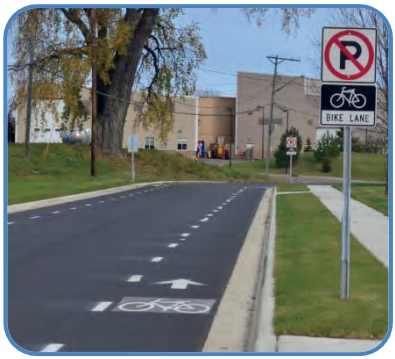
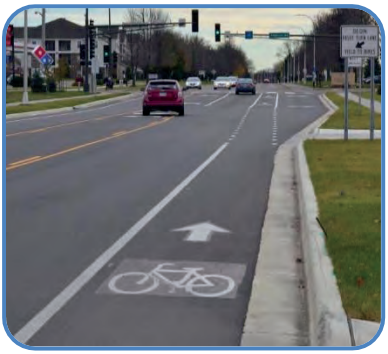
Understanding bicycle facilities in Mankato

A guide for motorists and bicyclists







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Resources
City of Mankato
Greater Mankato Bike Advocates
Minnesota Department of Transportation
National Association of City Transportation Officials
City of Harrisburg, Virginia
City of Edina, Minnesota
Institute for Transportation Research Education, North Carolina State University

The basics



Bike lanes with solid lines

These are for bikes only. Motorists should not cross into them unless turning or parking and must be sure to yield to bikes first.



Bike symbols

A bike symbol that is not on a bike lane highlights a designated bike route. Drivers may drive on them as normal, but bike symbols are a reminder to keep an eye out for bikes and share the road

Bike lanes

Bike lanes provide dedicated roadway space for bicycles to use. Bike lanes are separated from the lane used by motor vehicles by a solid white line. Bike lanes are also marked with a white bicycle symbol and arrow on the pavement and signed at regular intervals.

As a bike lane approaches an intersection or bus stop, a dashed line may be used instead of a solid white line to indicate the space is shared by motorists and bicyclists. A dashed line may also be used to stripe the bike lane through intersections.

When driving:

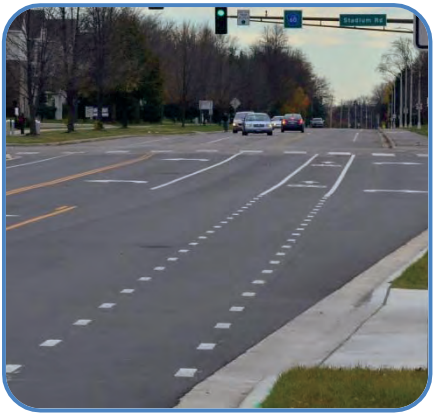
- Whenever crossing a bike lane to prepare for a turn or to park, always yield to through bicyclists.
- A bike lane is restricted to bicycle traffic, except in instances when motorists need to turn, enter or leave the roadway, or park adjacent to the bike lane where parking is permitted.
- When parking next to a bike lane, always look for approaching bicyclists before opening vehicle door.
- There is no law that requires a bicyclist to ride in a bike lane. Even on streets with bike lanes, expect to see bicyclists in other lanes.
- Do not park in a bike lane. State law prohibits parking in a bike lane unless it is signed to permit parking.

When biking:

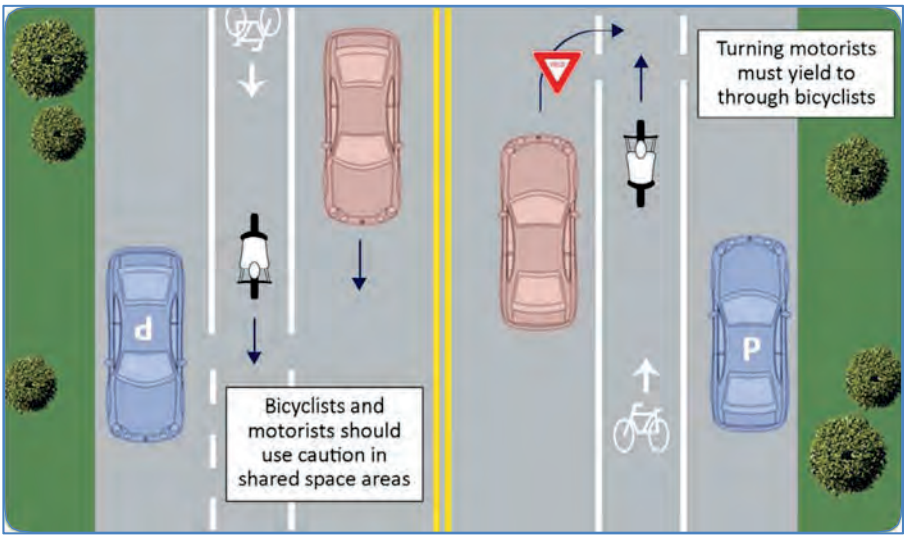
- When approaching an intersection, use caution and assume turning or merging motorists do not see you. Wait behind motorists who are in the shared spaced preparing to turn.
- Whenever you enter or exit a bike lane, make sure to look behind you, signal and yield to vehicles already in adjacent travel lanes.
- Always travel in the same direction as traffic.
- There is no law that requires bicyclists to ride in a bike lane. Use adjacent lanes to pass another bicyclist, to avoid being too close to parked cars, to avoid obstructions or unsafe conditions or to prepare for a turn.



