

Cycling is Fun and Functional

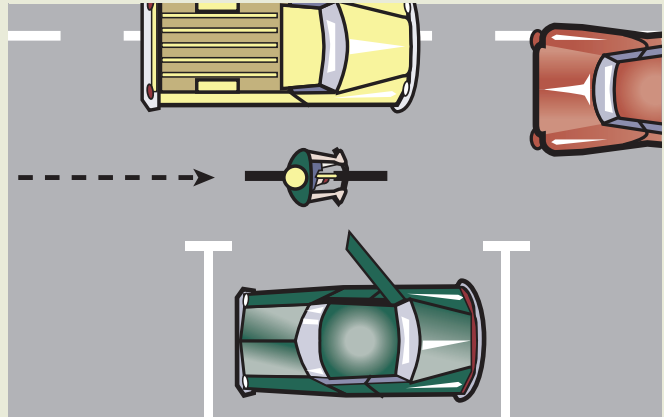
Bicycling is a great way to get around town for short trips and daily errands. You will save money on gas and car repairs while sneaking a bit of fun and exercise into your day. Pedaling an easy 10 mph on city streets and trails, you can often cover short distances as quickly as you could drive in a car.

Want to try it?

Visit WhatcomSmartTrips.org to learn about helpful programs and resources. Here are some tips and tricks to share the road confidently and safely with vehicles, pedestrians, and other cyclists.

Ride Visibly

- Ride on the right with traffic, but don't hug the curb
- Ride in the center of lanes that are too narrow to share with cars
- Ride in the left lane for left turns or use a 2 stage turn box, if available
- Use lights and reflectors at night
- Avoid riding on sidewalks
- Use green bike boxes when available



Communicate with Drivers

- Use your position in the lane to signal your intended direction
- Use hand signals before turning
- Make eye-contact

Handle Intersections Confidently

- Turn right from the center of the right lane
- Turn left from the center of the lane that cars use to make left turns or use 2 stage turn box, if available
- Go straight from the center of the right lane or the lane next to a Right-Turn-Only lane
- Activate magnetic traffic signals by placing your bike in the center of the lane, two feet behind the stop line
- You may legally treat stop signs as yield signs when no other traffic is approaching and when you've slowed to a reasonable speed (Safety Stop Law 2020).

