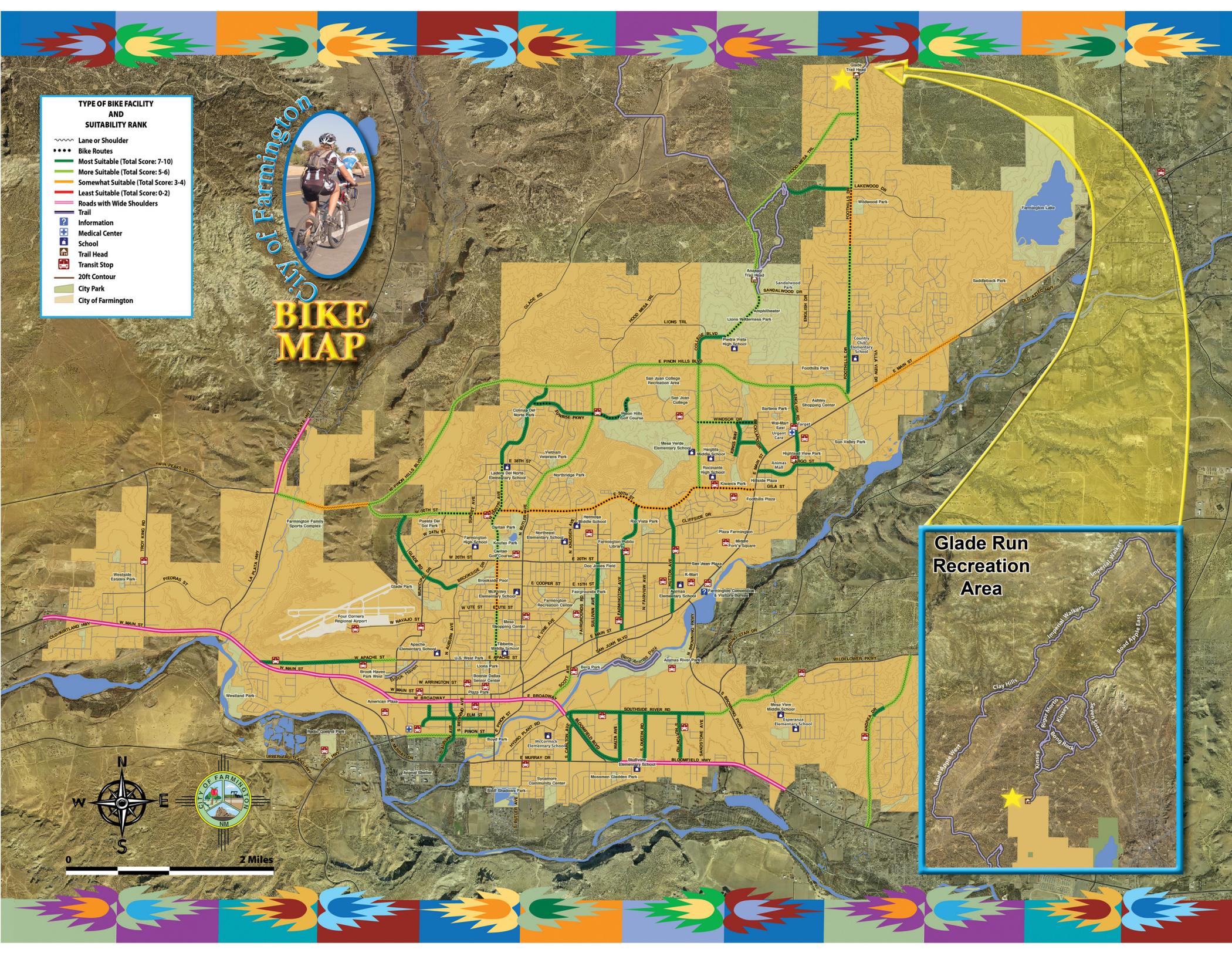


TYPE OF BIKE FACILITY AND SUITABILITY RANK

- ~~~~ Lane or Shoulder
- Bike Routes
- Most Suitable (Total Score: 7-10)
- More Suitable (Total Score: 5-6)
- Somewhat Suitable (Total Score: 3-4)
- Least Suitable (Total Score: 0-2)
- Trails with Wide Shoulders
- Trail
- Information
- Medical Center
- School
- Trail Head
- Transit Stop
- 20ft Contour
- City Park
- City of Farmington

Bike & Bus

Bike and Bus in Farmington is designed to give you more commuting alternatives to the SOV (Single Occupant Vehicle). Cyclists can use bicycle paths, lanes and routes in available areas and continue to travel in higher traffic areas by combining bicycle trips with public transit. Try it and you'll find that you should have been doing this sooner.

