

# **INTRODUCTION & GENERAL INFO**

#### **Background:**

This route provides a rural touring experience, avoiding most tourist or commuter traffic, while offering the option of motel lodging in small towns. After eight crossings since 1993, it has evolved to two roughly parallel routes between Luna Pier on Lake Erie to New Buffalo on Lake Michigan, through Michigan's southernmost seven counties. A one-way trip will total about 200 to 225 miles. The route uses paved roads in pleasant farm country with rolling hills, patient drivers, woods and lakes. Motels are in reach after 25 to 60 mile rides, and camping is available in most areas. The towns are small and picturesque, with farming and railroading histories. Amish people and their buggies are evident in several areas. The route offers a taste of the rigors of trans-continental touring; hills, traffic near towns, detours, flat tires and scarce services, but also the rewards; nice scenery, friendly folks, and the potential for <u>adventure</u>!

Most roads on the route have low traffic, and even the adjoining gravel ones are smooth and rideable with reasonable care, so feel free to improvise connections from one route alternate to another, side routes to attractions, etc. (And be equipped to ride on gravel in ANY event, because the chances of a construction detour forcing you briefly onto gravel at some point are pretty high!) In general, the southern alternate tends to offer the least traffic, and the northern alternate the hilliest terrain, but both are suitable cycling territory for a "qualified" cyclist (see next section). As you use these routes, please let the League know of any issues or suggestions, so the route can evolve and improve over time. In general, if you can handle this route and ride across Michigan in a week, you are ready for a trans-America trip – just add mountains, deserts, two or three months of time, and a dozen laundry stops.

#### **Rider Qualifications:**

This route doesn't require an athlete, but it does call for reasonable physical condition, mapreading ability, knowledge of (and adherence to) the rules of the road, safe riding skills, resourcefulness in the event of surprises, and the tenacity to get up and keep going the day after heat or cold or headwinds or rain. In addition, flat-fixing skill is mandatory, as is a basic understanding of how your bike works, and how to adjust or "jury-rig" its mechanical systems (brakes, derailleurs, etc.), in the event of trouble.

#### Equipment:

There are several good books on bicycle touring which cover the gamut – technique, training, equipment, etc. But in over 18,000 miles of self-supported long-distance touring, we've learned a few basics which can make the difference between success and failure:

• THE BIKE - Ideally, use a purpose-built touring bike whose basic structure is designed to carry a touring load, accommodate fenders, racks, and water bottles, provide adequate heel clearance to the rear panniers, and offer relaxed handling, proper gearing and powerful brakes. Mountain bikes or hybrids can work for limited loads or distances, but don't try to use your carbon-fiber road bike for touring if you want to get there with the wheels and spokes you left home with!

#### **Equipment (continued)**:

- GOOD WHEELS are mandatory in our years of touring, the primary cause of the breakdowns we've seen, after flat tires, is broken spokes. To survive the occasional gravel, expansion strips and potholes, while carrying a touring load, heavy-duty wheels with lots of spokes are needed (we use 40-spoke rears and 36-spoke fronts).
- TIRES We recommend reasonably wide tires a minimum of 700x32 or 27x1-1/4, with a spare tire (foldable is nice), a couple of spare tubes and a patching kit. (Also, we prefer Schrader valves over Presta for touring, for availability and reliability reasons.)
- GEARING you need a triple crankset and a cassette/freewheel offering a nice low "granny gear" for comfortable hill-climbing. A proper low gear is about 20 "gear-inches" achieved by the combination of a large rear cog with at least 32 teeth and a small chainring with no more than 24 teeth. Beware don't assume a new touring bike is geared properly for real-world touring!
- Rear-view MIRRORS you wouldn't drive a car without one, and in our opinion they're even more important on a bike! We like the ones that mount on the brake hood, but many riders prefer bar-end, helmet or eyeglass-mounted mirrors.
- HELMETS a necessity, of course, as we've proven to ourselves from personal experience!
- SHOES/PEDALS It's a matter of preference, but we use regular running shoes with platform pedals sans clips or straps. Touring isn't a race or an efficiency contest, and we like to be comfortable, and to be able to stomp around in muddy woods or cornfields when "necessary." (Also, by FAR the most common injury we've seen among touring cyclists is skinned knees and shins from getting stuck in clipless pedals at surprise stops!)
- RACKS/PANNIERS it may seem counter-intuitive, but you need to carry much of your load in front panniers. A rear-only load is inherently unstable (as those of us who have carried our kids on rear child seats can attest), while a substantial front load makes the steering more stable and less "twitchy."

#### **Route Services:**

The motel and B&B listings are not all-inclusive – the ones used by the writers and a few others most accessible to the route are listed. The writers have only stayed in the lodging indicated, and can't vouch for the others, so input is welcome. In the case of campgrounds, knowing that many cyclists like to camp, an attempt was made to list a few of campgrounds in each county, even if several miles off-route. (NOT being avid campers, however, the writers have only tried one of them - Gateway Park in Hillsdale County – so input is welcome!)

Janet & Ralph Emmons – 2009 Revised June 2011



### **BERRIEN COUNTY**

#### **History and Geography:**

Located in the southwestern corner of Michigan, Berrien County is bordered on the west by 42 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and on the south by the state of Indiana. It was named for John M. Berrien of Georgia, Attorney General under President Andrew Jackson (1829-1831).

Famous men of industry and commerce who came from this area include John and Horace Dodge and Montgomery Ward. The Dodge brothers were born in Niles, and had a bicycle manufacturing shop there before moving to Detroit and becoming a supplier of parts to Henry Ford and later, producer of Dodge automobiles. Ward lived in Berrien County until 1865, when he moved to Chicago and founded the mail order department store chain which bore his name.

A little-known event took place in the county in 1899, when Augustus Herring flew the first known man-supporting, heavier-than-air, motorized, "flying machine" along the shores of Silver Beach in St. Joseph, Michigan. He did this twice, first without reporters and next with them as witnesses. However, his accomplishment was overlooked due to the distraction of having President McKinley in Three Oaks to present the gift of a cannon captured by Admiral George Dewey at the battle of Manila to the town. This gift was to thank Three Oaks for having raised the most money per capita of any U.S. community for a monument to the men of the battleship Maine, which had been sunk in Havana Harbor in 1898. The gift still stands in Dewey Cannon Park in Three Oaks. Nice for Three Oaks, but sad for Augustus Herring, whose flight took place four years before that of the Wright brothers. (It should be noted, however, that Herring's flight isn't recognized by the aviation community because his machine only had three horsepower! The only way it was able to lift off was by running into a 25 mph headwind, and its duration was too short to demonstrate controllability.)

Today, Berrien County has a diversified economy, including (dwindling) manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, and service industries. It is the heart of Michigan's fruit belt, leading all counties in the production of peaches, pears and grapes. It is second in apples, plums and prunes and fourth in tart cherries. It is also home to Michigan's wine production.