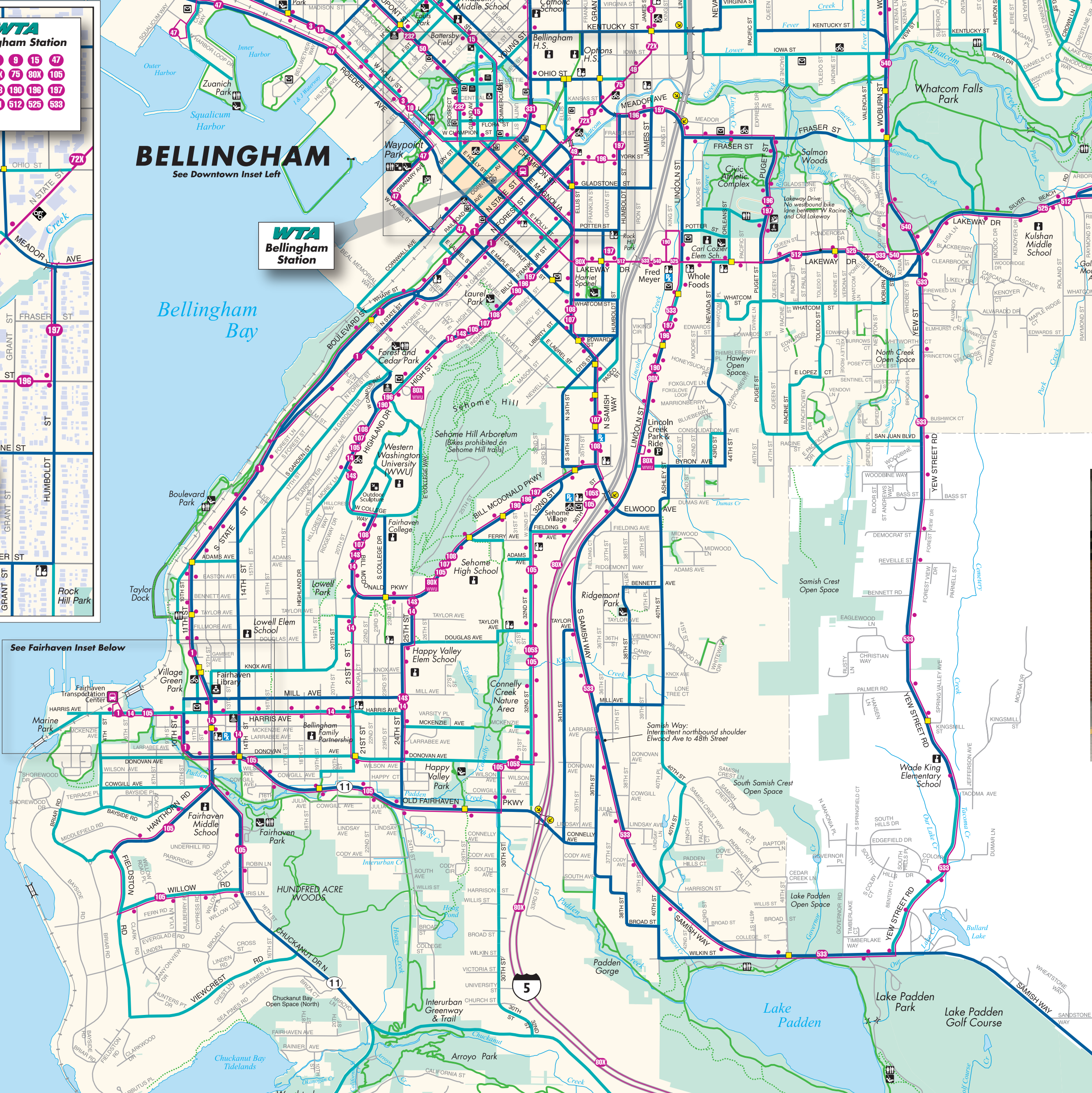
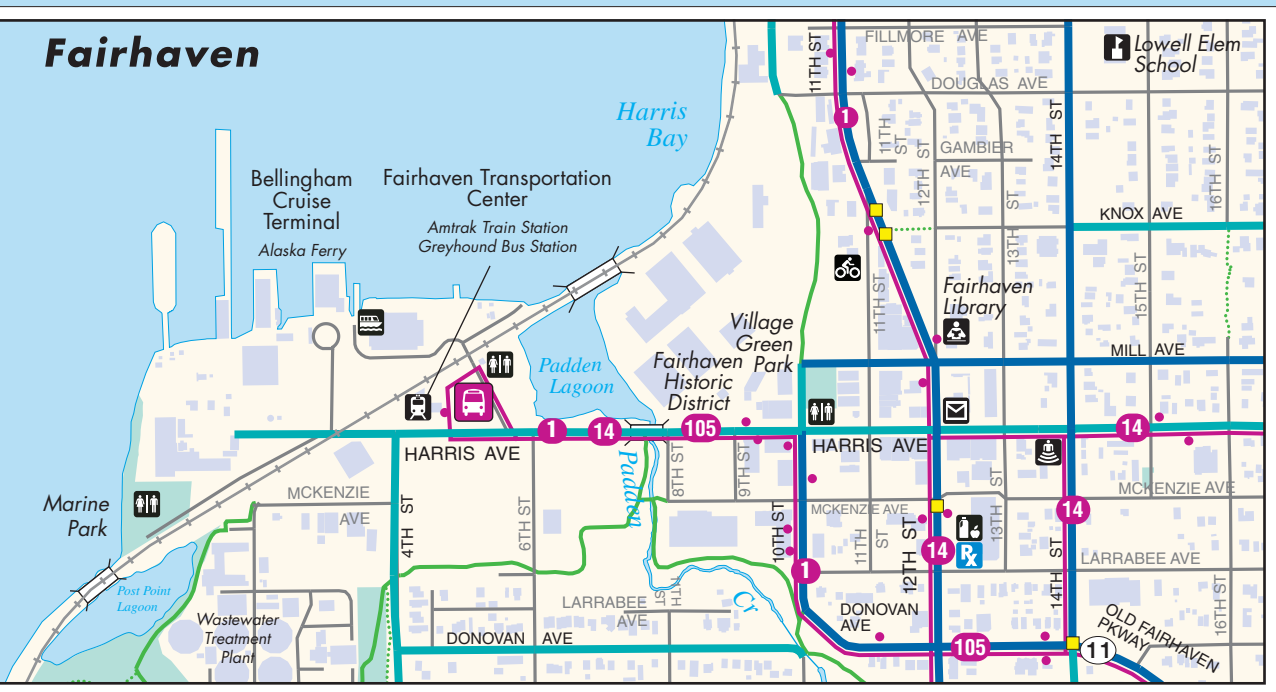
