Creating a Bicycle-Friendly Santa Fe

A bicycle-friendly community benefits everyone: commuters, recreational bicyclists, merchants, tourists, children, parents, and even motorists. A bicycle offers an alternative travel choice for those concerned about the environment and requires relatively little infrastructure. In addition, bicycles can have travel times comparable with automobiles for short distances and are less expensive to own and operate than automobiles.

Santa Fe is an ideal bicycling environment due to its compact size, moderate terrain, and pleasant weather. A growing network of multi-use paths, bike lanes, and shared-lane bikeways in the and around the city is complemented by world-class mountain and road biking in the immediate environs. In 2013, the City of Santa Fe was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) as a Silver-Level "Bicycle-Friendly Community." In 2014, Santa Fe was awarded IMBA Silver-level Ride Center Status.

The Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is committed to making bicycling a more convenient, enjoyable, and safe form of everyday transportation for Santa Fe area residents and visitors. For information on the MPO's new Metropolitan Bicycle Master Plan created for this purpose, please see **www.santafempo.org.**

This map was created through public input to show the perceived suitability of on-street facilities for bicycling. Conditions at specific locations are subjective and always changing, and may vary from what is shown on this map. Please use this map as guidance to help you select a bicycling route that meets your needs and comfort level.

Smart Cycling Tips

Bicycles are vehicles and share the same privileges and duties as other traffic. Laws that apply to motorists also apply to bicycles. Cyclists must follow the rules of the road and obey all traffic signals, signs and lane markings.

When should you take up the lane?

The law is for bicyclists to ride as far to the right in the road as practicable. You have the right to decide for yourself how far to the right is safe for you to ride. There are times when it is safer to take the whole lane or ride a bit to the left than to hug the right curb. Some of those situations are:

- On narrow streets or where tight curves in the road reduce visibility for oncoming traffic. Taking the lane prevents cars from passing you.
- If you are traveling about as fast as a car can safely travel. Taking the lane helps you avoid hazards on the side of the road, holds your place in a traffic cue, and lets you take a left turn when you so desire.
- When approaching a stop sign where a car could pull ahead of you and turn right, turning into you.
- In a traffic circle or roundabout.
- If there are a lot of side streets, parking lots or driveways where an incoming car won't see you coming from near the curb.
- Where parked cars might mean a suddenly opening car door.

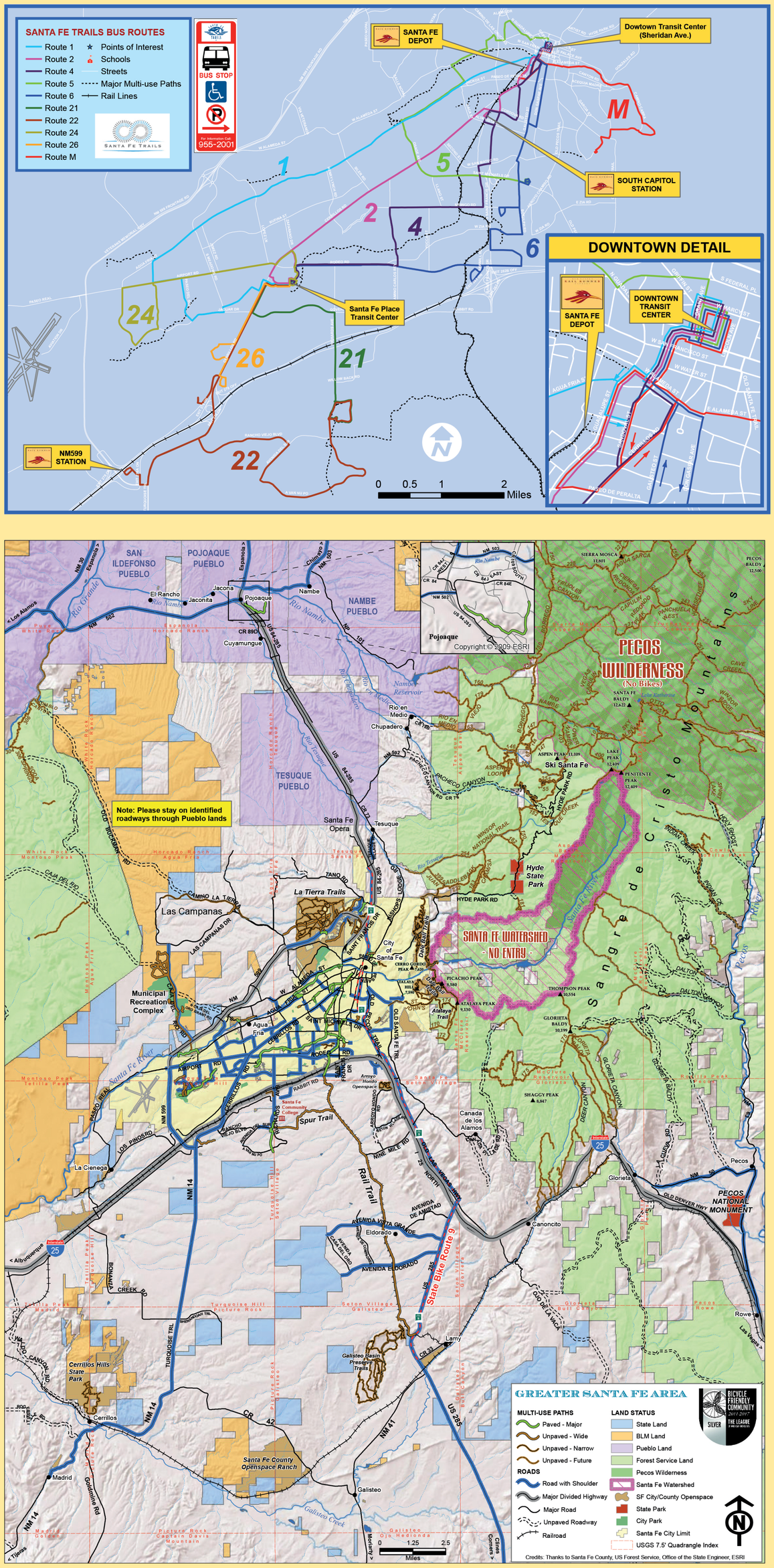
Why shouldn't you ride on a sidewalk?

