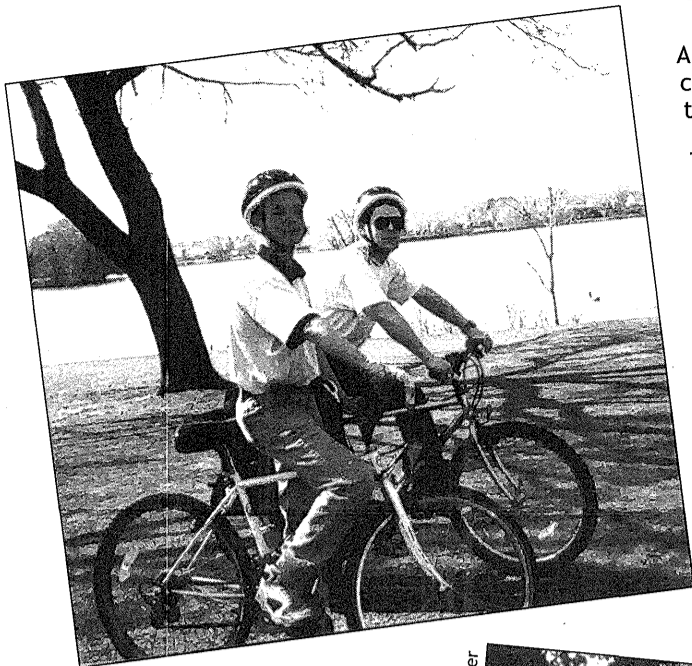
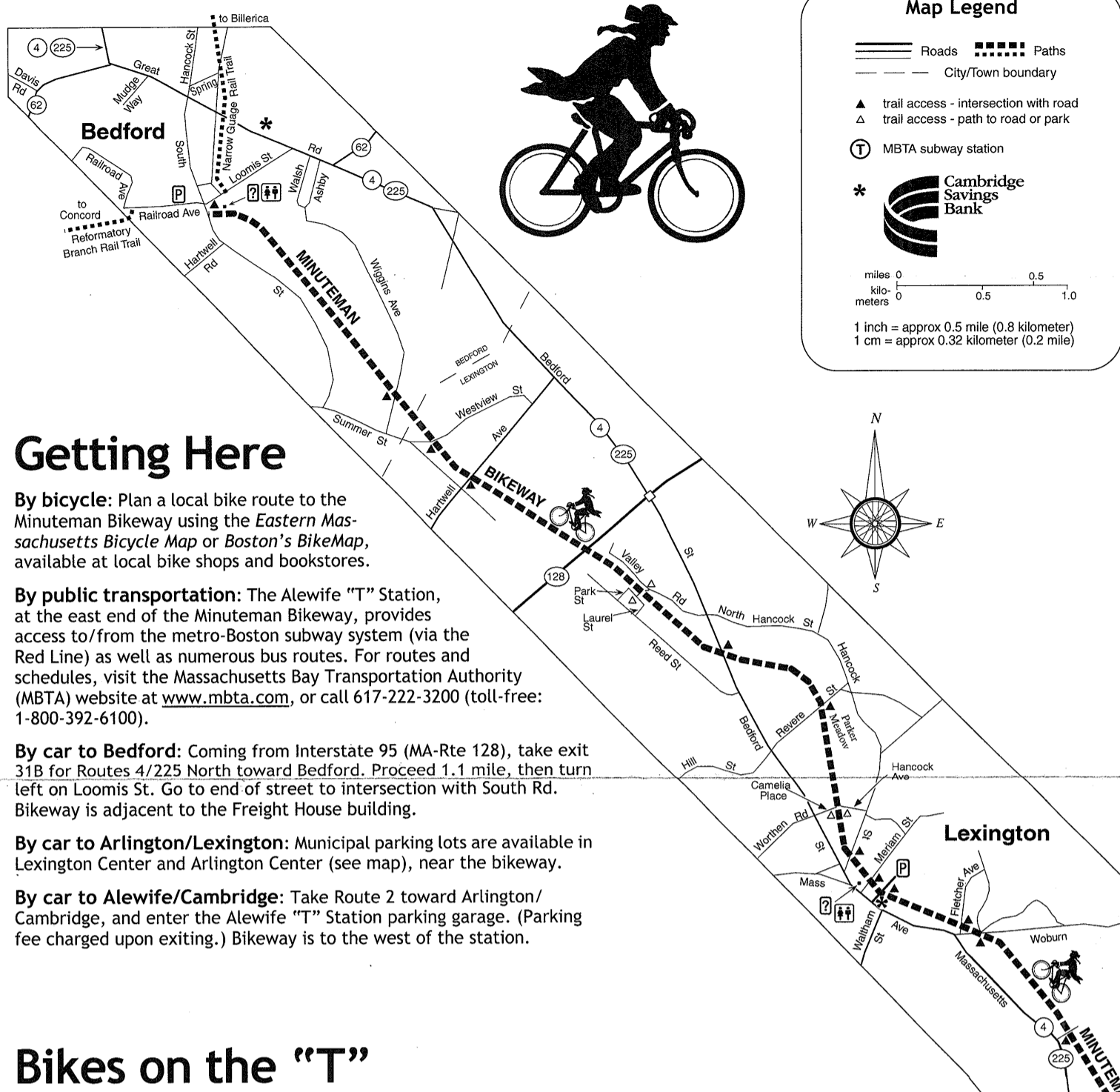


