devices**  
Drivers of bicycles are obligated to obey all traffic control devices, including: flagpersons, signs, pavement markings, and signal lights.

**4511.13 Signal Lights**  
The red, green and yellow signal lights apply to all vehicles including bicycles.

**4511.25 Lanes of Travel**  
A vehicle/bicycle that is proceeding at less than the prevailing and lawful speed may be driven on the right side of the roadway far enough to the right to allow passing by faster vehicles, if safe and reasonable, except when:  
1) passing another vehicle going in the same direction,  
2) making a left turn,  
3) when an obstruction exists,  
4) when driving on a roadway divided into three or more marked lanes for traffic, or  
5) when driving on a roadway for one-way traffic. (See 4511.55)

**4511.36 Turning at an Intersection**  
Right turn: make right turns as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. Left turn: driver must be as close to the right of the center line as is practicable before turning left. After passing through the intersection the vehicle shall commence travel in the lane closest to the right of the center line. When traveling on a one-way street a left turn must always be made in the extreme left-hand lane available.

**4511.39 Turning and Stop Signals**  
A bicyclist must indicate his or her intention to turn, or move left or right, by signaling at least one time one hundred feet prior to a turn.

**4511.40 Hand and Arm Signals**  
When using hand and arm signals always do so in the following manner:  
Left turn - left hand and arm extended horizontally.  
Right turn - left hand and arm extended upward or by extending the right hand and arm horizontally and to the right side of the bicycle (effective September 9, 1996).

**4511.441 Pedestrian Right of Way**  
The driver of a bicycle must yield the right of way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk.

**4511.53 Rules for Bicycles**  
A person operating a bicycle shall ride upon or beside a permanent seat and carry no more persons than the number for which it is designed and equipped. No person operating a bicycle shall carry any item which would prevent them from having at least one hand on the handle bars. The carrying of a child in a seat or trailer designed for this and firmly attached to the cycle is not prohibited.

**4511.55 Riding Bicycles**  
Every person operating a bicycle on a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, except when it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so, obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles, and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. Persons riding bicycles on a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast in a single lane, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for that purpose.

**4511.56 Signal Devices on Bicycles**  
Every bicycle must be equipped with a bell or some device, other than a siren or whistle, which would be audible at a distance of at least 100 feet distance. Every bicycle must be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street or highway.

Every bicycle when in use one-half hour before sunrise or one-half hour after sunset shall be equipped with the following:  
• A lamp, mounted on the front of the bicycle or on the operator, with a white light visible at a distance of least 500 feet to the front and 300 feet to the sides.  
• Rear red reflector visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlights on a motor vehicle.  
• Rear red light visible from at least 500 hundred feet, steady or flashing, which can also act as a reflector if it meets the above requirements.  
• Calorific front reflector.  
• Tire sidewalls must be retro-reflective or colorless, or amber reflectors may be mounted on the front wheel spokes and colorless or red reflectors mounted on rear wheel spokes. They must be visible at a distance of 600 feet from a motorist's headlights.

**4511.71 Driving on a Sidewalk**  
Bicycles are allowed on sidewalks.  
(Subject to local laws, see 4511.07). However, local authorities are not permitted to require bicycles to be operating on sidewalks.  
*Editor's note: Riding a bicycle on a sidewalk is potentially dangerous and is not recommended.*

**4513.31 Properly Secured Loads**  
No vehicle shall be driven on any highway unless such vehicle is loaded to prevent any of its load from shifting, dropping, leaking or otherwise escaping therefrom.

**BASIC BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS**

- Bicyclists are not allowed on Interstate and limited access highways in Ohio.
- Use lights when riding in the rain and at night.
- Ride single file when riding in a group.
- When riding on a narrow lane, stay far enough from the right edge to discourage vehicles from passing dangerously close in the same lane.
- When riding past parked cars, be alert for motorists opening doors or pulling out from parking spaces. Stay outside the "door zone."
- Allow extra braking distance in wet weather. Bicycle brakes function poorly when wet!
- Cross railroad tracks at a right angle and be especially cautious when tracks are wet or frosted as they are then very slippery.
- Cross bridges with iron gratings very carefully, especially when wet.
- Fasten all spare clothing, parcels or equipment securely to rack or bicycle to prevent anything from falling into a wheel.
- Lock your bike when left unattended.
- Keep tires inflated to proper pressure and bicycle in good repair.
- Ride defensively at all times. Never assume motorists know your intentions - make them clear by signals and your position in the lane.
- Wear highly visible clothing.
- Yield to pedestrians and emergency vehicles.
- Be predictable - do not surprise a motorist or pedestrian.
- Beware of sand or gravel on the road when making turns - a bicycle can easily slide out from under you on sand or gravel.
- Many motorists are unaware that bicyclists are legitimate users of the streets and highways, so ride courteously, exercise common sense and obey all traffic signs, signals and rules of the road.
- Occasionally a bicyclist will have no choice but to ride on a road or street judged unsuitable for bicyclists in order to access a suitable road/street. Exercise considerable caution when riding such roads or streets, walking your bicycle if necessary.