#### **Major Towns:**

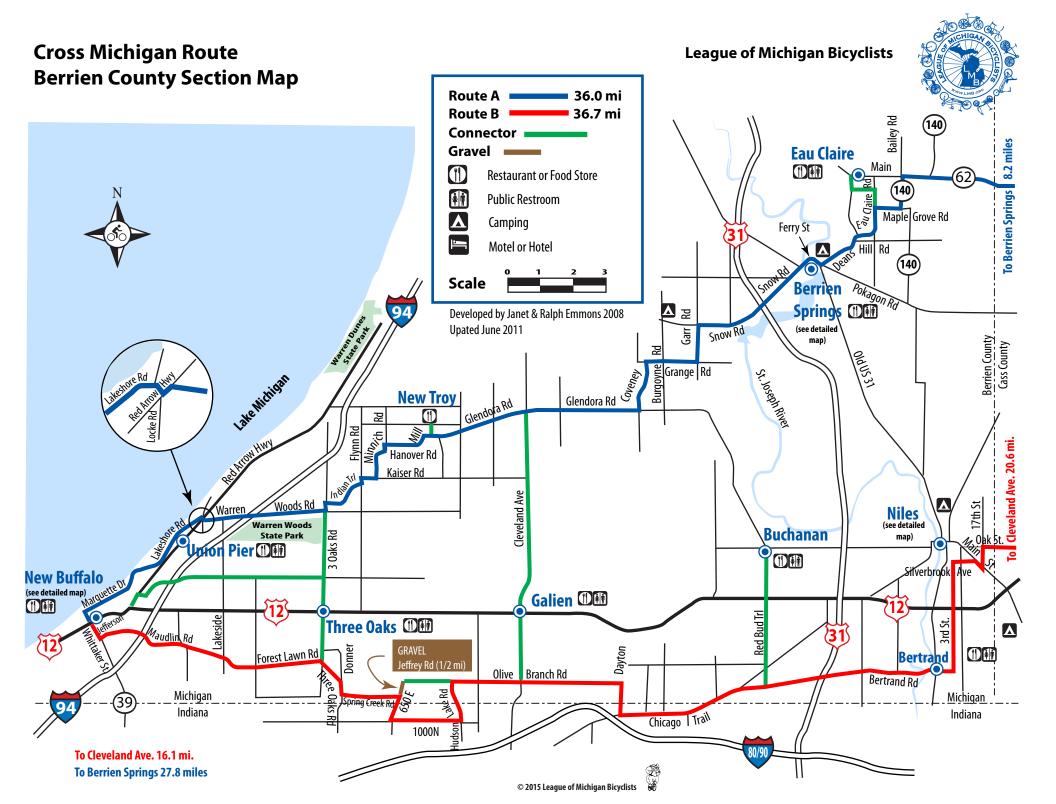
<u>Berrien Springs</u> had been home to an Indian chief named Wolf and was originally called Wolf's Prairie. White settlers began arriving in 1829, platted it in 1831 and named it after President Jackson's attorney general and the many natural springs they found in the area. Berrien Springs is home to Andrews University, which has interesting natural history and archaeological museums on its campus. At one time, boxer Mohammad Ali resided in the Berrien Springs area.

<u>New Buffalo</u> is located on the shore of Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Galien River which forms a natural harbor and draws pleasure boaters from miles around. This natural and beautiful harbor was first noticed in 1834 by a Captain Wessel D. Whittaker when his vessel ran aground in the area. After rescuing his crew, Captain Whittaker returned to his home in New Buffalo, N.Y., but he remained so impressed with the area, that he returned with several investors and began to draw up plans for a community. New Buffalo also serves as a resort destination for many Chicagoans, and excellent "Chicago-style" hot dogs are available in town.

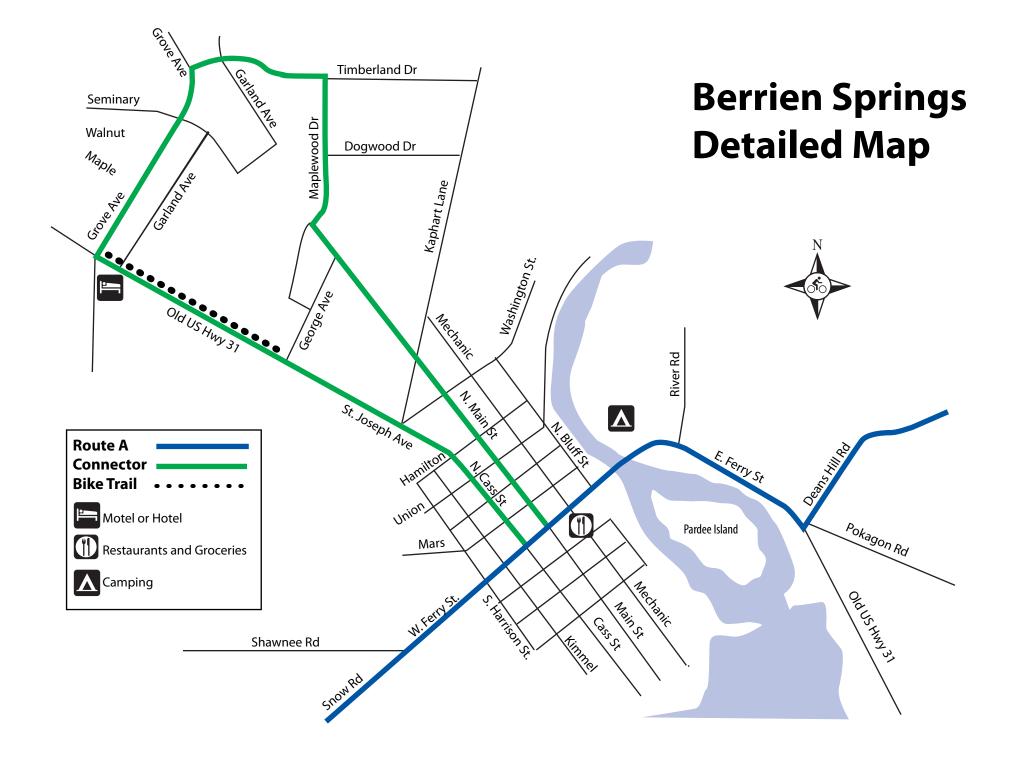
<u>Niles</u> is located at the site of the French Fort St. Joseph, on the shore of the St. Joseph River. After 1761 is was held by the British and captured by Native Americans during Pontiac's Rebellion in 1763. During the Revolutionary War, it was held for a short time by Spain. The presence of these three European Nations and the U.S. is the reason Niles is nicknamed "City of Four Flags." The Amtrak station uses the old Michigan Central station, which was built in 1892 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Scenes from several movies have been shot at this location. Today, Niles is especially appealing to antique collectors, as it has several large antique markets and another antique mall just south of the state line on US 33.

