

A GUIDE FOR BICYCLISTS

PURPOSE/EXPLANATION OF THE MAP

Working in partnership with The Atlanta Bicycle Campaign (ABC), Downtown Transportation Management Association (TMA) and the Midtown Alliance created this bicycling suitability map for people living or working in Downtown and Midtown Atlanta. The map identifies roadways using three bicycling difficulty rankings and shows paths, short-cuts, and steep hills - all intended to assist someone in choosing bicycling routes of their liking to destinations of their choice. This information, along with legends and supplemental text provide assistance in bicycling to work, school, lunch, errands, and recreation activities.

This map was generated through a multi-step process using the input from dozens of area bicycle riders and bicycle commuters. Roadways were analyzed for various elements affecting the travel conditions and comfort levels of bicyclists, including traffic speed, traffic volume, and lane width. While conditions differ at various times of the day or the week, the ratings assume conditions during typical peak commuting hours.

Midtown Transportation Solutions, the Downtown TMA, and ABC would like to thank all of those bicyclists who participated in the development process for this map.

TRANSIT AND BICYCLES

- Combination bicycle-transit trips can work well for longer distance or inclement weather travel.
- 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.
- MARTA buses and the Gwinnett, Cobb, Clayton County, and Xpress bus systems have buses with bicycle carrying racks. Simple instructions on the racks make them easy to use.



GEORGIA RULES FOR BICYCLING

- Bicyclists should think of themselves as vehicles on the road, having the right to be seen and acknowledged by other users of the road. All traffic laws that apply to vehicles (except a few applying exclusively to motor vehicles) also apply to bicycles. For example, bicyclists must obey stop signs, traffic lights, and lane rules just as they would if driving a car.
- Ride no more than two abreast, and as a courtesy, ride single file when faster traffic needs the space to pass you.
- Georgia law states that bicyclists should ride as near to the right side of roadways as practicable. The exceptions to the "ride on the right" rule are when turning left; when avoiding hazards to bicycling; when the lane is too narrow to share safely with a motor vehicle; when traveling the same speed as traffic; or when passing another vehicle. Bicyclists should NOT ride in a "right-turn-only" lane if they are not turning right.
- Bicycling on the sidewalk is prohibited for adults in the City of Atlanta. Although it may seem safer than the road, sidewalk riding involves hazards from motor vehicles at driveways and cross streets. It also intrudes upon pedestrians and creates hazards for them.
- 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.
- Bicycle helmets are required for everyone under age 16.
- 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 pertaining to bicycling in Georgia: <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/>.

DEALING WITH MOTORISTS AND ROAD HAZARDS

- Motorists should know that bicycles are classified as vehicles in Georgia and bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other vehicle drivers using the roads.
- If you encounter an irate motorist, be polite, even if they are in error. If you experience and would like to report an aggressive, harassing motor vehicle driver, contact the Atlanta police at 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, you or a witness should identify the driver and vehicle and call 911.
- If you would like to report a road hazard such as a pothole or sunken drainage grate in the City of Atlanta, call the Atlanta Public Works Department at 404-330-6699.

BICYCLE CLASSES

- Effective Cycling courses, sponsored by ABC, teach safe methods of bicycling on the road. Bicyclists are taught skills for riding competently and predictably, building confidence for riding in traffic. About half of the instruction occurs on your bicycle in actual on-road conditions and in controlled bike handling drills. Effective Cycling is a nationally certified course, with instructors trained by the League of American Bicyclists. Adult classes are 5 hours, usually taught on a Saturday. A follow-up "certification" session is available for more detailed knowledge and testing to become a "certified effective cyclist".
- Class schedules and descriptions are available on ABC's website at www.atlantabike.org, and at local bike shops.
- Both the Midtown and Downtown TMA's partially subsidize courses for eligible employees. Details and registration information can be found at www.atlantabike.org.

BICYCLE COMMUTING TIPS

Getting Ready

- Make sure your bike is mechanically sound.
- Carry tools and supplies that you might need for minor repairs, for example, extra tube, patch kit, air pump, tire tools, and bicycle multi-tool.
- Wear a helmet and bright-colored clothing. A rubber band or velcro strap can keep pant legs out of the chain.
- Use a bicycle frame rack and panniers for carrying capacity. This system will not inhibit your vision or balance the way that a backpack does - never carry items on your handlebars.
- If you are going to ride at night, be sure to have reflective materials on your clothes and bike; a strong, white headlight (at least 6 watts); and a red rear light.

Getting There

- When necessary, combine your commute with public transit like the MARTA train system.
- Ask at your work site if an employee shower is available after your morning commute (possibly at a nearby health club). If no shower is available, try limiting perspiration by riding slowly to work, quickly on the way home. This will allow you to start work fresher, but still provide a good workout in the afternoon.

- Take an Effective Cycling course. Skills acquired from this defensive bicycling class will give you the confidence to ride in varied traffic conditions. (See "Bicycle Classes" section for more information).