**MAP USAGE INFORMATION**

Welcome to the Geauga County Bicycle Transportation Map. Bicycling for transportation is fun, healthy, less expensive and non-polluting.

The purpose of this map is to provide guidance to those who want to travel by bicycle in Geauga County using the existing road system. The amount of traffic, width of lanes, availability of shoulders, etc., of the roads within the county vary greatly. Therefore, the Geauga County Bicycle Transportation Map has been designed to help bicyclists choose routes that are suited to their skill levels. Most of the routes on this map are not official bicycle routes, although a few are.

The map was created by a group of experienced bicyclists, planners, and engineers. The more bicyclists there are on the road, the safer it is for all of them, as motor vehicle drivers become more aware of them and become used to sharing the road with them.

Producing this map required gathering information on traffic levels, pavement condition and width, speed, and other factors. This information was used to categorize the main arterials and collector streets in the cities, townships and villages according to the skill levels of bicyclists. The bicyclist has the responsibility of assessing his/her own skill level from the chart displayed on this map and making decisions about the best route to choose. Most local streets and minor collectors are not depicted on this map, but due to low traffic volumes and speed they are mostly suitable for bicycling.

Note that all roads within one suitability category may have different characteristics. For example, one road judged to be suitable for those with basic bicycling skills may not have wide pavement, but the amount of traffic is very low, while another in the same category has higher traffic volumes and four-foot paved shoulders. For intermediate routes, there may be a higher volume of traffic if the curb lane is wide enough for cyclists and motorists to share. Bicyclists should be aware that at the morning and evening peak travel times traffic is heavier and may affect the suitability of a chosen route.

Before using the map, please read all of the safety tips and carefully evaluate your bicycling skills. We hope you find this map useful, and you enjoy your riding around Geauga County. Maps of Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties are also available from NOACA and many local bike shops.

**BICYCLE RESOURCE**

- **NOACA Bicycle Coordinator:**  
216-241-2414, ext. 273  
shanley@mpo.noaca.org
- **Emergencies: 911**
- **Road Problems:**  
Gauga County Sheriff: 440-286-1234 (from Chardon, Hamden, Montville, Munson, or Thompson)  
440-635-1234 from all other areas  
Gauga County Highway Department: 440-285-2222 x6300  
Gauga County Park District: 440-286-9516  
Certified Effective Cycling Instructors: Call NOACA Bike Coordinator for information
- **HubHub Custom Bicycles:**  
8005 Mayfield Road, Chesterland, Ohio  
440-729-2499
- **Mountain Road Cycles:**  
100 Industrial Parkway, Chagrin Falls, Ohio  
440-247-7662
- **Mountain Road Cycles:**  
109 South St., Chardon, Ohio  
440-279-0374

**IT IS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY!**

Hard-working NOACA bike coordinator doing field work for the map. It's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it.

**Ride safely and keep that helmet on your head!**

	BICYCLING SKILL LEVELS			
	Children & Novice Adults	Basic	Intermediate	Experienced
Limited bicycling handling skills - must devote considerable attention to keeping upright				
Comfortable on off-road bikeways				
Comfortable on roads with light traffic				
Comfortable on roads with moderate traffic				
Comfortable on roads with trucks and/or heavy traffic				
No knowledge of nor compliance with traffic laws				
Some knowledge of and compliance with traffic laws				
Fully knowledgeable of and compliant with traffic laws				
Some skill at executing defensive maneuvers				
Skilled at executing defensive maneuvers				
Comfortable "taking the lane" where necessary				
Possesses night riding skills				
Possesses wet road riding skills				