Riding on a sidewalk is typically more dangerous than riding on a street because each cross-street, driveway, or parking lot becomes a possible point of conflict with turning motorists who are focused on the roadway. Sidewalks often provide poor riding surfaces with utility poles, sign posts, curbs, and other obstacles, including pedestrians. A bicycle on a sidewalk is as threatening to a pedestrian as a car is to a bicyclist. Whenever riding a bicycle on a sidewalk, the person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian. (Ord. #2011-23, §§22, 23)

Sharrows



SHARROWS (shared-lane arrows) reinforce the existing rules of the road in order to create safer conditions for bicycling. Sharrows remind motorists to respect bicyclists in the travel lane in areas where the street is too narrow for safe side-by-side travel. Sharrows give guidance to bicyclists to take the lane in these situations. Cyclists should ride through the center of the sharrows, which are placed outside of the "door zone" of parked cars.



2018 - Santa Fe Bikeways & Trails



Bicycling Resources

Questions about this map
Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - www.santafempo.org, 505-955-6706
Police
Emergency: Dial 911
City of Santa Fe Police Department
www.santafenm.gov/police
Non-Emergency 505-428-3710
Reporting Loose Dogs 505-955-2700
Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office
www.santafecounty.org/sheriff
General 505-986-2455
Animal Control 505-992-1626
Reporting Hazardous Road Conditions
City of Santa Fe Public Works Department 955-3000
http://www.santafenm.gov/streets__drainage_maintenance
Santa Fe County Public Works Department 992-3010
www.santafecounty.org/public_works
New Mexico Dept. of Transportation
http://dot.state.nm.us/en/D5.html
505-995-7700 or 800-388-6630
Public Bicycling and Trail Information
City of Santa Fe Trail Information
http://www.santafenm.gov/trails_1
Santa Fe County Trail Information
http://www.santafecounty.org/public_works/open_space_and_trails_program
NMDOT Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Equestrian Program
http://dot.state.nm.us/en/Planning.html#BPE
Santa Fe National Forest - Regional Trail Information
www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/recreation/trails.html
Cycling Advocacy Groups & Cycling Clubs
Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico - www.bikenm.org
Bike Santa Fe – www.bikesantafe.org
Chainbreaker Collective – www.chainbreaker.org
International Mountain Bicycling Association - www.imba.com
League of American Bicyclists - www.bikeleague.org
New Mexico Touring Society - www.nmts.org
Pedal Queens – www.pedalqueens.com
Santa Fe Fat Tire Society – www.santafefattiresociety.org
Santa Fe Road Riders – http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/sfroadriders
Seniors on Bikes – www.santafesobs.com

