

The Midtown & Downtown Bicycle Map

A Guide for Cyclists

PURPOSE/EXPLANATION OF THE MAP

Cyclists often find it challenging to select a route that is as direct as possible without sacrificing safety or comfort. This map, created by the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign with help from the Downtown Transportation Management Association, the Midtown Alliance, and many local bicyclists, highlights the best and easiest routes for bicycling around the city of Atlanta.

The map ranks streets according to the level of difficulty a cyclist can expect to encounter. Details show off-street paths, shortcuts, and steep hills. Data for the map includes input from local cyclists, posted traffic speed limits, traffic volumes, lane widths, and topography and is based on conditions during peak commuting hours.

The back of the map contains tips and information about bicycling in Atlanta. Please contact the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign with comments or suggestions for future map updates at (404) 881-1112 or info@atlantabike.org.

GEORGIA RULES FOR BICYCLING

- **Bicycles are vehicles** under Georgia law, with the same right to travel on the road as other vehicles (with the exception of limited-access highways). Most traffic laws that apply to vehicles also apply to bicycles. Bicyclists must obey stop signs, traffic lights, and lane changing rules just as if driving a car.
- **When riding in groups**, ride no more than two abreast, and as a courtesy, ride single file when faster traffic needs the space to pass you.
- **Ride on the right side:** Georgia law states that bicyclists should ride as near to the right side of the street as "practicable." Exceptions to this rule include when turning left, avoiding a road hazard such as debris or a pothole, traveling the same speed as traffic, passing another vehicle, or when the lane is too narrow to share safely with a motor vehicle. Bicyclists should not ride in a right turn-only lane if they are not turning.



- **Sidewalks are for walking:** It is illegal for adults to ride bicycles on the sidewalk in the state of Georgia. Although it may seem safer, riding on the sidewalk makes you much less visible to motor vehicles as they turn into driveways and cross streets. Sidewalk riding can also endanger pedestrians – it's called the sidewalk for a reason.
- **Light up the night:** Every bicycle, while being used at nighttime in Georgia, must be equipped with a white front light and rear red reflector each visible from 300 feet. A rear red light or flasher may also be used in addition to the rear red reflector.
- **Wear a helmet:** Bicycle helmets are required for everyone under age 16 and encouraged for everyone else.
- **Take the lane:** While striped bike lanes can be an important factor in increasing your sense of safety on the street, if the bike lane is too narrow or next to on-street parking you may want to take the lane (ride in the middle of the traffic lane) at your discretion.
- For a detailed guide on bicycle commuting, see our Bike Commuter Guide, online at www.atlantabike.org: Fact Sheets.
- **For more information:** See Georgia Code sections 36-60-5, 40-1-1, and 40-6-290 through 40-6-299 for details on these and all other laws regarding bicycling in Georgia: www.legis.state.ga.us.

INTERACTING WITH DRIVERS

- Bicycles are classified as vehicles in Georgia and bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as any others using the roads.
- If you encounter an irate motorist, be polite, regardless of their behavior. To report an aggressive or harassing driver, call 911. Be ready with a vehicle and location description, a license plate number and state, and an account of what happened.
- If you are involved in a car-bike crash, make a mental note of the license plate number and vehicle make/model and call 911.
- **Report a Hazard:** If you would like to report a road hazard such as a pothole or parallel grate in the City of Atlanta, call the Atlanta Public Works Transportation Office at (404) 330-6501 or email the hazard along with a picture to reportahazard@atlantabike.org.

BICYCLE COMMUTING TIPS

Getting Ready

- Make sure your bike is mechanically sound. Maintain air pressure in tires and check your brakes to make sure they function properly. Conduct preventative maintenance to avoid time lost on the road. Visit the Sopo Bicycle Co-op (www.sopobikes.org) to learn how to do minor repairs (or even build your own bike).
- **What to carry:** Carry tools and supplies that you might need for minor repairs – an extra tube, patch kit, air pump, tire levers, and small multi-tool.
- **What to wear to ride:** Wear a helmet and bright-colored clothing. A rubber band or Velcro strap can keep your pant legs out of the chain. A safety pin can prevent skirts from flying up, or you can wear shorts or tights underneath. Spandex is optional but can add comfort for longer trips.