Bike lanes are marked with solid white lines with a white bicycle symbol each block.



Approaching intersections, bike lanes are dashed to indicate a shared space between motorists and bicycle



Top: Bike lanes in Mankato. Bottom: Diagram of bicyclists and vehicles sharing the road. Photo by National Association of City Transportation Officials.

Advisory bike lanes

Advisory bike lanes are used on streets that are too narrow for dedicated bike lanes. Advisory bike lanes look like dedicated bike lanes, except a dashed line is used in place of a solid bike lane stripe. A dashed line signals to drivers that they may drive in the advisory bike lane.

Advisory bike lanes do not narrow the travel lanes or reduce the amount of roadway space that can be used by motor vehicles.

Advisory lanes bring greater awareness to the roadway as shared space and can help to reduce vehicle speeds and improve roadway safety.

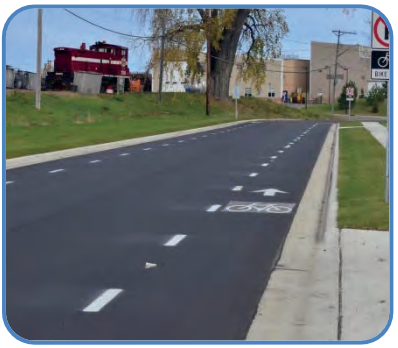
Advisory bike lanes can be found on Poplar Street in Mankato.

When driving:

- Drive as you would on any road without a center stripe, staying to the right of oncoming traffic.
- It is okay to drive in the advisory lane when a bicycle is not present.
- If a bicycle is in the advisory lane, move to the left, fully into the center area, to pass.
- If there is oncoming traffic in the center area, hang back behind the bicyclist until it is safe to pass.
- When passing, state law requires motorists to leave at least three feet of distance between their vehicle and the bicyclist.

When biking:

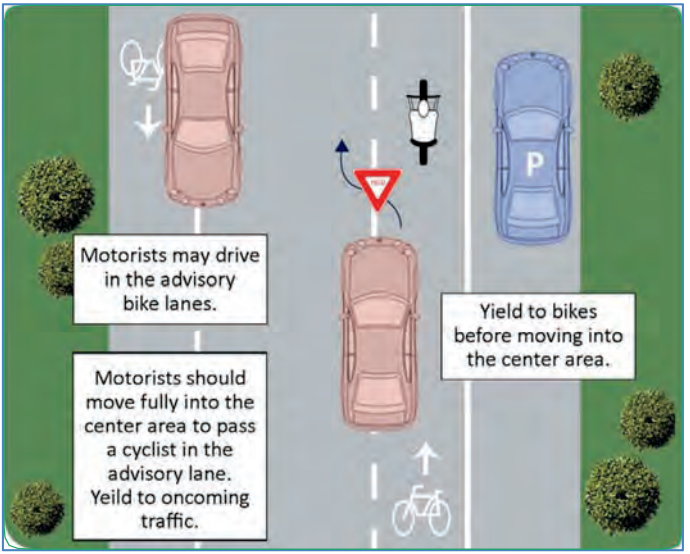
- Watch for motorists driving in or merging into the advisory lane.
- Always use caution and assume that turning or merging motor vehicles may not see you.
- When leaving the bike lane – such as to make a left turn – look behind you and signal your intentions.