Bicycle Shops

Broken Spoke
1426 Cerrillos Road
505-992-3102
www.brokenspokesantafe.com
Chainbreaker Collective
Bicycle Resource Center
1515 Fifth Street
505-989-3858
www.chainbreaker.org
EcoMotive Electric Bike Shop
(*RENTALS AVAILABLE*)
410 S. Guadalupe Street, in Train Depot
505-795-3782
www.ecomotivebikes.com
Mellow Velo Bicycles
(*RENTALS AVAILABLE*)
132 East Marcy Street
505-995-8356
www.mellowvelo.com
New Mexico Bike N' Sport
(*RENTALS AVAILABLE*)
524 W. Cordova Road, Suite C
505-820-0809
www.nmbikensport.com
REI
500 Market Street, Suite 100
505-982-3557
www.rei.com
Rob and Charlie's
1632 Saint Michaels Drive
505-471-9119
www.robandcharlies.com
Sirius Cycles
2801 Rodeo Road, Suite B8
505-819-7311
www.sirius-cycles.com
Spin Doc
628 Old Las Vegas Highway
505-466-4181
www.spindoc.com

Bring Your Bicycle on Public Transit!

Local and regional transit systems make it easy for you to combine bicycle transportation with a trip on the bus or train. Securely park your bike at a bike rack or locker before you get on, or bring your bicycle on Santa Fe Trails, NM Park & Ride, North Central RTD buses, and the Rail Runner Express train to extend your travel range at the other end of the trip.

Loading Your Bike onto a Bus

- As the bus approaches, have your bike ready to mount. Remove water bottles, pumps or other loose items that might fall off. Inform the driver that you're loading your bike.
- If the bike rack is folded up against the front of the bus, pull the handle up to release, and lower the rack into its working position.
- Load your bike into the rack, starting with the front wheel if your bike is first, load with the handlebars toward the curb and the wheels in slots nearest the bus. If your bike is second, load with the handlebars opposite.
- Pull the hook out and over the front wheel and release it gently.

Unloading Your Bike from a Bus

- Remind the driver that you will unload your bike.
- Pull the hook out and over the front wheel to release your bike.
- Lift or roll your bike out of the wheel slots always moving it toward the curb, and if yours was the only bike, fold up the rack.
- Quickly move away from the bus and signal the driver that it is safe to leave.

TRANSIT & RAIL CONNECTIONS

Santa Fe Trails
866-551-RIDE (7433)
www.takethetrails.com

NM Park & Ride
866-551-RIDE (7433)
http://dot.state.nm.us/en/Park_and_Ride.html

North Central Regional Transit District
866-206-0754
www.ncrtd.org

Santa Fe Pick-Up (Downtown Circulator)
505-231-2573
http://www.santafenm.gov/santa_fe_pickup_shuttle

Taos Express
866-206-0754
www.taosexpress.com

Rail Runner Express
866-795-RAIL (7245)
www.nmrailrunner.com

AMTRAK
800-872-7245
www.amtrak.com

RTD · SANTA FE TRAILS · THE SANTA FE PICK-UP · NM PARK&RIDE · Rail Runner · SOUTHWEST CHIEF

Train Safety Tips

See Tracks? THINK TRAIN

- Because trains operate in a "Quiet Zone" in Santa Fe, trains don't routinely sound their horns at railroad crossings.
- Even at the slower train speeds in Santa Fe, trains cannot stop quickly and can't swerve to avoid collisions.
- Always expect a train from either direction at any time whenever you approach railroad tracks.
- Always look in both directions before crossing the tracks.
- Be alert that all trains may not stop at all stations.
- Don't try to beat the train. An approaching train is closer and moves faster than you think. Just wait for the train to completely pass the crossing.
- Always obey traffic signs and signals at railroad crossings. It's the law.
- Only cross railroad tracks at designated crossings. Riding or walking on, across or along the tracks is dangerous and illegal.
- Avoid distractions such as headphones that would prevent you from hearing an approaching train.
- **SEE TRACKS? THINK TRAIN!**

Bike To Work

These maps are intended to help you plan your bicycling routes in advance. If there are gaps in the suggested routes or no direct routes, try going out on the weekend or after work to explore alternatives. A leisurely ride through neighborhoods along the way may reveal alternate roads that may be perfect for your commute. The more comfortable you are with your route, the easier your commute will be.

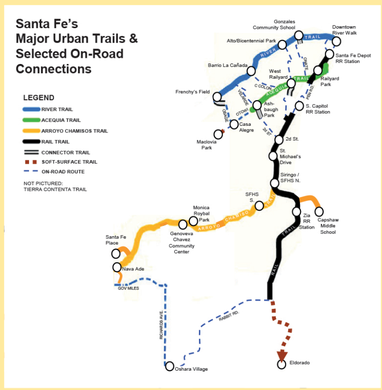
What equipment do you need?

Before getting on a bicycle, make sure you have the proper equipment to ride safely and comfortably.

