

DECISION DOCUMENT

Endorsement of the United States Bicycle Route System Route Designation in California

Problem Statement. The National Corridor Plan for the United States Bicycle Route System (USBRS) was established by the *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* (AASHTO) in 2008. To date, nearly 12,000 miles of the USBRS have been established in 25 states. Currently, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) does not participate in this effort and does not have State framework and uniform approach for designating USBRS routes in California. As the AASHTO-designated lead for the state of California, Caltrans leadership and involvement is necessary for official USBRS route designation in California. With growing interest statewide in USBRS route-designation, endorsement letters for route-designation have been received from a number of California communities interested in having USBRS routes in their communities. In order to effectively represent its interests on this issue, Caltrans needs to develop a State framework and uniform approach regarding USBRS route-designation.

Recommendation. Develop a State framework and uniform approach for designating of USBRS routes in the State of California as part of the USBRS National Corridor Plan.

Fiscal Impact. USBRS route-designation will involve staff time at both Caltrans district and Caltrans Headquarters (Planning, Design, Traffic Operations, Research and System Information, Legal, Local Assistance, and Maintenance). Work in support of route-designation is expected to fit within existing funding programs and duty statements. In addition, there could be a need for additional signage on the routes at the discretion of the participating agency.

Organizational Impact

- **Employee Impact** Employees at the Caltrans district and Headquarters level will be needed to oversee USBRS route designation efforts that include Adventure Cycling Association (ACA) volunteers and submitting paperwork to AASHTO (the ACA is the non-profit organization leading the USBRS effort for AASHTO).
- **Stakeholder Impact.** Designated bicycle routes are a resource for increasing bicycle tourism, which can be expected to provide public health benefits for users and economic benefits for communities.

Policy Impact. Endorsing USBRS route designation in California would strengthen Caltrans' ongoing commitment to integrating the mode of bicycling into the California transportation system. It would also contribute toward meeting the Caltrans Strategic Management 2015–2020 goal of tripling bicycling by 2020 and inspire the confidence of local partners.

Risks. Unknown.

Proposed Implementation Schedule.

1. September 2017
 - a. Identify stakeholders, including, but not limited to:
 - i. ACA
 - ii. Local agencies
 - iii. Caltrans districts and divisions
2. October 2017–December 2017
 - a. Meet with stakeholders to develop draft framework and uniform approach and process framework
3. January 2018–February 2018
 - a. Route draft framework and uniform approach for comments
4. March 2018
 - a. Finalize framework and uniform approach
 - b. Distribute to districts and Caltrans Partners

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APPROVAL RECOMMENDED



COCO BRISEÑO
Deputy Director
Planning and Modal Programs

10-20-17
Date



STEVE TAKIGAWA
Deputy Director
Maintenance and Operations

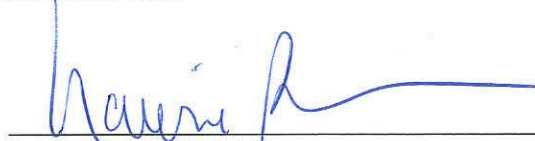
10/23/17
Date



KARLA SUTLIFF
Deputy Director
Project Engineer

10/24/17
Date

APPROVAL



LAURIE BERMAN
Interim Chief Deputy Director

11/1/2017
Date

Attachments:

- (1) USBRS Map
- (2) California USBRS Map

DECISION DOCUMENT ATTACHMENT

Endorsement of the United States Bicycle Route System Route Designation in California

1. Problem Statement

Caltrans currently does not have a framework, or uniform approach, or process to designate United States Bicycle Route System (USBRS) routes. As the AASHTO-designated lead for the State of California, Caltrans involvement is necessary for the official USBRS route designation in California.

2. Recommendation

Alternative B is the recommended alternative: Director endorsement of the USBRS route designation process.

3. Background

The National Corridor Plan for the USBRS was established by the *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials* (AASHTO) in 2008. Currently, 25 states have designated over 11,700 miles of USBRS routes. There is a growing interest in USBRS route designation at the local level in California. Caltrans has received a number of endorsement letters for route designation from California communities.

4. Alternatives

4.1 Alternative A (“No Action” Alternative)

If no action is taken there will be no designated USBRS routes in the State of California.

4.2 Alternative B (Recommended Alternative)

4.2.1 The Director endorses the USBRS designation process for the State of California.

4.2.2 Fiscal impact: The use of staff time to coordinate with Adventure Cycling Association (ACA) staff and volunteers, as well as local and statewide bicycling advocates.

4.2.3 Organizational Impact

4.2.3.1 Employee Impact: Staff time for USBRS route designation process can likely be accomplished without position/staff realignment.

Stakeholder Impact: There is a growing interest among local

stakeholders to designate USBRS routes in or near their communities. Implementing a State framework and uniform approach on USBRS route designation will have a positive effect on stakeholders and Caltrans relationship with its stakeholders.