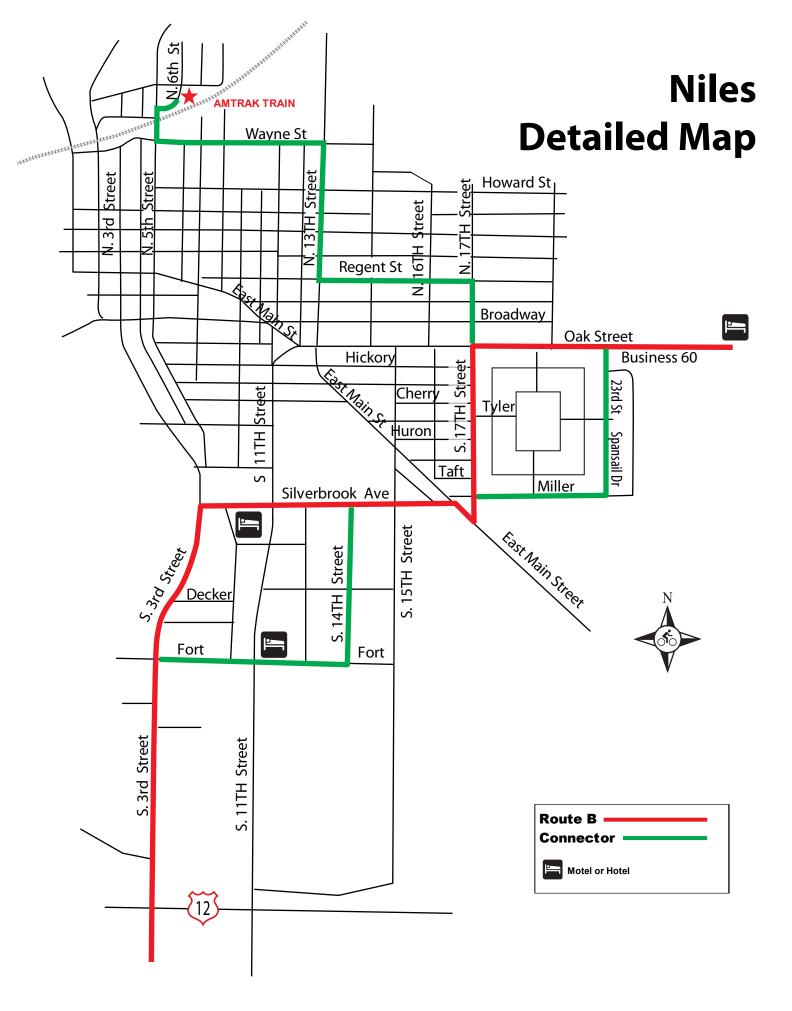
#### **<u>Riding Conditions</u>**:

Riding in Berrien County is, for the most part, quite pleasant. The road surfaces are good and the terrain ranges from rolling, to fairly steep hills, to nearly flat along M 62. In addition to small farms, and inland lakes, you will also pedal through fruit country, with vineyards which are quite picturesque and smell wonderful in the fall. Most roads have light traffic, but caution needs to be exercised on some, such as Dean's Hill Road, which is curvy, hilly and has no shoulder. Most of the busier roads have shoulders. The Three Oaks Spokes bicycle club has numerous "loop" routes throughout the county, several of which share segments with our route. A pleasant side trip is the spur up to Three Oaks, home of the Three Oaks Spokes, the Dewey Cannon, and several eateries.















# CASS COUNTY

#### **History and Geography:**

Cass County was first organized in 1829 and named for territorial governor Lewis Cass. The earliest inhabitants were the Miami Indians, but by the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Pottawatomi were the predominant tribe. Most of these Indians were "relocated" West, except for one band, the Pokagon, who chose to become Christians and to adopt European-American customs. Before the Civil War, this area was a part of the Underground Railroad. Many runaway slaves found safe haven in the home of Quaker William Jones, just outside of Cassopolis.

Lumbering was an important industry early in Cass County's history, but this resource was quickly depleted. By the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, agriculture was the predominant industry and it still plays an important role, with significant soy bean, corn, and hog production. Later, tourism and recreation started to become important, and many hotels and resorts started to crop up on its many lakes.

#### **Major Towns:**

<u>Dowagiac</u> was founded in 1848 and incorporated as a village in 1863. It was named for the river that runs through it, originally spelled "Dowagiake," a Potawatomi word for "fishing water," or from "Ndowagayuk," meaning "foraging ground." In either case, the name was changed to its current spelling when the railroad came through in 1848. Dowagiac remains a "railroad town" to some extent, boasting an Amtrak station in the downtown area. The old downtown is located on a street running at right angles to the main highway and is easily accessible from the route. It offers well-preserved architecture and everything a cyclist needs – motel, restaurants, grocery, ice cream, etc.

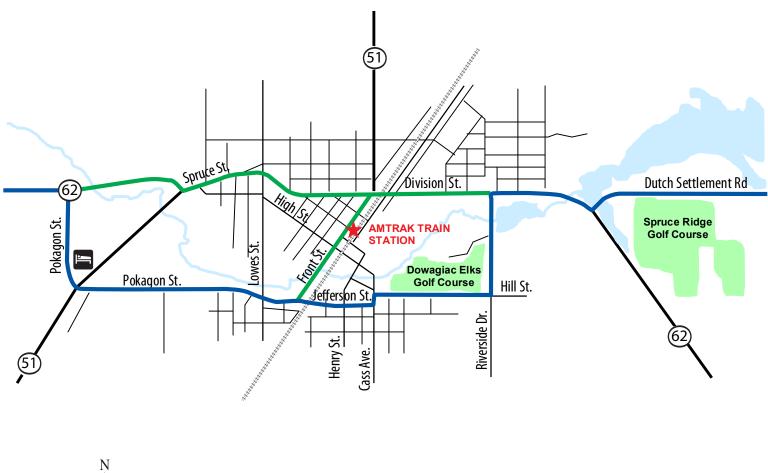
#### **<u>Riding Conditions:</u>**

In Cass Co. you will encounter probably the longest stretch of sizable hills in the entire route network; along Dutch Settlement Rd on the northern alternate. There are also some pretty good-sized hills along Teasdale Lake Rd. on the southern route. (Remember - these are good for you.) Keep in mind that there is only one town along the route through this county – Dowagiac on the northern alternate - so be sure to bring your peanut butter! In spite of this, the ride is quite pleasant as you cruise past lakes, farms (including a nice pig farm called "Pork Chop Hill"), swamp land and across rivers. Traffic is generally light, and road surfaces are good.

**Cross Michigan Route League of Michigan Bicyclists Cass County Section Map** "Promoting bicycling and the safety of bicyclists on the roadways in Michigan!" Bruch Lake Rd Lawrence Rd Indian Lake Rd win Lakes Rd <u>Briar P</u>atch Rd **Miller Rd** Indian 5 O'Keefe Rd Lake Savage Rd Bundy Rd To Dowagiac 18.2 mi. **r**6.0 mi. Little Fish Dutch Settlement Rd Dutch Settlement Rd 62 Dutch Settlement Rd To Dowagiac Sink Rd Moort<u>ag Rd</u> White Temple Rd California Rd Decatur Rd Lucas Rd Indian Lake Rd Dowagiac See Detailed Map 40 🖕 LaGrange (51 24.2 mi **Route A** (62 St. Joseph County Cass County (Hilly) Route B = 26.5 mi Berrien County Connector Cass County 0 **Restaurant or Food Store** Cassopolis **i** Pokegon **Public Restroom Facilities** 60 Δ Camping • Motel or Hotel 2 4 3 Scale 60 (62 Developed by Janet & Ralph Emmons 2008 Robbins Lake Rd Robinson Rd (40)Hebron Rd Barron Shavehead Lake BirchRd Union Rd Lake To M 62 16.6 mi. Pine Lake St Teesdale Lake TUTOW Niles 9.9 mi. Monette St Calvin Hill St Teesdale Like St. Dailey Rd Oil City Rd Business 60 Carter's Lake Yankee St Bd Hess Rd  $\mathbf{O}$ Beebe Rd Anderson No Shore DI Cassopolis Rd Robbins To M-62 Tharp Lake Rd Kessington Rd Calvin Center Rd Lake Carter Lake St. (60 Birch Rd Leet Rd Juno Union Rd Lake

© 2015 League of Michigan Bicyclists

# **Dowagiac Detailed Map**











### **ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**

#### **History and Geography:**

In prehistoric times, St. Joseph County was home to the Mound Builders. Much later, French explorer de La Salle found Potawatomi and Miami tribes living at the mouth of the Miami River in the area of present day Benton Harbor and St.Joseph. He built a stockade there in 1680 and renamed the river St Joseph, in honor of the patron saint of New France. Later still, pioneers were attracted to the region by its fertile prairie, which promised good farming. The earliest settlements were Sturgis, Mottville, and White Pigeon, founded in the late 1820's.