Advisory bike lanes look like dedicated bike lanes, except a dashed line is used in place of a solid bike lane stripe.



Motorists may drive in the advisory bike lane. To pass a cyclist, move fully into the center area when safe.



Shared lane markings

Shared lane markings or "sharrows" (derived from "shared" and "arrows") are pavement markings used to mark a designated bike route. Placed in the travel lane, they encourage bicyclists to ride in a safe position outside of the door zone (where driver's side doors of parked cars open).

Shared lane markings include a bicycle symbol and a double chevron indicating the direction of travel. They do not designate any part of the roadway as exclusive to either motorists or bicyclists. Rather, the symbols highlight the fact that the travel lane is shared.

Shared lane markings can be found on South Front Street in Mankato and Center and Sherman streets in North Mankato.

When driving:

- Motor vehicles are permitted to drive in travel lanes where shared lane markings are present. Bicyclists may be traveling in the same lane. Travel behind them until it is safe to pass.
- Drivers are allowed to drive on or over the markings and are not restricted to driving to the left of the symbols.
- As with any street, bicyclists are allowed to ride on the road. If driving behind a bicyclist and need to pass, overtake the bicyclist at a safe speed and safe clearance. Motorists are required to give a three-foot clearance when driving alongside or passing a motorist. Often, you will need to change lanes to pass bicyclists.

When biking:

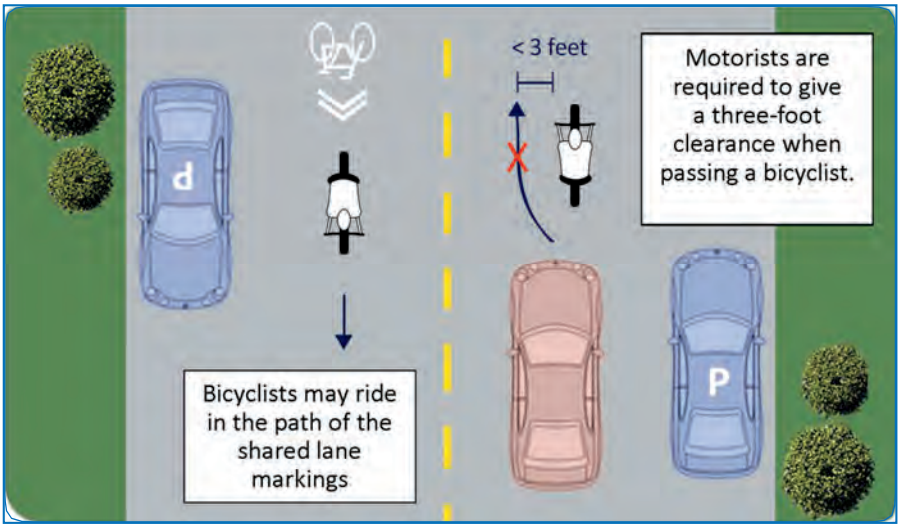
- You may, but are not required to, ride on or over shared lane markings. While markings are placed in a location to keep bicyclists out of the door zone, always ride where you feel most comfortable and safe.
- Always travel in the same direction as traffic, as indicated by the direction of the shared lane markings.



When used next to parking, shared lane markings encourage bicyclists to ride in a safe position, outside of door zone.



Shared lane markings or "sharrows" are pavement markings used to mark a designated bike route.



Top: Share the lane markings. Bottom: Diagram of bicyclists and vehicles sharing the road. Photo by National Association of City Transportation Officials.

Share the Road

"Share the Road" reminds motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians that all modes of transportation may use the roadway.

"Share the Road" may be posted in conjunction with shared lane markings, on a bike boulevard, or on a bike route without pavement markings. Where a bike lane ends, but the bike route continues, "Share the Road" may also be posted.

Although all roads in Mankato are shared, these signs communicate to motorists and cyclists that the road has been identified to encourage use by cyclists, but lacks separate bicycle facilities.

When driving:

- Be alert to bicyclists riding in the travel lane.
- If road is wide enough, share the travel lane by driving alongside the cyclist. Yield to bicyclist before making a right turn.
- If road is narrow, share the travel lane by driving behind the cyclist until there is room to pass safely.
- Motorists are required to give a three-foot clearance when driving alongside or passing a cyclist.