Safety is the most important issue when using bicycles for recreation or commuting. The success of the Bike and Bus program depends on cyclists and motorists courteously sharing the road. Bicycles are vehicles and bicyclists have the same responsibility as those driving motor vehicles, to OBEY ALL TRAFFIC RULES & REGULATIONS.

Bike racks will accept non-motorized bicycles with a maximum dimension of 80 inches wide and 48 inches high. Trolley bike racks accommodate 4 bikes and small buses accommodate 3 or 4 bikes. You may NOT bring your bicycle aboard the bus.

Loading

- The bike rack may be folded up against the front of the bus. For small buses: Pull the locking knob and lower the rack until it locks into place. For trolleys: Remove the retaining pin, swing the arm up and replace the retaining pin and spring lock. For all buses: Load the bike in the nearest vacant position to the bus and secure with the nylon tie-down straps.
- Remove your water bottle, pump, etc., before boarding.

Unloading

- Before reaching your stop, tell the driver that you'll need to unload your bike.
- Loosen the nylon tie-down straps.
- If your bike is behind other bikes, they must be removed prior to removing yours.
- After removing your bike, replace the other bikes on the rack and secure with the nylon tie-downs. (Check with other bike owners to ensure they are satisfied with the secure tie-downs of their bikes)
- Quickly move away and signal the driver that it is safe to leave. Never step out into traffic. Always move toward the curb.



Map Introduction

The City of Farmington is pleased to present our first edition of the Farmington Bike Suitability Map. This map shows all of the bicycling facilities within the City's limits. Facilities are defined as streets and trails that are marked or signed as preferred routes for bicyclists. New Mexico state statutes allow for bicycling on all streets and highways through out the state.

This current edition was produced through the efforts of the Traffic Engineering Division with help from the Information Technology Department, Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs Department, and the Police Department. Credit must also be given to the Cities of Albuquerque and Las Cruces.

Bike to Work

Farmington is in the midst of creating a transportation system that provides options that are real choices to meet the needs of individuals and the community as a whole. The majority of Farmington residents have bicycles stored in their garages, but there is the perception that bicycles are strictly for recreational purposes. City Council and the community have made the commitment to expand the bikeway / trail system through dedicated transportation funds. The City of Farmington has made great progress through various planning and construction activities within the last several years of developing an improved bikeway / trail system. These efforts are making bicycle commuting a viable transportation alternative.

Benefits

Bicycle commuting is an opportunity to turn your stressful commute into a valuable exercise time. It's fast enough to get you there in a reasonable amount of time, yet slow enough to allow you to enjoy the scenery. Bicycling is environmentally friendly, will prolong the life of your car and save you money on gas.

Getting Started

Plan your route. Map out your route in advance of using this map. If there are gaps in the suggested route or no direct routes, try going out on the weekend or after work to explore alternatives. A leisurely ride through neighborhoods along the way will reveal alternate roads that may be perfect for your commute. Make a practice run. The more comfortable you are with your route the easier your commute will be. Get acquainted with your bike. If there are adjustments that will need to be made, this is the time to find that out. Get use to riding your bike in a variety of traffic conditions. You will need to plan for arriving at your destination. Where you will park your bike, freshen up and change your clothes. If necessary, are all good things to know in advance. Learn and practice good safety skills and riding habits. You can do this on your own or through a bicycle safety class, soon to be offered by the City of Farmington, Bicycle Safety Education Program.