Logging was an early industry in St. Joseph County, done mainly to clear the land for farming. Crops were shipped via the St. Joseph River, which weaves its way some 210 miles through northern Indiana and southwest Michigan. It was an extremely important canoe route for both Indians and early settlers. Agriculture remains an important industry in this area, including the raising of grain, soybeans, wheat, oats, alfalfa, vegetables and hogs. An abundance of rivers and lakes attract fishermen and tourists to the region. The Langley Covered Bridge (off-route three miles north of Centerville) was built in 1887 and is the longest covered bridge in Michigan and one of the few remaining of its kind.

#### **Major Towns:**

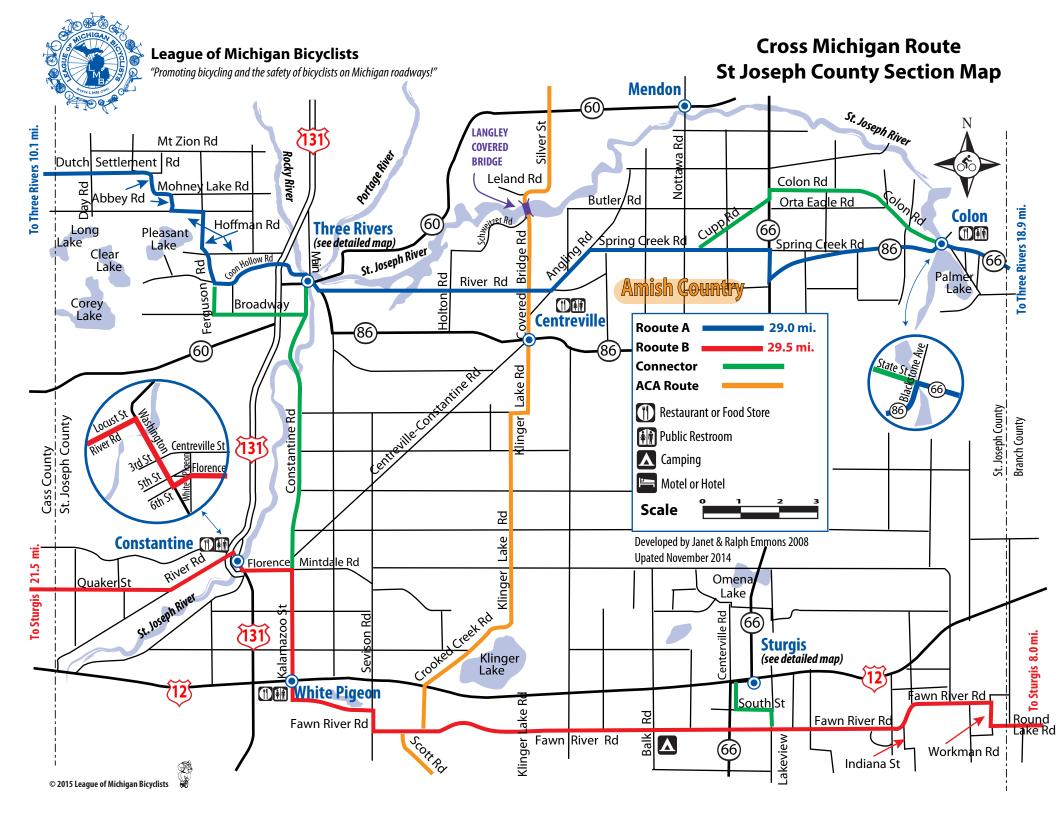
<u>Colon</u> was founded in 1830 by the Schellhouse family, one of the first to settle in the area. Lorensie Shellhouse reportedly named the town when he picked up a dictionary and randomly saw the word "colon". (Others claim the name derives from the twisty layout of the river in the area.) Colon is also known as "magic city," due to having the famous magician, Harry Blackstone, as a resident. In 1926 Blackstone bought approximately 208 acres of land and this became his headquarters, workshop and the most permanent residence he ever had. It is extremely permanent now, as Harry is buried there, along with several other magicians who are buried in this cemetery. Besides having preserved a number of its turn-of-the-century buildings, Colon is also home to the "magic factory" which still draws magicians from around the country.

<u>White Pigeon</u> lies along U.S. 12 and is the oldest incorporated village in Michigan (1837) and was named for an Indian chief who once resided there. The town offers the Little River Railroad museum, as well as one of the few remaining Old Northwest Territory land offices in the country. Land sold here for \$1.25 per acre in the 1830's!

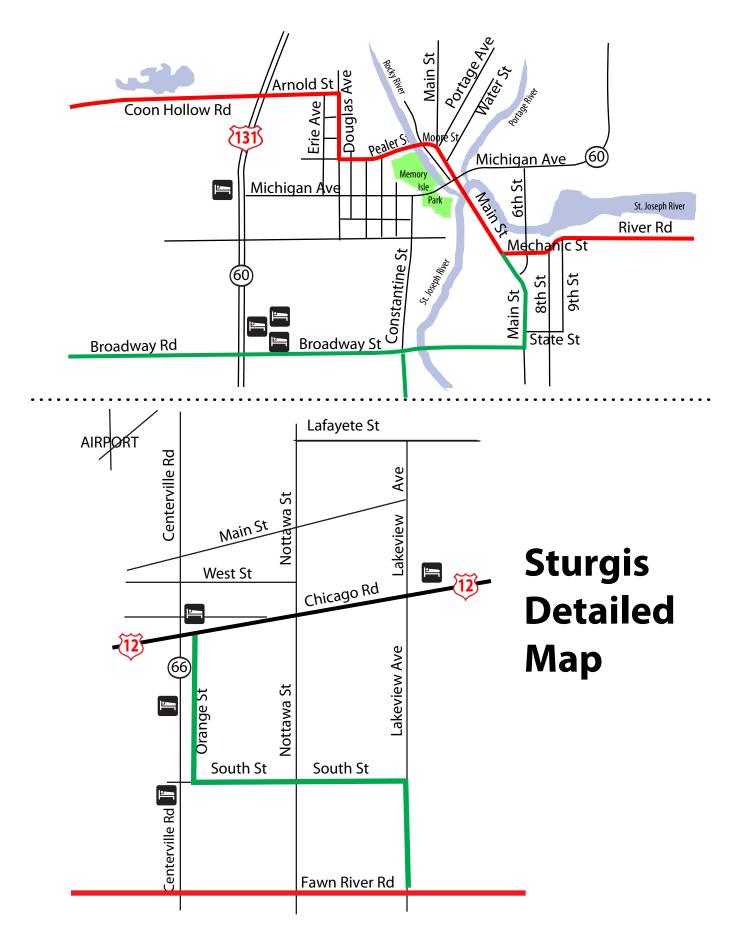
<u>Constantine</u> was originally known as Meeks Mill for William Meek, who purchased land there and built the first cabin in the area, along the banks of the St. Joseph River, in the winter of 1828/29. During the next winter he built a saw mill, hence the name "Meek's Mill." By 1910, Constantine was a town of about 1,000 and had a public library, several banks, industrial facilities, an opera house, newspaper, schools, churches and a nice hotel—the Harvey House. Many of its turn-of-the-century buildings remain in use, including the Harvey House, which no longer offers lodging, but still serves excellent meals. A large mural depicts the entrance of the hotel and background as it would have appeared in the late 1800's, when steamboats and the railroad brought travelers. <u>Sturgis</u> was named for Judge John Sturgis who came to the St. Joseph valley in 1827 and built a log cabin which still can be seen at Pioneer Park. Sturgis was the first town to welcome the Michigan Southern steam locomotive in 1851, and was also fortunate due to the presence of the St. Joseph River, which provided water power for industry. Today Sturgis is the largest town in the county, with diverse business, and it is located in the middle of a popular tourist area, the "River Country" of St. Joseph County. Tom Bodett, born in Sturgis, would leave the light on for you if there were a Motel 6 there.