When biking:

- Ride in a predictable manner and be alert to the motor vehicles around you.
- Use full lane when preparing for a left turn or when conditions make it unsafe to ride to the right of motor vehicles proceeding in the same direction.
- Avoid passing motorists on the right when at or approaching an intersection. Be mindful of right turning vehicles.



Top: Share the Road markings and sign. Bottom: Diagram of bicyclists and vehicles sharing the road. Photo by National Association of City Transportation Officials.

Contra-flow bike lanes

Contra-flow bicycle lanes are bicycle lanes designed to allow bicyclists to ride in the opposite direction of motor vehicle traffic. They convert a one-way traffic street into a two-way street—one direction for motor vehicles and bikes, and the other for bikes only. Contra-flow lanes are separated with yellow center lane striping. The contra-flow design may introduce additional conflict points as motorists may not expect on-coming bicyclists.

When driving:

- A contra-flow bike lane is restricted to bicycle traffic except when you need to turn, enter or leave the roadway or park adjacent to the bike lane.
- Whenever you cross a bike lane to turn or park, always yield to bicyclists.
- When parked next to a bike lane, always look for bicyclists before opening vehicle door. To help remember to look, use right hand to open door.

When biking:

- When riding in a bike lane, always be alert for vehicle doors opening in front of you. If possible allow five feet of clearance when riding past a parked vehicle.
- As you approach an intersection, use caution and assume turning or merging motorists do not see you. Wait for motorists who are in the shared space (dotted line) waiting to turn.
- Whenever entering or exiting a bike lane, make sure to look behind you, signal and yield to vehicles already in adjacent travel lanes.
- There is no law that requires bicyclists to ride in a bike lane. Use adjacent lanes to pass another bicyclist, to avoid being too close to parked cars, to avoid obstructions, such as potholes and to prepare to turn.

An example of a contra-flow bike lane in Mankato.



Diagram of contra-flow bike lanes. Photo by National Association of City Transportation Officials.



Bike routes and way finding

A bike route is a roadway that has been signed to encourage use by cyclists.

Bike routes are identified in the city of Mankato Complete Streets Plan and Policy. Routes were selected because they provide a direct connection to key destinations, such as parks, schools or commercial areas. Routes may also connect to regional trails or bike routes in other communities.

- Bike routes may have bike lanes or other bicycle pavement markings. Bike route signs help cyclists identify that they are on a bike route.
- Bike route signs may be used with other way-finding tools to help cyclists track their location and the time and distance to destinations.











City of Mankato
Leading the way...

Bicycle or multi-use trail

A bicycle or multi-use trail is a facility that has been designed for bicycle use and constructed separately from the roadway or shoulder.

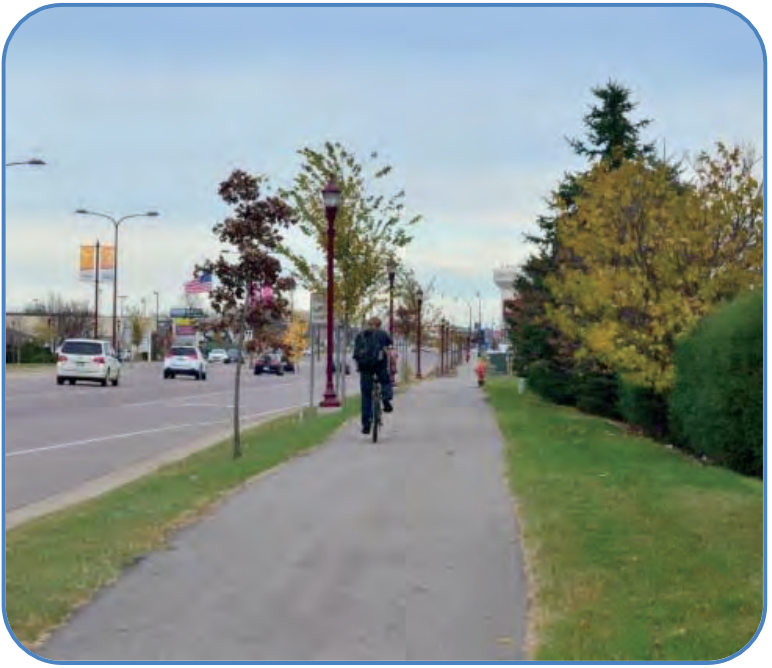
A bicycle path may be for exclusive use by bicyclists (bike trail), or it may be shared with pedestrians (multi-use).