Minuteman Bikeway

Bedford, Lexington, Arlington, and Cambridge – Massachusetts
 Web: www.MinutemanBikeway.org



Coming Attractions

A decade after its completion, the Minuteman Bikeway continues to inspire community-related improvements along its historic corridor – including these projects currently in the works:

The future **Bedford Depot Park** will enhance the Bedford terminus of the Minuteman Bikeway with improved landscaping, public sanitary facilities, new benches and lighting, and increased public parking. A retired **Boston & Maine Railroad** passenger car has already been brought on site for restoration. In addition, the 1870s **Railroad Depot and Freight House** structures have been purchased for historic preservation. When completed, Bedford's Depot Park is expected to be a model transportation enhancement project, funded with federal TEA-21 money. For more information, see www.bedforddepot.org on the web.

The **Lexington Center Depot** will soon become a Tourist and Exhibit Center, in association with the **Lexington Historical Society**. On the bikeway side, under the depot's train shed, bikeway users can purchase drinks and snacks at the depot's former "ticket windows." In front of Depot Square, the reconstructed **Emery Park** will feature widened sidewalks, new public benches, and a loading area for local **Lexpress** bus passengers. Project completion is expected in 2003.

Getting Here

By bicycle: Plan a local bike route to the Minuteman Bikeway using the *Eastern Massachusetts Bicycle Map* or *Boston's BikeMap*, available at local bike shops and bookstores.

By public transportation: The Alewife "T" Station, at the east end of the Minuteman Bikeway, provides access to/from the metro-Boston subway system (via the Red Line) as well as numerous bus routes. For routes and schedules, visit the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) website at www.mbta.com, or call 617-222-3200 (toll-free: 1-800-392-6100).

By car to Bedford: Coming from Interstate 95 (MA-Rte 128), take exit 31B for Routes 4/225 North toward Bedford. Proceed 1.1 mile, then turn left on Loomis St. Go to end of street to intersection with South Rd. Bikeway is adjacent to the Freight House building.

By car to Arlington/Lexington: Municipal parking lots are available in Lexington Center and Arlington Center (see map), near the bikeway.

By car to Alewife/Cambridge: Take Route 2 toward Arlington/Cambridge, and enter the Alewife "T" Station parking garage. (Parking fee charged upon exiting.) Bikeway is to the west of the station.

Above: Volunteers from the Explorer Scouts help patrol the bikeway during the summer months.

Right: Mostly tree-lined, the Minuteman Bikeway serves as a scenic greenway that connects numerous public parks, wetlands, and conservation areas.

Bikeway Map: Adapted from the version on Boston's BikeMap. © Rubel BikeMaps. Reprinted with permission from Rubel BikeMaps.



"When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race."

— H. G. Wells

Bikes on the "T"

Bicycles are allowed on MBTA Commuter Rail and subway trains (Red, Orange, and Blue Lines) all day on weekends and during off-peak hours on weekdays (Mon-Fri: 10am-2pm and after 7:30pm). You do not need a special pass to bring your bike on the T, so it's easy!

Wear a Helmet

Accidents happen sometimes, and it's important to protect your head in case of sudden impact. We strongly urge **everyone** to wear a protective helmet while bicycling or in-line skating.

For more information, visit the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute's website at www.bhsi.org.