<u>Three Rivers</u> is named for being at the junction of (guess how many) rivers - yes, three - the Portage, the Rocky and the St. Joseph. The community started in the early 1830s and was named by landowner, John H. Bowman. In 1895 it was incorporated as a city, and has experienced significant growth since that time. At one time it was a major location for the fur industry. Three Rivers has managed to keep its historical look by retaining many of its old buildings. Much of the downtown is on the National Historical Register, including the Silliman House, which is now a museum that is maintained by a local chapter of the DAR. Today Three Rivers is also home to St. Gregory's Abbey, a Benedictine monastery established in 1946.

**<u>Riding Conditions</u>**: This county has the greatest number of "major" towns along the route, and you may notice heavier traffic as you approach any of them, but it is still a generally quiet ride. The terrain is a mixed bag of flat land and hills, lakes and woodlots. Road conditions are good, but be aware that traffic increases as you approach the towns.



# **Three Rivers Detailed Map**



St. Joseph County Services					
Name of Service	Address	City	ZIP	Telephone	
<u>Motels</u>					
Travel Lodge	1301 South Centerville Rd	Sturgis	49091	269-651-7881	
Little Country Inn	800 West Chicago Rd	White Pigeon	49099	269-483-7285	
* Holiday Inn Express	1207 West Broadway	Three Rivers	49093	269-278-7766	
Best Value Extended Stay	1211 West Broadway	"	"	269-273-8100	
Super 8	689 South US Hwy 131	"	"	269-279-8888	
Spartan Motel (via hwy shoulder)	58852 South US Hwy 131	"	"	269-278-1615	
<u>B &amp; B's</u>					
(none near route)					
Camping					
Cade Lake County Park	68911 Plumb School Rd	Sturgis	49091	269-651-3330	
Green Valley Campground	25499 West Fawn River Rd	"	"	269-651-8760	
Corey Roberts Lake Cmpgrnd	10705 Corey Lake Rd	Three Rivers	49093	269-244-8214	
Bike Shops					
Kickstand Schwinn Cyclery	1240 East Chicago Rd	Sturgis	49091	269-651-5088	
** Mobile Bike Repair Llc.	(Road service out of Three Rivers)	Three Rivers	N/A	269-816-8473	
Other Services, Notes					
	acceptable during route developmer	nt			
** Provides service within a 30-40 r	nile range of Three Rivers				



## **BRANCH COUNTY**

#### **History and Geography:**

Branch County was organized in 1831, shortly after settlers arrived in the area of what is now known as the city of Bronson in 1828. It was named for John Branch who was the Secretary of the Navy under then-president Andrew Jackson. The county seat, originally located in the small village of Branch, was eventually relocated to Coldwater which is presently the county's largest city. Branch County was slower than some to develop, as it lacked good roads, railroad access, and its local Indian population felt intimidated by the new white settlers. This all changed in the 1840's when the Chicago Road (US-12) came through and attracted more commerce and settlers. One of the new businesses was the Union City Iron Company founded in 1847 - the first company to produce iron made from Michigan ore.

Today, Branch County boasts dairy, cattle, swine, sheep and grain farms. There is also a large Amish population who provide locals (and tourists) with fruit, produce, baked goods, homemade furniture and quilts. At the time of this writing, the area around the towns of Coldwater and Bronson are doing well with manufacturing (until they leave for China), including metal fabrication and fishing gear. Numerous lakes in the county encourage tourism.

#### **Major Towns:**

<u>Coldwater</u>, the county seat, is the only major town on the route. It was first settled by Allen Tibbits and Joseph Hanchett, and officially received its name for the river running through it. In 1861 a Light Artillery Battery led by Commander Cyrus Loomis left Coldwater to fight for the union and went on to become one of the most renowned Regiments in the Civil War. Besides cannon used in the Civil War, Coldwater is said to have some of the finest turn-of-the-century architecture anywhere in the country, including the famous Tibbits Opera House. Some of its industries include metal products, wood furniture, store fixtures, and play equipment.

#### **<u>Riding Conditions:</u>**

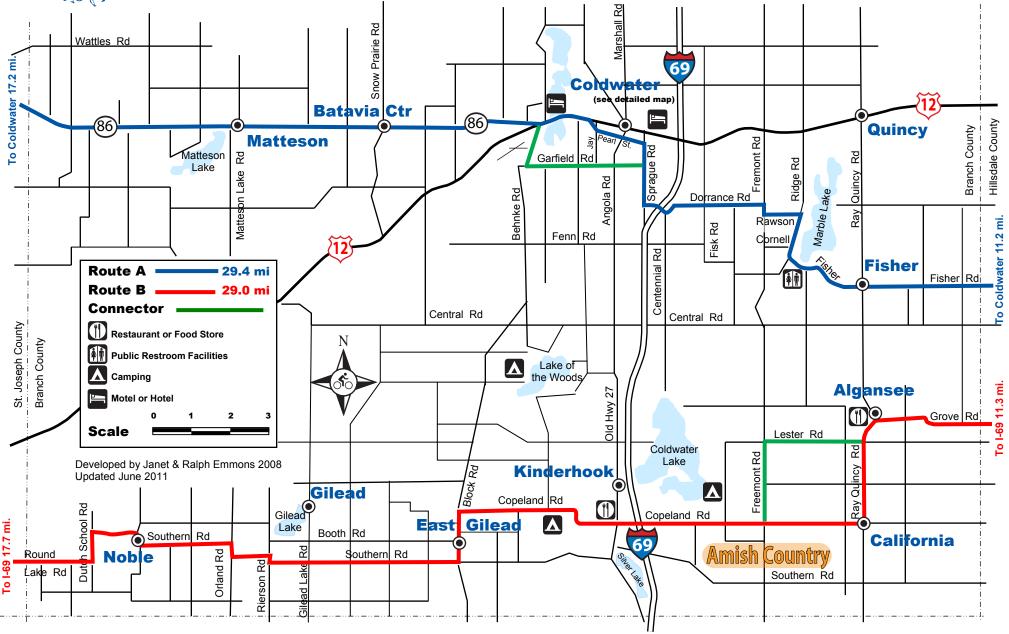
Branch County provides very pleasant riding, in which you will pass by Amish farms, swamp lands, woods, and lakes. The road surfaces are fairly good with varied terrain - some hills and a rather long flat stretch along M-86 (on the northern route). You may see wild turkeys, buzzards and other wildlife, not to mention the deadlife you will encounter along the road shoulders—mostly raccoons, opossums, skunks and a few squirrels.