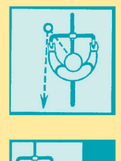
- ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET! Remember that a helmet can reduce the risk of a serious head injury by 85% in a crash BUT WILL NOT prevent an accident. Education is the best way to decreases crash frequency and severity.
- ALWAYS USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT! Use a white light in front and a red light in back. Remember, you are virtually invisible to all motorists at night without lights.
- Additional reflectors on your bike and reflective materials on your clothing and bags will help you be visible at night.
- A good lock will help keep your bike from being stolen; ideally, you want to be able to fit your lock through your frame and one or both wheels.
- A rear view mirror can help you be aware of oncoming cars.
- Fenders can help keep dirt and mud off your clothes.
- Saddlebags, racks and baskets are good ways to carry packages, freeing your hands for safe riding.
- Be prepared for rain, snow or changes in temperature. Dress in layers. Carrying a change of clothes may make commuting to work more appealing.

Trail Etiquette

- Be Courteous to Others.
- Bikes Yield to Pedestrians.
- Stay Right Except to Pass.
- Warn others before passing with use of bell and/or voice (e.g. "on your left").
- Travel at a safe and controlled speed.
- Do not block trail.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- If using headphones make sure you can hear what is going on around you.
- Keep dogs on a leash and under control.



More Tips for Smart Cycling



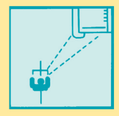
NEVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC
It is extremely dangerous and against the law to ride on the wrong side of the roadway. It is also illegal to ride the wrong way on a one-way street.



RIDE DEFENSIVELY
When possible, ride in a straight line, to the right of traffic. For your own safety be as predictable as you can.



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



PASS ON THE RIGHT WITH CARE
Motorists may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right. They also may not signal their turns.

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 with the traffic, and (2) like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far side crosswalk and walk your bike across the street.

OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS
Bicyclists must follow the same laws as motorists if they are to be taken seriously as roadway users.

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

SCAN THE ROAD BEHIND
Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving left. Some riders use rear-view mirrors.

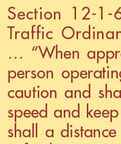
BEWARE OF PARKED CARS AND PEDESTRIANS
Try to ride about a car door's width away from parked cars. Watch for people opening car doors and pedestrians darting out into the street. Don't weave in and out of parked cars.

BEWARE OF APPROACHING VEHICLES TURNING LEFT
Many bicycle accidents in Santa Fe are caused by a motorist turning left and not seeing the approaching bicyclist.

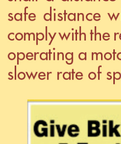
WATCH FOR CARS PULLING OUT
Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they don't see you until you are sure they do.



MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS
Assume that motorists 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.



AVOID ROAD HAZARDS
Look ahead for parallel-slat sewer grates, gravel, ice, debris, cracks, and potholes. Remember to allow extra distance for stopping in the rain since brakes may be less effective when wet.



CROSS RAILROAD TRACKS CAREFULLY
Cross railroad tracks at a perpendicular angle so your tire does not slip on the rail or drop into the slot, causing a spill. Wet railroad tracks are very slippery.



DRESS APPROPRIATELY
Wear a sturdy helmet to protect your head. Bright colored clothing will make you more visible to motorists. Santa Fe's weather can be unpredictable. Be prepared for rain or snow and sudden changes in temperature. Generally, dress in layers.

USE A PACK OR RACK TO CARRY THINGS
Saddlebags, racks, and baskets are all good ways to carry packages, freeing your hands for safe riding. Never carry more people than the design of your bike permits.

LOCK YOUR BIKE WHEN YOU'RE GONE
Lock up to a post or bike rack, threading the chain through both wheels and the frame if you can. Deter thieves by clearly marking the frame and detachable parts with your bike registration number or social security number.

USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT
The law requires a headlight and rear reflector or tail light at night. Wear light-colored clothes with reflective tape for extra visibility. Avoid wearing dark colors and red.

WATCH FOR CHASING DOGS
Dogs are attracted by the spinning of wheels and feet. Ignore them, or try shouting a firm loud "NO". If a dog doesn't stop, dismount with your bike between you and the dog.

City of Santa Fe's "Five-foot-to-pass" law (2011):

Section 12-1-6 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Ordinance (being Ord. #2006-34) reads: … "When approaching or passing a bicyclist, every person operating a motor vehicle shall proceed with caution and shall pass such bicyclist at a reasonable speed and keep a safe distance from him. In no event shall a distance of less than five feet be considered a safe distance within the meaning of this Section. To comply with the requirements of this paragraph, a person operating a motor vehicle may be required to drive at a slower rate of speed."

Graphic by: www.nmartistsforhire.com

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