What types of bikeways are recommended as tourism trails?

Texas bicycle tourism trails could include shared use paths, bike lanes, or wide shoulders, depending on local conditions. The selected bikeway type would be subject to local conditions, current guidance, and professional engineering judgment.

Proposed Typical Sections

**Shared Use Path**
A minimum 5-foot separation between the roadway edge and shared use path is required, unless a crashworthy vertical barrier is placed between the shared use path and roadway.

**Buffered Bicycle Lane**
Combined width of buffer and bike lane should not exceed 6 feet. 5-foot bike lane minimum, increased width recommended where conditions warrant.

**Bicycle Lane**
5-foot-wide minimum bike lane (increased width recommended where conditions warrant).

**Paved Shoulder**
Where parking exists, provide 2 buffer

Next Steps
The Bicycle Tourism Trails Study was a collaborative effort, involving TxDOT’s Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), TxDOT staff, BikeTexas, state agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, and councils of governments. Continued coordination with state, regional/local partners, and the bicycling community will be necessary to make the Texas Bicycle Tourism Trail Network a reality. TxDOT’s BAC unanimously approved the products resulting from TxDOT’s Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study at their January 2018 BAC Meeting; BAC members approved the following next steps:

1. **Identify tourism trail routes** - Where do bicycle tourists want to go?
2. **Identify benefits of bicycle tourism trails** - How would Texas communities benefit?
3. **Foster the development of safer bicycle tourism trails** - What types of bikeways are recommended as tourism trails?
4. **Engage stakeholders** - Making the study a reality.

For more information on this study and TxDOT’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Program activities, visit: [www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/modes-of-travel/bicycle.html](http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/modes-of-travel/bicycle.html)
**Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study Summary**

**What is Bicycle Tourism?**
Bicycle tourism is any travel or tourism-related activity that incorporates a bicycle. Bicycle tourism activities include, but are not limited to, long-distance bicycle touring, bike-packing, local day rides, urban cycling, and bicycle events that include races and/or destinations. Bicycle tourism activities occur in urban, suburban, and rural locations on a variety of different on-road and off-road facilities.

**Where do bicycle tourists want to go?**
The Bicycle Tourism Trails Example Network (right) is the output of months of data gathering, stakeholder outreach, and meetings with TxDOT’s Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC). The Example Network represents an application of qualitative and quantitative criteria established as part of the study. A more thorough analysis of local conditions and extensive stakeholder engagement would be needed to advance any route.

### Attractions within 10 miles of the Example Network

- **18** National Parks/Forests/Historic Sites
- **110** State Parks/Forests/Historic Sites
- **6,705** Historical markers
- **540** Small Cities (under 5,000 people)
- **243** Medium Cities (5,000 to 200,000 people)
- **13** Large Urban Areas (over 200,000 people)

**Elements of the Example Network:**

*Cross-state Spines*
- Routes of statewide significance which connect to other states and link major urban areas
- May be candidates for US Bicycle Route System (USBRs)

*Connecting Spurs*
- Routes of statewide significance which connect major urban areas, state/national parks, and other destinations
- Provide important links between cross-state spines

*Regional Routes*
- Routes of regional significance that connect to scenic areas and frequently form regional loops

**Route Development Methodology Diagram**

**How would Texas communities benefit?**
Texas communities benefit from more connected bikeways across the state. Bicycle tourism can increase local spending. Integrated bikeway infrastructure can improve the health of local residents and quality of life for all Texans.

- Bicycle tourists spend an average of $136 per day.

**Proximity to trails can increase the value of homes between 1% and 6.5%.**

- People who live near shared use paths are 50% more likely to meet physical activity guidelines and 73% to 80% more likely to bicycle.

- Trails can link bicyclists to a shared past which helps to enhance cultural awareness and establish a community’s identity.

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1. See synthesized research summary in BTIS Technical Memorandum 1.