What to Wear at Work

- Ask your employer or nearby health club if a shower is available. If not, try riding slowly on your way to work to eliminate the need to change clothes (you can ride more quickly on the way home). It's a good idea to bring work clothes with you, especially in the summer months, and change when you arrive. Limit wrinkles by rolling your clothes instead of folding, or bring a week's supply Monday, bike commute Tuesday-Thursday, and take dirty clothes home Friday.
- **Be visible:** If there is a chance you might ride at night, be sure to have reflective materials on your clothes and bike, a strong white headlight, and a red rear light.
- **How to carry:** Try using a bicycle frame rack with bags or a basket to carry things. You will sweat less and it will be easier to scan over your shoulder. Never carry items on your handlebars.
- **Lock Up:** Buy a good U-lock (add a strong cable lock for your wheels) and choose a rack or structure that is secured to the ground in a visible, sheltered place.

Hint: To go farther, combine your bike commute with transit or a shared car.

Try Transit

- Bicycles are allowed on MARTA trains at all times of the day and week. See MARTA's website for details: www.itsmarta.com/howto/bikes.htm. All MARTA buses – as well as some Gwinnett, Cobb, Clayton County, and GRTA Xpress buses – are equipped with bicycle-carrying racks with simple instructions.
- **Share Cars:** If you ride your bike to work, but need a car for an hour or two, join Zipcar - discounted rates are available to bike commuters through your local Transportation Management Association (TMA) at www.zipcar.com/atlantadowntown or www.zipcar.com/atlantamidtown.
- **Sign up for Guaranteed Ride Home:** This regional program provides registered bicycle commuters a free ride home (up to 5 rides home per year) for unscheduled events such as personal or family illness or unplanned overtime. The GRH program cannot be used to avoid inclement weather. To register, visit www.myridesmart.com.

DOWNTOWN AND MIDTOWN BICYCLING RELATED INCENTIVES

- Commuter Rewards gives cash and prizes to alternative transportation commuters who log their commutes online. Register at www.commuterrewards.com.

BICYCLE CLASSES

- **Confident City Cycling:** This compact and comprehensive class taught by the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign will make you a safer and more confident cyclist. The classes cover laws affecting bicycles, techniques for avoiding crashes, intersection safety, interacting with pedestrians, trail etiquette, fixing a flat, on-bike skills, and much more. Half of the instruction in this nationally certified course occurs on the bike learning crash-avoidance drills and taking a guided practice ride in real traffic conditions.
- **Subsidized Confident City Cycling:** Anyone who lives or works in Downtown or Midtown Atlanta is eligible to take ABC's bicycle classes for just \$10.
- Visit www.atlantabike.org or call (404) 881-1112 for the class schedule.