What to Wear?

Here are three options to consider:

Ride in your work clothes. Depending on the weather and the length of your commute, you may be able to wear your work clothes on your bike, or wear cycling clothes and carry work clothes. For longer, more strenuous commutes or more extreme temperatures, it can be more practical to change once you get to work. Rolling up work clothes, rather than folding them, will help to minimize wrinkles. Specialized clothing, such as padded cycling shorts and gloves, are optional but can increase your comfort level on longer rides. Store a week's worth of clothing at the office. This option may require you to drive in one day a week to bring in a few changes of clothing to the office.

Parking

Park in open areas where many people pass by and your bicycle can be easily seen. The best bike racks are made with thick, sturdy tubing, are bolted down, and allow you to lock both the frame and the wheels to the rack. When locking your bike to an object other than a bike rack (parking meter or sign post), ensure that it is not possible to slide the bike up and over the top of the object. Your employer may allow you to park your bike inside the building where you work. This is a good way to avoid theft and protect your bike from the elements.

Locking your Bike

Lock the whole bike. Place your chain, cable, or U lock through your frame and wheels. If you have a quick release front hub, you might consider taking it off and locking it with the rear wheel and frame. When using a padlock, put it where it's not close to the ground, a wall or other solid surface, and decrease the slack in your cable or chain. It's advisable to remove any easily removable accessories that cannot be locked, such as quick release seats, horns, bike bags, pumps, cycle computers, or lights.

The Myth

Do Farmington area drivers really hate bicycles? It's a myth. Most of them own bicycles. The fact is that, under certain circumstances, it is possible for any type of vehicle to become the object of hostility during rush hour. Drivers are more likely to respect your position on the road if you are consistent, predictable, and follow the rules of the road. If your bike commute involves streets with a great deal of traffic, be aware of your surroundings, ride defensively, and consider utilizing "Bike & Bus" for those portions that have a lower "Suitability Level".



Bicycle Safety Program

The Bicycle Safety Program offers "bicycle safety rodeos" and presentations to the schools and the community. Children and adults learn basic bicycling skills, traffic laws, helmet use and safety. Presented by certified instructors, The Bicycle Safety Program provides all equipment including bicycles, helmets, literature, signs and instruction.



Use hand signals

Signal all turns and stops ahead of time, shoulder check, then make your intended move only when it is safe to do so.



Ride in single file

Ride in single file when riding in a group except when overtaking or passing.



Be careful at intersections

The majority of accidents happen at intersections. Proceed with care. Vehicles making turns are particularly dangerous.



Beware of car doors

Be wary of parked cars. Motorists can unexpectedly open doors. Be particularly careful if you see a motorist in the car.



Obey traffic signs and signals

As a vehicle, bicyclists must obey all the Rules of the Road. Cyclists have the same privileges and duties as other traffic.



Scan the road behind

Shoulder check regularly and use a mirror to monitor traffic. Although bicyclists have equal right to the road, be prepared to maneuver for safety.



Be alert

Watch for slippery sections covered by ice, loose gravel or silt. Be sure the trail is clear of obstructions ahead. Ring bell for others where visibility is restricted such as on hills and turns.



Turning left - 2 options

1. AS A VEHICLE: Signal your intentions in advance. Move to the left turning lane, and complete the turn when it is safe.
2. AS A PEDESTRIAN: Ride to the far crosswalk and walk across.



Signal to others

Cyclists: When approaching others, sound your bell or call out "on your left", then pass safely on the left. Pedestrians: Acknowledge with a wave when someone is overtaking, then step to the right.