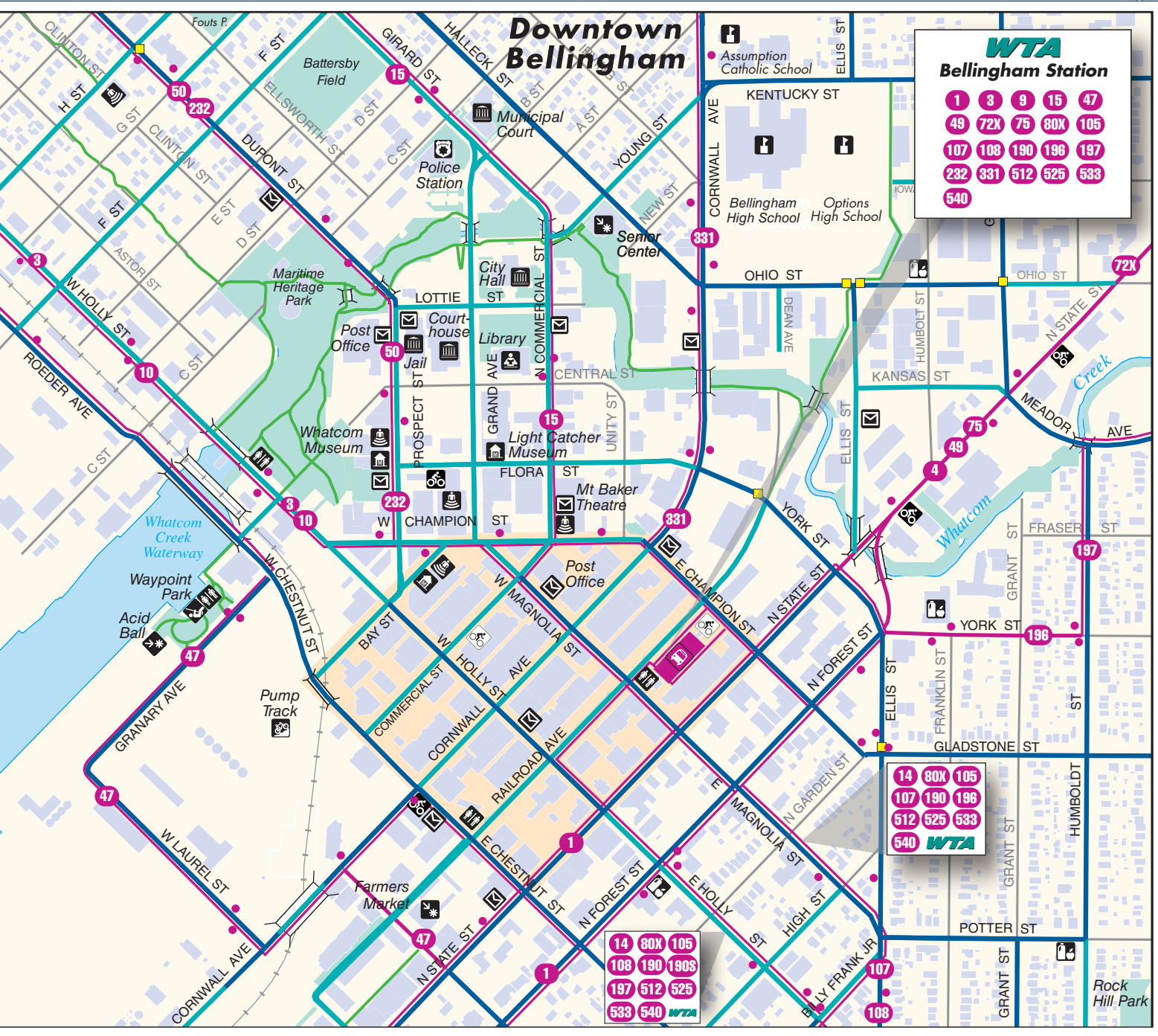
Watch for Roadway Hazards