#### League of Michigan Bicyclists

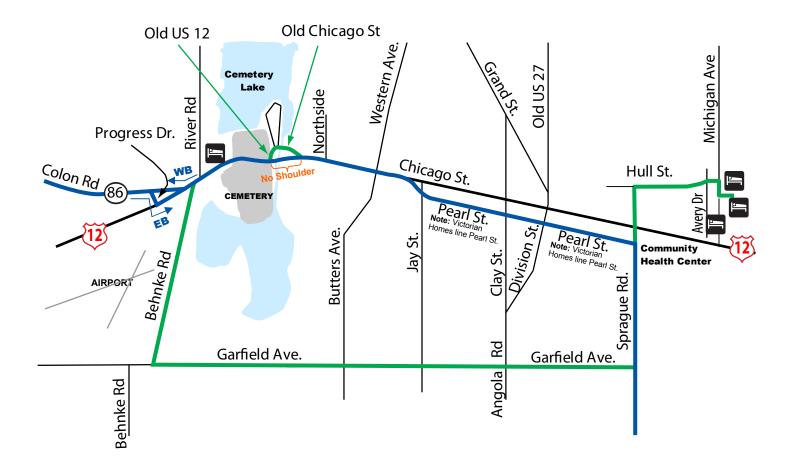
"Promoting bicycling and the safety of bicyclists on the roadways in Michigan!"

# Cross Michigan Route Branch County Section Map



E

# **Coldwater Detailed Map**





Route A Connector	•
Motel or Hotel	





Janet and Ralph Emmons 6/10/2011



### HILLSDALE COUNTY SEGMENT INFO

#### **History and Geography:**

Hillsdale County is centrally located in southern Michigan's, deriving its name from its glaciallyformed topography. The county is the source of five major rivers that drain into Lakes Michigan or Erie; the St. Joseph, the Grand, the Kalamazoo, the Raisin and the St. Joseph of the Maumee. Because of the rivers and the old Northwest and Maumee Trails, this area became an important transportation center.

After the last ice age, the area attracted hunters and mound builders, and later was home to the Huron and Potawatomi Indians. By the 1820's, the rich soil and transportation began attracting white settlers. The first English-speaking white settler in Hillsdale County was Captain Moses Allen, veteran of the War of 1812. He moved his family into an abandoned French fur trader's cabin in 1827, and the village of Allen is named for him. In 1828 Benaiah Jones brought his family up from Ohio, and started the first village to be incorporated in the county - Jonesville. During the pioneer era, white settlement led to the forced relocation of most of southern Michigan's Indians to reservations in Iowa and Kansas. One who refused to relinquish his land was Potawatomi chief Baw Beese. He did agree, in return for \$400 per year "forever," to give up his land on the Huron and Raisin Rivers and to move a bit further west to a strip of land along the boundary between Hillsdale and Lenawee counties. He and his people lived quite peacefully among the new settlers until 1840, when a local pioneer requested the Indians be removed from the land he had purchased. Federal troops rounded up the band and moved them to a reservation in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

#### **Major Towns:**

<u>Hillsdale</u>, the largest town in the county, was established in 1839, chartered in 1869 and became a booming railroad town. After a hot political battle, political power shifted from Jonesville to Hillsdale and it became the county seat. In 1843 the first steam engine of the Erie and Kalamazoo line rolled into town, and Hillsdale became the "jumping off place" for the west. Until the 1950's, Hillsdale was a major railroad center with some 26 passenger trains a day.

Because of the access to the railroad, Michigan Central College relocated from Spring Arbor to Hillsdale in 1835. Today that institution is known as Hillsdale College, an independent, coed, liberal arts college which proclaims it does not accept federal or state aid. The college also boasts the higher percentage of student enlistment in the Civil War of any western college. Of more than 400 who fought for the Union, four won the Medal of Honor, three became generals, and sixty died. (Incidentally, Hillsdale College is the location of excellent lodging - the Dow Center, which offers rooms, computer access, use of the student cafeteria, etc.)

#### **Riding Conditions:**

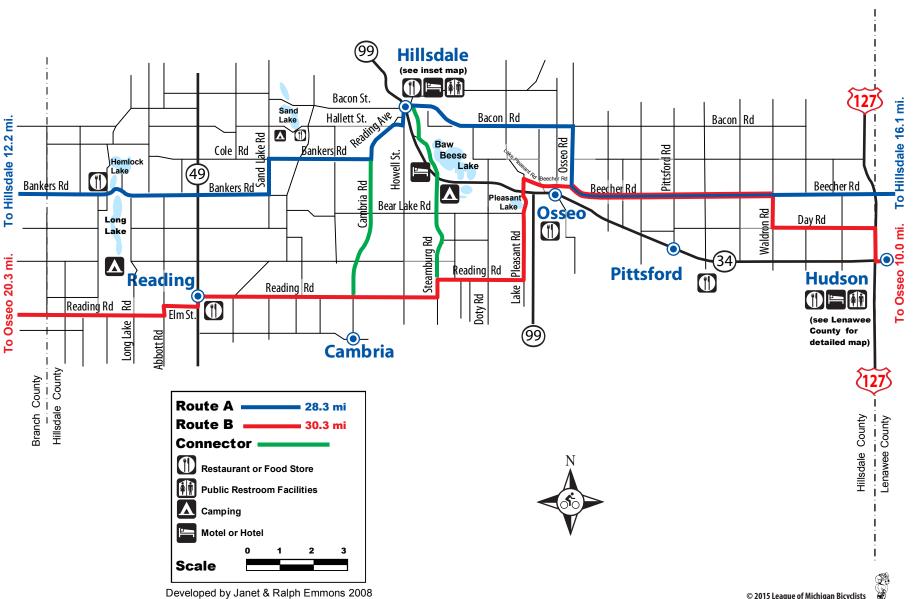
Hillsdale County, as the name implies, is pleasantly hilly, but nothing too difficult. Road surfaces are good, and have little traffic until you approach Hillsdale. Along the way, you will pass classic farms with shady woodlots, several fishing lakes, and the Lost Nation State Game Area. Other smaller villages on the route include Reading, Steamburg, Osseo, and Pittsford.