When you drive:

- Watch for cyclists at trail crossings and intersections.

When you bike:

- Yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing.
- Give an audible signal before passing a bicyclist traveling in the same direction.
- Slow upon approach to a driveway and look for cars.
- Slow upon approach to an intersection. Yield to other vehicles in the intersection before entering roadway.
- Obey stop signs at trail crossings.



A multi-use trail in Mankato.

Bicycle parking

More than 1.5 million bicycles are stolen each year across the country.

Keep bikes safe by locking them to sturdy infrastructure every time it's left unattended in a public area.

At home, keep bike locked up or inside a locked garage.

Keep a record of your bike's serial number (found on the underside of the frame), make, model and color. If bike is stolen, contact the Mankato Department of Public Safety at 507-387-8780. The serial number will be entered into a state database used to track and recover stolen bikes.

How to lock up your bike:

- Always lock bike to sturdy, fixed infrastructure, such as a bike rack.
- Use a strong cable bike lock or U-lock.
- Place lock around bike frame or bike frame and wheel.
- Do not attach lock to wheel only, or to handlebars or seat. These are easily removed.
- Make sure lock cannot slip off either the bike or the object it's attached to.



Example of bikes in a bicycle rack.

Other facilities

Paved shoulders

The shoulder is the part of the street that is contiguous to and on the same level as the part of the street that is regularly used for vehicle travel.

A shoulder may be paved, gravel or dirt.

The shoulder is typically separated from the traveled part of the street by a solid white line, called an "edge line" or "fog line."

Paved shoulders can look a lot like bike lanes, but differ from bike lanes in some important ways:

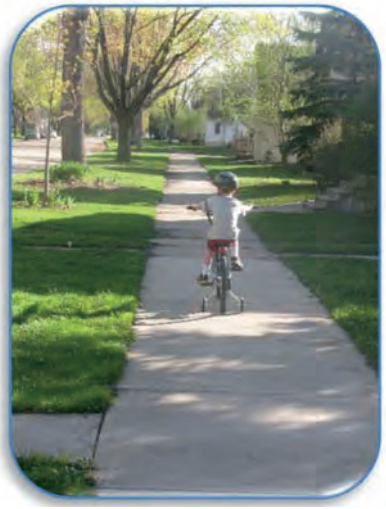
- Bike lanes have bicycle pavement markings and bike lane signs; paved shoulders do not.
- Bike lanes have been designed for cycling; paved shoulders have not.
- Parking is not permitted on bike lanes unless posted otherwise;
- Parking is permitted on paved shoulders unless posted otherwise.
- Cyclists may use the shoulder, but are not required to.

Sidewalks

Mankato City Code currently does not prohibit bicycle riding on public sidewalks, unless it has been declared and it is properly posted with signage prohibiting the use of bicycles.