Bicycle Maps and Touring Information

Massachusetts has some of the best bicycle maps in the country. For areas near the Minuteman Bikeway, we suggest *Boston's BikeMap*, the *Eastern Massachusetts Bicycle Map*, and the *Cape Cod & North Shore Bicycle Map*. In addition to recommended bicycle routes and paths, these regional bicycle maps contain information on local mountain-biking areas, bicycle shops, ice-cream shops, B&Bs, railroad connections, state parks and campgrounds, and picnic areas. For more information, visit Rubel Bikemaps' website at www.bikemaps.com.

For information about bicycle touring in Massachusetts, visit www.massbike.org/touring on the web.

Local Bike Shops

For a listing of local bike stores near the Minuteman Bikeway (many of which rent bicycles), refer to the MassBike website at www.massbike.org/membership/shops.htm.

For safety and better performance, we encourage you to have your bike professionally serviced (tuned up) at least once per year.

Open Spaces

The Minuteman Bikeway borders many open space areas, the largest of which is **Arlington's Great Meadows** (shown in photo at right with bikeway in foreground), located in East Lexington.

Comprising 183 acres, Arlington's Great Meadows is one of the largest publicly owned open spaces in the area. Mostly landlocked with limited roadway access, the area is best reached from the bikeway in East Lexington.

For those interested in stepping off the bikeway, Great Meadows offers miles of trails suitable for hiking, bird-watching, botanizing, and cross-country skiing. A natural wetlands in the Mystic River Watershed region, this land also serves to control flooding in the area.

For more information, see the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows website at www.foagm.org.

Above: Two bicycles resting on the banks of Spy Pond in Arlington. The 100-acre pond is a scenic attraction along the bikeway.

Right: Arlington's Great Meadows in Lexington, with the Minuteman Bikeway in the foreground.

PHOTO CREDITS: Unless otherwise indicated, photos are courtesy of the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Share the Road

Bicycles are vehicles too. Massachusetts state law considers the bicycle a fully legitimate vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists when using our public roadways. For community safety, please drive, bicycle, and walk responsibly – and share the road with others.

You have transportation choices. To help ease traffic congestion, consider walking, bicycling, or taking public transportation for short-distance destinations. You'll probably enjoy your trip more, and we will have one less car on the road.



Arlington Center: There is a break in the bikeway at Arlington Center. Pedestrians and those bicyclists not accustomed to heavy auto traffic should walk on the sidewalks and use the walk signal at Massachusetts Avenue and Pleasant/Mystic Streets. Experienced bicyclists accustomed to heavy auto traffic can use Swan Place, Massachusetts Avenue, and Water Street, following the rules for motor vehicles.

Arlington

Beyond the Minuteman Bikeway

Bicycle routes: The roadways around the Minuteman Bikeway offer some of the best bicycling areas in New England. For recommended bike-touring and transportation routes, check out the *Massachusetts Bicycle Maps*, *Boston's BikeMap*, and the *Bicycling Street Smarts* guide – available at local bike shops and bookstores.

Multi-use paths near the Minuteman Bikeway:

- **Narrow-Gauge Rail-Trail** (Bedford). Stone-dust trail near the end of the Minuteman Bikeway in Bedford to North Billerica; see bikeway map above for location.
- **Reformatory Branch Rail-Trail** (Bedford, Concord). Unpaved trail from the end of the Minuteman Bikeway in Bedford, ending near the historic Old North Bridge in Concord; see bikeway map for location.
- **Battle Road Trail – Minute Man National Historical Park** (Lexington, Lincoln, Concord). Stone-dust trail providing cycling and walking access to the national park's historical and natural resource areas; located beyond the bikeway map.
- **Fitchburg Cutoff Bike Path** (Belmont). Unpaved rail-trail from northwest corner of Alewife MBTA station to Brighton St. near the Cambridge-Belmont border.
- **Linear Park Path / Somerville Community Path** (Cambridge, Somerville). Paved bike paths from Alewife Station in Cambridge to Davis Square and beyond in Somerville; see map above. Plans are under way to extend this path to Boston.
- **Charles River Bike Paths** (Boston, Cambridge, Watertown). 14-mile paved loop traveling alongside both banks of the Charles River from the Museum of Science in Boston to Watertown, passing through the Boston Esplanade; located beyond the bikeway map.

For a complete listing of bike paths in Massachusetts (both existing and future), see MassBike's informative website at www.massbike.org/bikeways.

Want more bike paths? Dozens of proposed bike paths are still waiting to be built in Massachusetts. To help support future bikeways, join the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike) and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy – see contact info on reverse side. You can also get involved in your local community to promote bike-path projects.