Primary Sources: Hillsdale County website, InfoMi.com, Wikipedia, tour notes

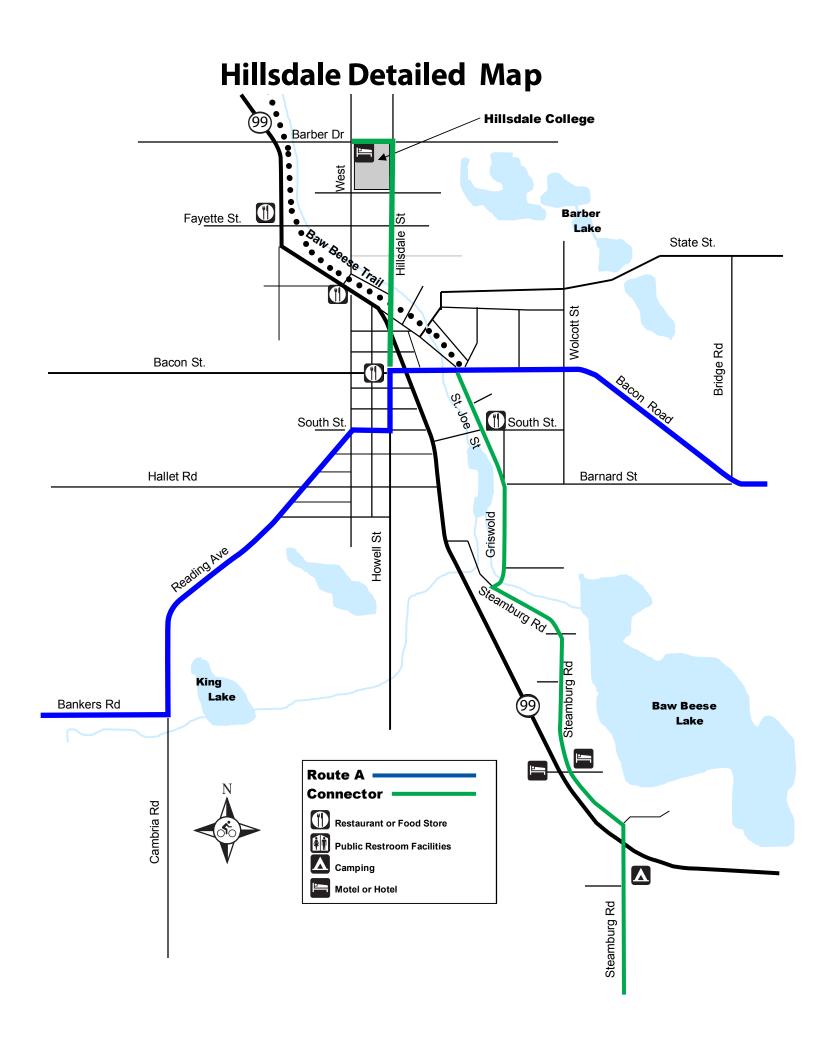


# **Cross Michigan Route** Hillsdale County Section Map

© 2015 League of Michigan Bicyclists



Developed by Janet & Ralph Emmons 2008 Updated 12/14





Name of Service	Hillsdale County	<u>City</u>	ZIP	Telephone
Motels	Address			
* Hillsdale Motel	1729 Hudson Rd	Hillsdale	49242	517-437-3389
* # Dow Conference Center	22 East Galloway Dr	"	"	517-437-3311
Bavarian Inn	1728 Hudson Rd	"	"	517-437-3367
*^ Days Inn	3241 West Carleton Rd	"	"	517-439-3297
<u>B &amp; B's</u>				
(none near route)				
Camping				
Sugarbush Campground	2571 South Sand Lake Rd	"	"	517-439-9525
Six Lakes campground	2155 Hudson Rd	"	"	517-439-5660
Kimball Camp YMCA Nat. Cntr.	4444Long Lake Rd	Reading	49274	517-283-2168
<u>Bike Shops</u>				
(none near route)				
Other Services, Notes				
* Motels and campgrounds previou	usly used and found acceptable d	uring route developm	nent	
# Operated by Hillsdale College ^ Accessible from downtown Hillsd				



# LENAWEE COUNTY

#### History & Geography:

Lenawee County got its start when 30 people arrived from Jefferson County, New York and settled along the Raisin River in what would become the Village of Tecumseh. In 1822 Governor Lewis Cass decided it was time to lay out a new county, and by 1826 Lenawee County was fully organized, stretching at the time all the way to Lake Michigan. Today, Lenawee County is the widest segment of the route, measuring about 35 miles east-to-west.

The name "Lenawee" is of American Indian derivation, meaning "men," "the people," or the Shawnee word for "Indian." In the mid 1800's Lenawee County was a leader in population in Michigan, but population growth slowed by the end of that century. However, its agriculture and industry (including the production of railway cars, A/C compressors, wire fencing and a few automobiles) kept the economy strong. Besides agriculture and industry, tourism is strong today, and attractions include the Irish Hills area, Michigan International Speedway, Hidden Lakes Gardens, Hayes State Park and the Cambridge Junction historical area.

#### **Major Towns:**

<u>Adrian</u> was first settled in1826 by Adrian J. Comstock, a settler from New York, who originally called the town "Logan". The Michigan Legislature renamed it Adrian, and it was organized into a city in 1853. Its broad economic base is supported by industries such as auto-parts manufacturing, plastics, aluminum and brass forging, as well as furniture production, healthcare and office products. It is also home to Adrian and Siena Heights Colleges. Because it retained much of its historical architecture, its downtown has a distinct turn-of-the-century look.

<u>Blissfield</u> lies midway between Adrian and Toledo, an ideal "bedroom community" for commuters to both cities. Industries include heating and refrigeration and agriculture. Downtown Blissfield also retains many of its historical, Victorian style buildings which contain unique shops and stores. Blissfield was first settled by William Kedzie from New York who later sold the land to Henry Bliss from neighboring Monroe Co. He organized the Township in 1827 and became the first postmaster. The town was later organized as a village in 1875.

<u>Hudson</u> is located on the western edge of Lenawee County at the junction of US 127 and M-34. It was first settled in 1833 by Hiram Kidder from New York, and was called Bean Creek at that time, for a creek two miles south. It was renamed Lanesville in 1836 when Beriah Lane became the first postmaster. It was renamed in 1840 for Dr. Daniel Hudson from Geneva, New York, who was a major landowner. It was incorporated as a village in 1853 when the Lake Shore & Southern Michigan Railroad came through and built a station. It became incorporated as a city in 1893. The entire downtown area and several houses are designated historic places on the National Register, so it is a "must see" place for history buffs. The Hudson Railroad Bridge is one of Michigan's largest and oldest stone arch structures. It was constructed by the Lakeshore and Michigan Southern Railroad, and lies adjacent to Main Street.

<u>Tecumseh</u> (north of Adrian along the Kiwanis Rail-to-Trail) was the first settlement in Lenawee County, and was the county seat until 1838, when it was transferred to Adrian. One of the village's best known manufacturers was Tecumseh Products, a producer of refrigeration

compressors, founded by the Herrick family during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Another historical note is that General Custer's horse "Don Juan" is buried in Tecumseh.

