

From: [Kerry Irons](#)
To: [LevyBOCC](#)
Cc: [Alice Lalonde](#)
Subject: US Bicycle Route 15 through Levy County
Date: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:26:21 AM
Attachments: [USBR 15 FL Levy County.pptx](#)
[USBR 2 Page Handout.docx](#)

Alicia,

Per our phone discussion last Friday, please find attached a presentation on the proposed USBR 15 project and a two-page handout on the general concepts behind the USBRS project and designation process. Below is a summary of the project, example support letter and support resolution (one or the other needs to go to FDOT, not both), link to the map, etc. Of the 19 jurisdictions along this proposed route, 7 have already approved and the rest are all moving to approval.

I have been in conversation with Alice Lalonde (copied) and she tells me that the County Board needs to review this and then direct the your attorney to draft a letter or resolution of support from the Board. If possible, I could call in to a Board meeting by phone to make this presentation or answer questions that might arise.

Thanks for your help in this and please let me know if there are any questions.

Kerry Irons
Adventure Cycling Association
989-513-7871

This project is part of a national effort (through AASHTO) to expand the US Bicycle Route system and is being led by FDOT, Bike Florida, the Florida Bicycle Association, and the Adventure Cycling Association.

Below is some background information and templates for a letter or resolution for your agency to endorse and send to the FDOT state bike/ped coordinator. Please copy me when you send that support letter or resolution of support to FDOT. Feel free to edit the support letter/resolution as needed. FDOT is the agency that submits the USBR route approval application to AASHTO.

Here is a link to the draft map of the USBR 15 route: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/34634828> Getting USBR 15 designated will provide a defined bicycling route for traveling cyclists along the Florida Gulf Coast. USBR 15 currently only in southern Georgia (92 miles from Fitzgerald, GA) and northern Florida from the Georgia line to Madison (14 miles). Designating the additional portion of USBR 15 will add nearly 500 miles to the route.

The route proposal supplied is just that; a proposal. Local agencies will be the ones who determine the final route as they are the ones who have to assure support for the route to FDOT. We are in discussions with all of the cities and counties along the route.

The general route for USBR 15 in Florida is along the Gulf Coast before turning east to Homestead and USBR 1 along the Atlantic Coast. USBR 15 will eventually extend from near Rochester, NY on Lake Ontario to Homestead. We are currently working with West Virginia to designate their portion of the route and Georgia is working to extend their segment.

Just so you have it on paper, the proposed route on Levy County roads uses 10.6 miles of Co Rd 336.

You can find a huge amount of background information on the USBRS at www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system including a downloadable map for the entire proposed system.

As I hear from the agencies in your region, I will keep you informed about their progress. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kerry Irons
Adventure Cycling Association
989-513-7871

Background information on USBR route designation:

There is no inherent liability for local agencies per the federal Transportation Research Board:
http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_lrd_53.pdf

To view AASHTO information on the US Bicycle Route System: <https://route.transportation.org/us-bicycle-routes/>

Signage is nice, but not required. There are a number of ways a route can be designated including maps (paper or Internet), signs, pavement markings, downloadable GPS coordinates, etc.

The choice of roads for a US Bicycle Route is a tradeoff between low traffic, direct routing, access to services (bike shops, motels, campgrounds, etc.), access to points of interest, and scenic roads. The best route for a family weekend bike ride may not be the best route for someone on a multi-day long distance bicycle trip.

Long distance bicycle tourists are experienced road riders and used to varying quality of road surface, absence of paved shoulders, and car and truck traffic. The number of cyclists who might use a given route is difficult to predict, but five to ten riders per day (1,000-2,000 per season) would be considered a significant increase in usage once a route is designated.

A change in the route can be proposed to FDOT and they propose the change to AASHTO. AASHTO has accepted every new route and route change requested by state DOTs. Route changes can be made twice per year.

Designating a USBR does not impose any constraints or restrictions on the use of a road, street, trail or right-of-way. It's current or future status or use for any other purpose is not changed.

There is no requirement that roads for US Bicycle Routes meet the guidelines in the AASTHO Guide for Bicycle Facilities. This was explicitly considered and it has been written into the process that there are no specific requirements for road or trail standards. It is recognized that local "engineering judgment" will determine when a road is suitable for inclusion in a USBR designation.

U.S. Bicycle Route System
Template Letter of Support

To: DeWayne Carver, AICP
State Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation Roadway Design Office
605 Suwannee Street MS 32
Tallahassee FL 32399-0450
850-414 4322
dewayne.carver@dot.state.fl.us

Dear DeWayne Carver,

Levy County would like to offer our support for the designation of proposed U.S. Bicycle Route 15 (USBR 15) through Levy County. We recognize that bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, contributing \$47 billion a year to the economies of communities that provide facilities for such tourists. As a county, we stand to

benefit from this opportunity both economically and from the health and environmental related benefits of encouraging bicycle travel in our region.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has designated a bicycle route corridor through Florida to be developed as USBR 15. Levy County lies within that corridor and we have investigated the proposed route and found it to be suitable for bicycle tourists.

I am contacting you to indicate our support for designating USBR 15 through Levy County using Co Rd 336.

The proposed route for USBR 15 will provide a benefit to our county and we endorse having the route mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism in our area. Therefore, Levy County hereby expresses its support for the designation USBR 15, and requests that the appropriate officials nominate the route for AASHTO designation as soon as this can be achieved.

Sample Support Resolution

Whereas bicycle tourism is a growing industry in North America, contributing \$47 billion a year to the economies of communities that provide facilities for such tourists; and

Whereas the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has designated a corridor crossing Florida to be developed as United States Bicycle Route 15 (USBR 15), and

Whereas the Adventure Cycling Association , Bike Florida, and the Florida Bicycle Association, with the cooperation of FDOT, have proposed specific route to be designated as USBR 15 using Co Rd 336, and

Whereas the proposed route for USBR 15 comes through Levy County and can therefore provide benefits to our county, and

Whereas we have investigated the proposed route and found it to be a suitable route, and desire that the route be designated so that it can be mapped and signed, thereby promoting bicycle tourism in our area,

Therefore be it resolved that Levy County hereby expresses its approval and support for the development of USBR 15, and requests that FDOT get the route officially designated by AASHTO as soon as this can be achieved, and authorizes the posting of signs within Levy County right-of-way identifying the route through the county once the official designation has been made.

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