www.atlantabike.org



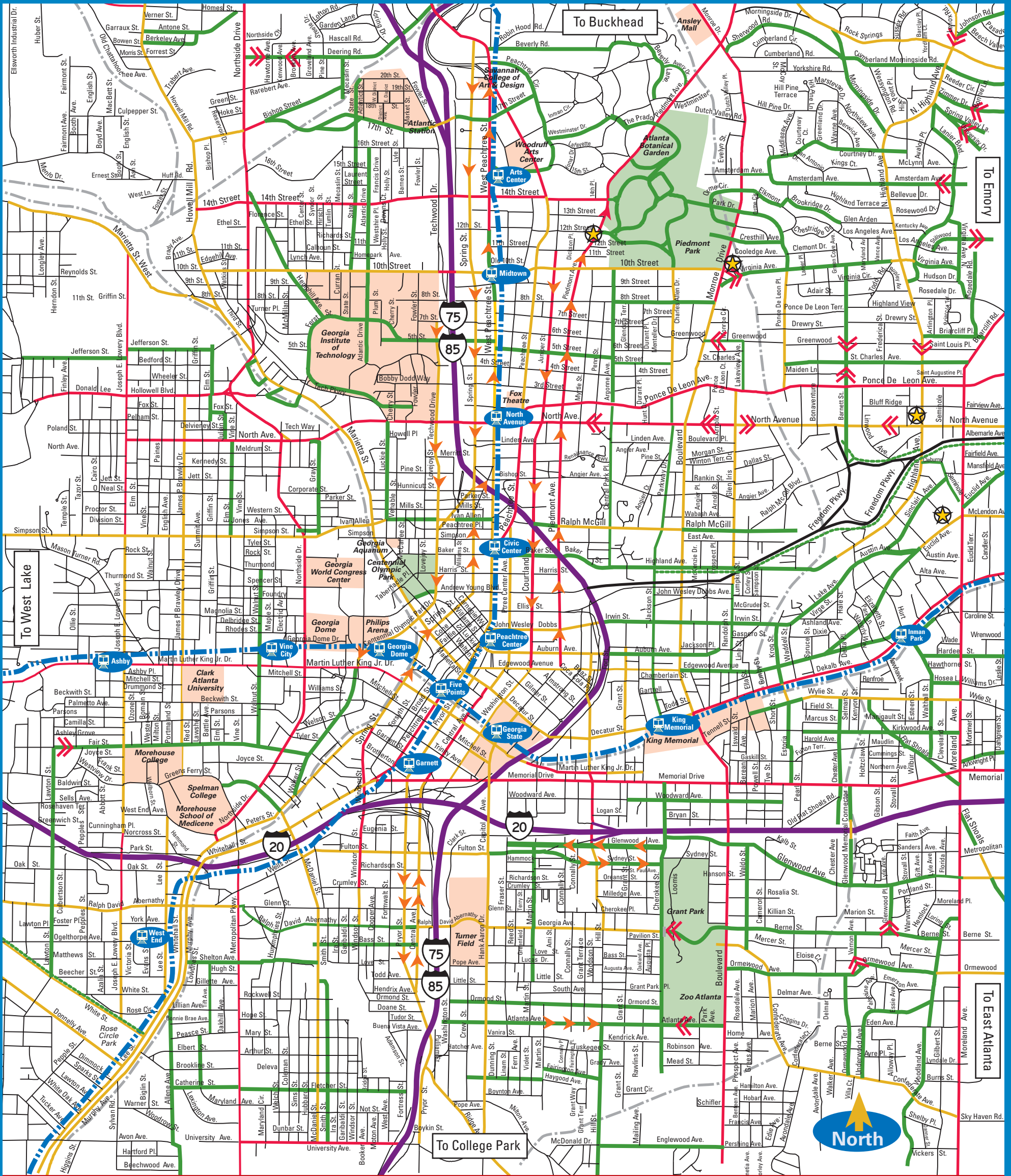
Transportation Management Association

www.atlantdowntown.com



Midtown Alliance

www.midtownalliance.org



THE MIDTOWN-DOWNTOWN BIKE MAP

RATED ROADWAYS

- Green = Least Difficulty Bicycling.** Generally has at least three of the following features:
 - Recommended by area bicyclists as alternates to main roads
 - Slow speed traffic
 - Low traffic volumes
 - Wide right lanes, bikeable shoulders, or bike lanes
 - Few, if any, merge lanes, "right turn only" lanes, commercial driveways, and/or on-street parking
- Yellow = Medium Difficulty Bicycling.** Generally has at least three of the following features:
 - Recommended by area bicyclists as alternates to main roads
 - Medium speed traffic
 - Moderate traffic volumes
 - Wide right lanes, bikeable shoulders, or bike lanes
 - Limited merge lanes, "right turn only" lanes, commercial driveways, and/or on-street parking
 - Few, if any blind curves and/or blind hills
- Red = Most Difficulty Bicycling.** Generally has at least three of the following features:
 - High speed traffic
 - Heavy traffic volumes
 - Relatively narrow lanes and no bikeable shoulders or bike lanes
 - Frequent merge lanes, "right turn only" lanes, commercial driveways, and/or on-street parking
 - Multiple blind curves and/or long, steep hills

OTHER MAPPED ITEMS

- Short connections, trails, or shortcuts - may or may not be paved.
 - Bicycle stores with bike repair shops.
 - Local streets not rated
 - MARTA rail line and MARTA rail stations
 - Railroads
 - One-way streets
 - Long and/or steep hills (uphill in direction of chevrons)
 - Complete access controlled freeways (bicycles prohibited)
- ONE MILE (a 6 minute bike ride @ 10 mph = 1 mile traveled)

Bicyclists are responsible for their own safety. This map was created by the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign (ABC), in partnership with the Downtown Transportation Management Association (TMA) and the Midtown Alliance as an aid for bicycling in the Downtown and Midtown areas. The roadways shown on this map are used by automobiles, buses, and trucks and typically do not have special facilities for bicycle travel. The Midtown Alliance, the Downtown TMA, and ABC in no way warrant the safety of the roadways or any other facilities indicated on this map for use by bicyclists. Bicyclists using these roadways and other facilities assume all responsibilities for their own safety. A bicyclist should use these roadways and other facilities only if he or she has the requisite skill level as a bicyclist, and the bicyclist must make that determination. Bicyclists assume the risk to their own safety when using this map. There are no warranties made in connection with this map, and the Midtown Alliance, the Downtown TMA, and ABC shall not be held responsible for any damages (consequential, special, or otherwise) arising from its use.