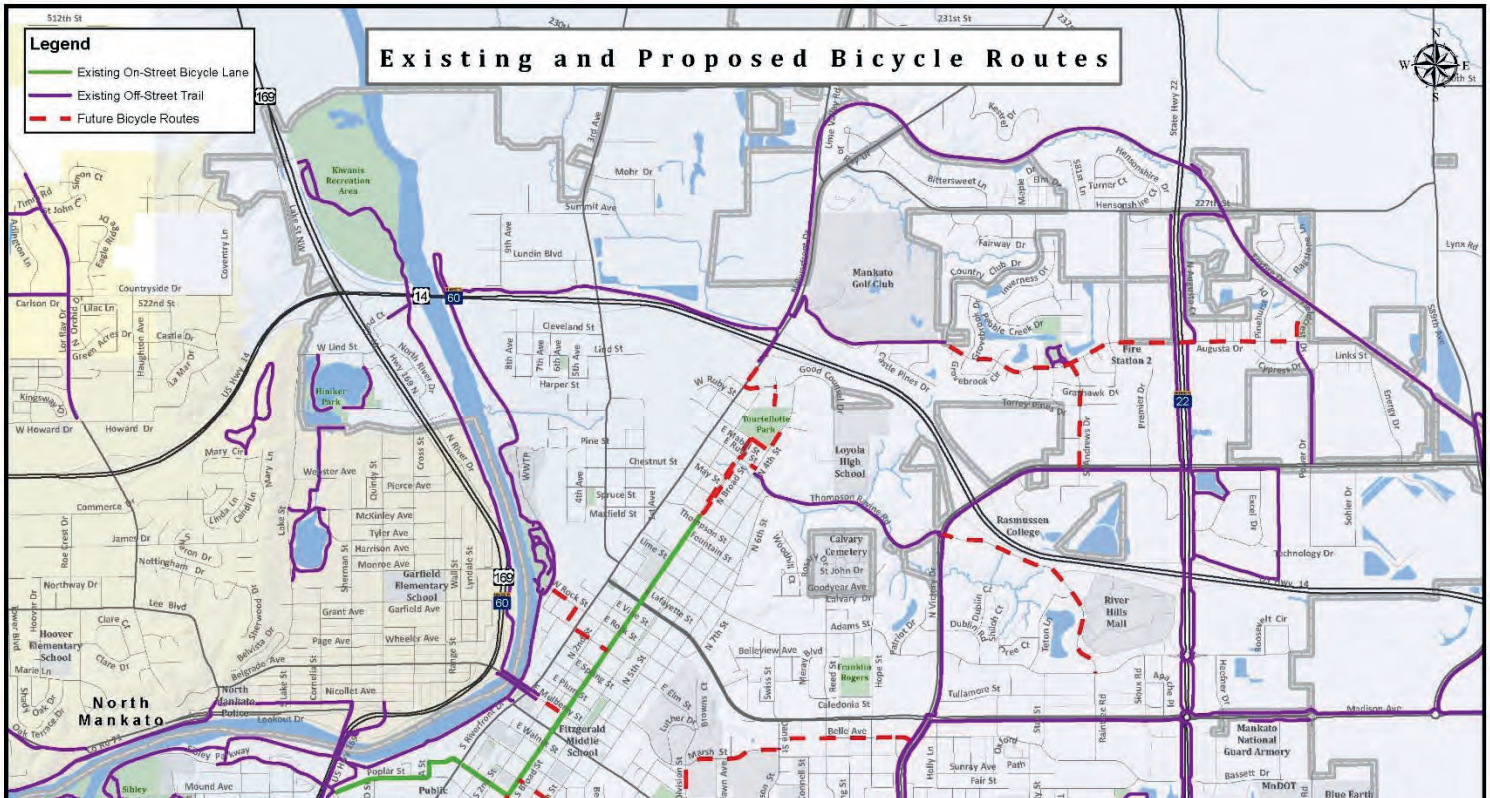


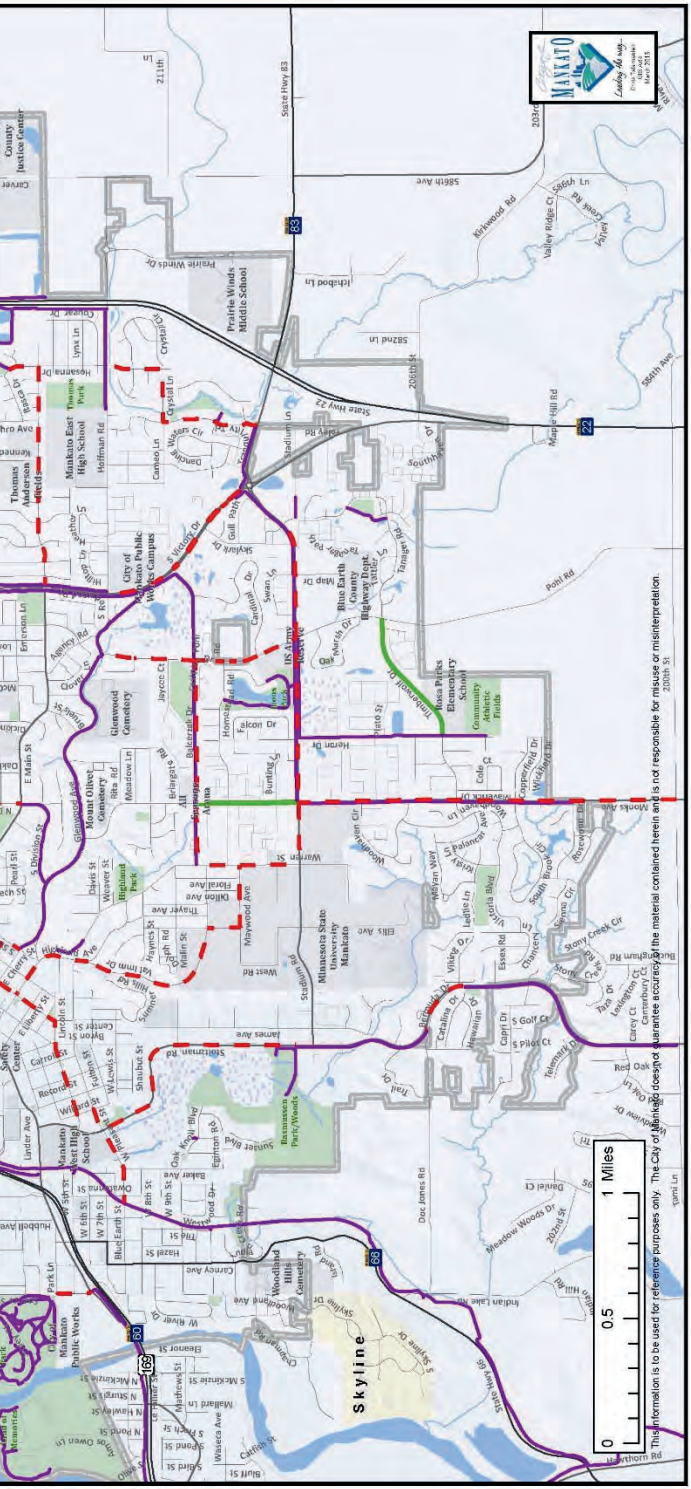
Example of a paved shoulder. Photo by Institute for Transportation Research Education, North Carolina State University.