Control your pet

Farmington requires pets to be leashed while on the trail and owners to clean up after their pets. Keep leashes short and walk pets on the outside of the trail.



Earphone dangers

If you must use earphones on the trail, keep the volume sufficiently low to be able to hear other trail users.

Multi-Use Trails Shared Responsibilities



Right-of-way

Cyclists and pedestrians must yield to equestrians.



Use lights at night

Always use a strong white headlight and red taillight at night or when visibility is poor. Use bike reflectors and reflective clothing. See and be seen!



Be visible

All trail users must keep to the right except when passing or turning left. Move off the trail to the right when stopping.



Keep to the right

All trail users must keep to the right except when passing or turning left. Move off the trail to the right when stopping.

Why Cycling?

It's Healthy! Riding a bike to work can keep you in shape without having to set aside additional time for exercise. Bike riders tend to enjoy healthier lifestyles, get sick less often and feel less stress.

It's Smart! Bicycle commuting is one of the least expensive ways to get to work. There's no gas, parking fees or insurance to pay for, and maintenance costs are much lower.

It's Fast! In many areas, trips by bicycle, door to door, are faster than by car, especially where the one-way commute distance is less than five miles.

It's Clean! Bicycles don't pollute the air or require lots of roads or land for parking lots. Eight to twelve bicycles can park in the space required for one car.

It's Fun! A bicycle ride at the end of the day is a great way to relieve stress. Discovering routes on back roads through residential neighborhoods can be scenic and fun.



Bicycling Suitability Map

This Bicycling Suitability Map was developed to assist cyclists with their route choices. This map can be used to identify your origin and destination, and according to your own personal comfort, evaluate what the best route is for you. Regardless of the suitability factor all cyclists should exercise caution and awareness when riding. Bicycle regulations and safety, especially wearing a helmet, are of the utmost importance while riding in the Farmington area.

Bicycling Suitability Analysis

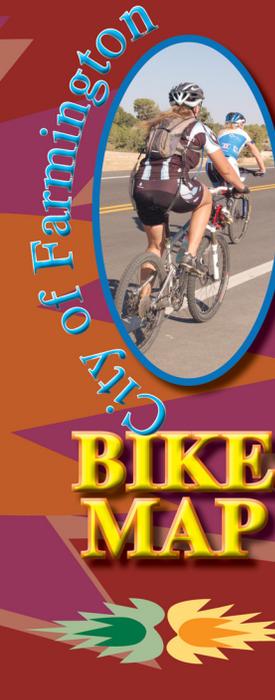
This Bicycling Suitability Map was created using the factors of speed, traffic counts, functional classification, and the existence of bike facilities. Each of these factors were weighted and assigned to the appropriate street segment. All overlapping factors were summed and the data was classified into three categories by statistical natural breaks.

The higher the score, the more suitable the street is for riding.

Factors Used for Bicycling Suitability Map

The following table shows the assigned points breakdown

SUITABILITY FACTOR	VALUE RANGE	SCORE
Traffic Count	Less than 7500 AADT	2
	Between 7500 and 15000 AADT	1
	More than 15000 AADT	0
	AADT: Annual Average Daily Traffic	
Speed	25 mph or less	2
	30 mph or 35 mph	1
	40 mph and over	0
Functional Street Classification	Local	2
	Collector	1
	Minor or Principal Arterial	0
Bike Facility	Bike Lane or Shoulder	4
	Share the Road (Bike Route)	2
	No Facility	0



Bicycle Information

- Farmington Public Works Traffic Engineering 505-599-8201
- Farmington Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department 505-599-1401
- Farmington Transit Department 505-599-1379

Bikeway Maintenance Information

- Farmington Public Works Department Street Maintenance Division 505-599-1308

Organizations

- Velo de Animas
- League of American Bicyclists

For more information about Bicycling in the Farmington Area, go to the City's website at www.fmtn.org