- Avoid car doors by riding at least three feet from parked cars
- Avoid slippery surfaces like wet leaves, steel plates, sand and roadway markings
- Give clearance to angle parked cars so that drivers can see you
- Anticipate driver vision problems such as blind spots and sun glare, make eye contact
- Avoid potholes, debris and broken glass
- Cross railroad tracks with your wheels perpendicular to the tracks
- Dashed green bike lane stripes indicate that traffic may cross your path. Be prepared for merging or turning traffic.

Get Ready to Ride

- Look for bike friendly routes, not necessarily the route you would drive
- Check the air, brakes, chain, and quick release levers each time before riding
- Wear bright-colored rain gear and allow longer stopping distances in wet weather
- Wear a helmet
- Carry a high quality lock or cable, never leaving your bike unattended

NOTE: Speed limit on Shared Use Paths is 15mph although a lower speed should be considered when pedestrians are present. For higher speeds be courteous and use the street.



Bikes on Buses

Expand your options—combine bus and bike trips by putting your bike on a bus rack. WTA buses are equipped with racks that can carry three bikes. Practice these easy steps on a bus parked at the terminal.

- Before the bus arrives, prep your bike by removing loose accessories or bags.
- Squeeze the rack handle to release the rack and lower it toward you.
- Lift your bike and place it in the rack according to the label, "Place front wheel here."
- Pull the support arm up and place the hook over the top of the front tire.
- At your destination, tell the bus driver that you will be removing your bike.
- Lift the support arm off the front tire and lower it before removing your bike. Return the rack to the upright position if there aren't other bikes on the rack.

Map design by Shure the Map Company LLC | Design good eye design | Photos: Shure Photography

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WhatcomSmartTrips.org

WhatcomSmartTrips is an ongoing partnership between local government, public agencies, employees, and schools to promote transportation by walking, bicycling, sharing rides, and riding the bus.

These Bellingham and Whatcom County maps are designed to show you how to reach many of your nearby destinations by walking, bicycling or riding the bus. WTA bus stops and routes are highlighted as well as trails and bicycle routes. The Bellingham map shows symbols for grocery stores, pharmacies, mailboxes and many other destinations. The county map shows hills and areas of caution for bicyclists.



Maps for Making Smart Trips

SMART TRIPS

Make a difference anywhere you go

Maps of Bellingham & Whatcom County

Walk, bike and ride the bus throughout Whatcom County.

www.WhatcomSmartTrips.org

More than Bike Lanes

The City of Bellingham strives to create a safe, connected network of bikeways. Learn more about the City's Bicycle Master Plan and different types of bikeways at cob.org/bike. Look for the following bike markings when you ride.

BIKE BOXES

Bike boxes provide a space for bicyclists to wait in front of vehicles at traffic lights to make bikes more visible. Certain Bike Boxes (called 2 stage turn boxes) are positioned to allow a left hand turn without leaving the bike lane. Travel straight through the intersection then turn in the box to wait to travel in the new direction.

SHARED LANE MARKINGS

Shared lane markings or "sharrows" guide bicyclists to the safest place on the street to ride and help motorists expect to see and share the lane with bicyclists. They also provide wayfinding along a bike route.

BIKE DETECTORS

Bike detectors tell the traffic signal when a person on a bike is waiting for the light to turn green. Place your bicycle on the bike detector symbol to trigger the green light.