Bicycle on a sidewalk. Photo by Katie Shabrack, Mankato.

Map


Existing and Proposed Bicycle Routes
Legend
Existing On-Street Bicycle Lane
Existing Off-Street Trail
Future Bicycle Routes
North Mankato
Kiwanis Recreation Area
Hiniker Park
Tourtellotte Park
Garfield Elementary School
Hoover Elementary School
Fitzgerald Middle School
Loyola High School
Calvary Cemetery
Mankato Golf Club
Rasmussen College
River Hills Mall
Fire Station 2
Mankato National Guard Armory
MnDOT
Blue Earth
Mohr Dr
Summit Ave
Lundin Blvd
Cleveland St
Lind St
Harper St
Pine St
Chestnut St
Maxfield St
Spruce St
Commerce St
Howard Dr
W Howard Dr
Countryside Dr
522nd St
Carlson Dr
Lilac Ln
Castle Dr
Houghton Ave
Green Acres Dr
Kingsview Dr
Mary Cir
Mary Ln
Webster Ave
Quincy St
Pierce Ave
McKinley Ave
Tyler Ave
Harrison Ave
Monroe Ave
Wall St
Lyndale St
Grant Ave
Garfield Ave
Wheeler Ave
Page Ave
Range St
Nicollet Ave
Lookout Dr
Northway Dr
Lee Blvd
Claire Ct
Claire Dr
Belvista Dr
Belgrade Ave
Nottingham Dr
Iron Dr
James Dr
Rae Crest Dr
Hoover Dr
Oak Dr
Oak Terrace Dr
Sibley Parkway
Mound Ave
Poplar St
Public
Lake St
Cross St
Riverfront Dr
S Riverfront Dr
N River Dr
North River Dr
Hwy 169 N
W Lind St
Cedar Ln
Eagle Ridge Dr
Allenton Ln
Coventry Ln
Lor Ray Dr
S Orchard Dr
La Mar Dr
US Hwy 14
Lime Creek Dr
Good Counsel Dr
Pine Pines Dr
Greenbrook Cir
Torrey Pines Dr
Grandview Dr
Grandhaven Dr
Grandhaven Ct
Grandhaven Cir
Grandhaven Ln
Grandhaven Pl
Grandhaven Way
Grandhaven Trail
Grandhaven Pkwy
Grandhaven Blvd
Grandhaven Ave


MANKATO
Leading the way
Prairie Winds Middle School
Mankato East High School
Thomas Andersen Fields
City of Mankato Public Works Campus
Glenwood Cemetery
Mount Olivet Cemetery
Highland Park
Blue Earth County Highway Dept
Rosa Parks Elementary School
Community Athletic Fields
Minnesota State University Mankato
Rasmussen Park/Woods
Mankato West High School
Woodland Hills Cemetery
Mankato Public Works
Skyline
0
0.5
1 Miles
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