Other Tips

- Buy a good U-lock and try to lock your bike in a visible, sheltered place, and to a rack or structure that is secure.
- Store extra clothes at your office if possible. Some bicycle commuters will drive to work on Monday leaving clothes for the week. They commute Tuesday-Thursday and then drive again on Friday. Your change of clothing can also be carried in your panniers - limit wrinkles by rolling your clothes instead of folding.
- For a detailed guide on bicycle commuting, see the Clean Air Campaign's "Tips on Bicycle Commuting".

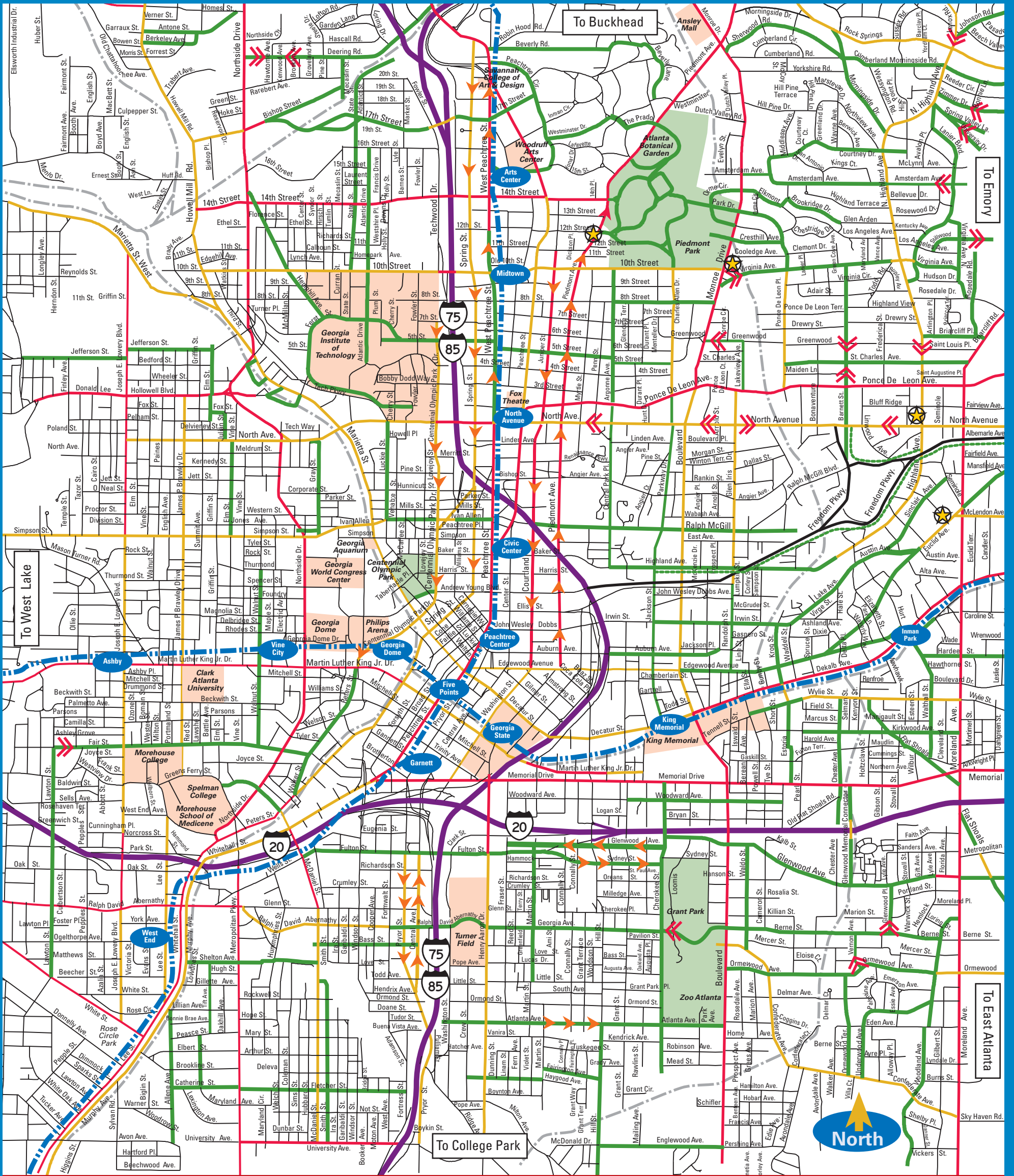
DOWNTOWN AND MIDTOWN BICYCLING RELATED INCENTIVES

- Biking to Work? Commuter Rewards is an incentive program that gives cash and prizes to alternative transportation commuters who log their commute online. Register at www.commuterrewards.com.
- Guaranteed Ride Home. Eligible and registered bicycling commuters are guaranteed 5 rides home per year for "emergency" purposes.
- Subsidized Effective Cycling Courses. Eligible employees can participate in partially subsidized Effective Cycling courses. (Please see the "Bicycle Classes" section for more information).

The Atlanta Bicycle
Campaignwww.atlantabike.orgCentral Atlanta Progress
Atlanta Downtown Improvement District
Downtown Transportation Management Associationwww.atlantdowntown.com

Midtown Alliance

www.midtownalliance.org



THE MIDTOWN-DOWNTOWN BICYCLING SUITABILITY 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.