- 4.2.4 Policy Impact: Implementation of USBRS routes in California is consistent with Caltrans commitment to safely integrate bicycling into the State transportation system.
- 4.2.5 Risks: USBRS-implementing states view route designation liability to be on a scale between limited and none. The route designation process generally takes several years of working with the communities along a given route. A large part of this work is done by ACA and local advocate volunteers.
- 4.2.6 Proposed Implementation Schedule:
 - 4.2.6.1 September, 2017–Identify stakeholders, including, but not limited to: ACA, local agencies, Caltrans districts and divisions
 - 4.2.6.2 October 2017–Meet with stakeholders to develop draft framework and uniform approach
 - 4.2.6.3 November 2017–Route draft framework and uniform approach for comments
 - 4.2.6.4 December 2017–Finalize framework and uniform approach and distribute to districts and Caltrans partners

5. Performance Measures

5.1 Deliverable

Develop a State framework and uniform approach and procedures for designation of USBRS routes in the State of California.

5.2 Change Measure

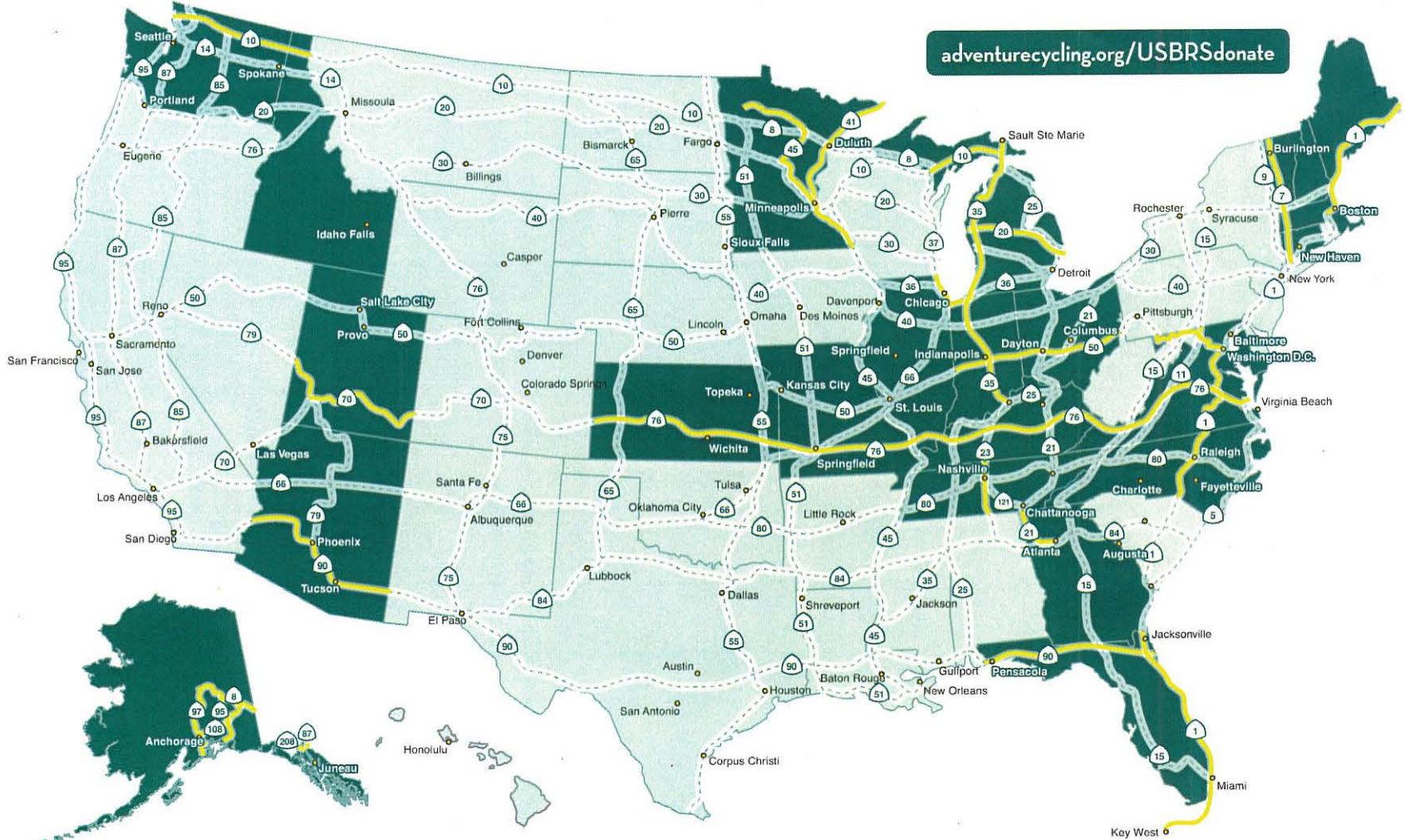
A timeline for development of a California State framework and uniform approach for USBRS route designation.

6. Contact Person




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UNITED STATES BICYCLE ROUTE SYSTEM

Connecting America by Bicycle



U.S. BICYCLE ROUTE SYSTEM Progress as of 2017

-  Proposed Corridor
-  States with Official Route
-  Route Number

California USBRS Map