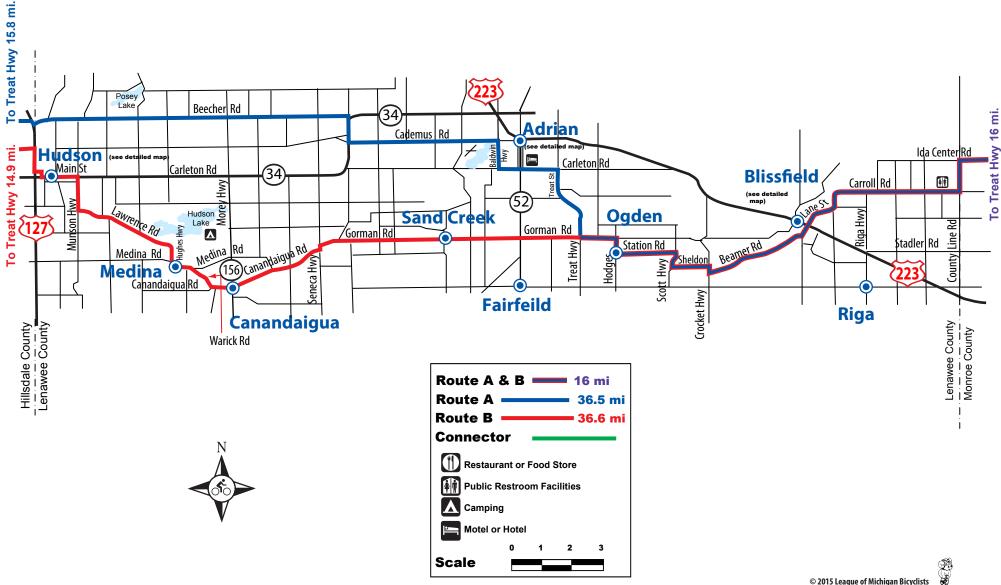
#### **<u>Riding Conditions:</u>**

Lenawee County offers good road surfaces, generally low traffic, rolling hills, and pleasant countryside as you pass through the historic towns, and pedal past farms and woodlots. Traffic can be heavy in the immediate vicinity of Adrian – be cautious and use back streets such as are shown on the inset map.



**League of Michigan Bicyclists** Promoting bicycling and the safety of bicyclists on the roadways in Michigan!"

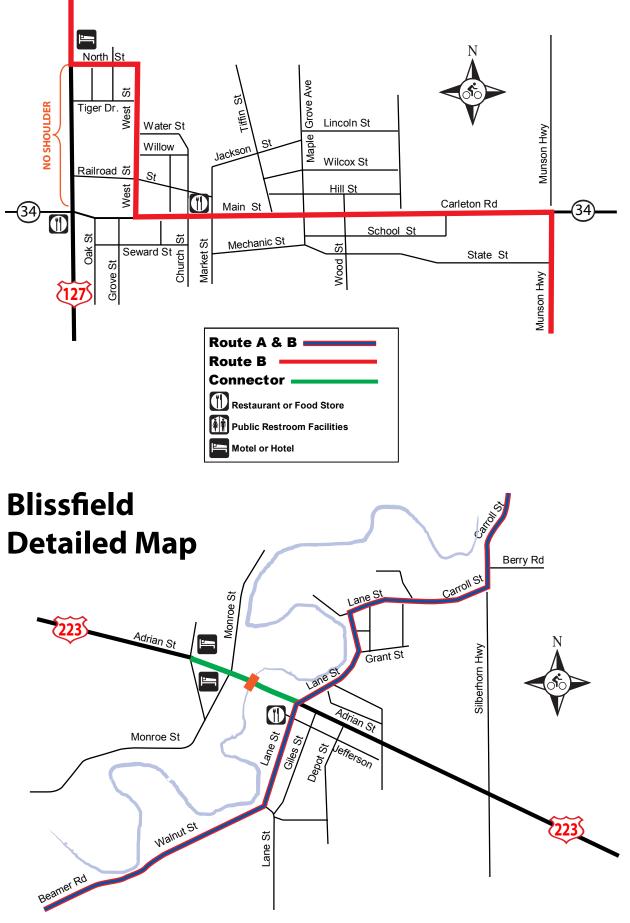
# **Cross Michigan Route Lenawee County Section Map**

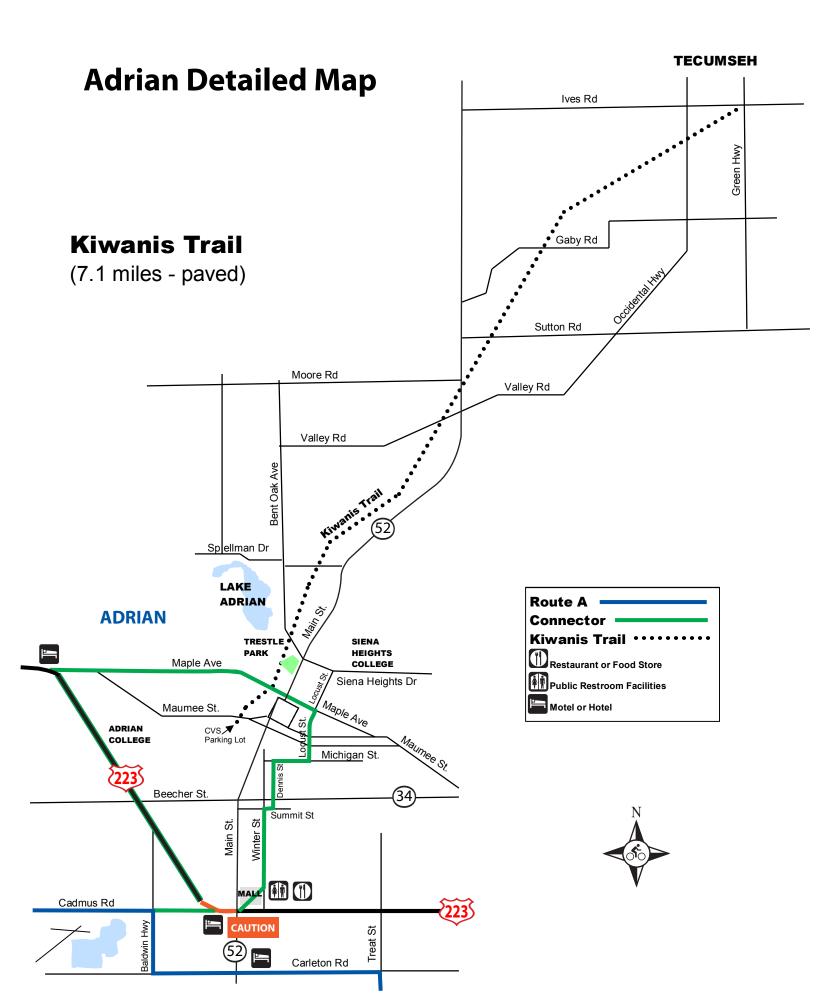


Developed by Janet & Ralph Emmons 2008 Updated June 2011

© 2015 League of Michigan Bicyclists

# **Hudson Detailed Map**







Lenawee County Services					
Name of Service	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	ZIP	<u>Telephone</u>	
<u>Motels</u>					
* Super 8 Motel	1091 West US Hwy 223	Adrian	49221	517-265-8888	
Holiday Inn Express	1077 West US Hwy 223	"	"	517-265-5700	
Pine Motel	3895 South Adrian Hwy	"	"	517-263-2444	
** Motel 6	1575 West Maumee St	"	"	517-263-5741	
** Carlton Lodge	1629 West Maumee St	"	"	517-263-7000	
* Sunset Acres Motel	400 US Hwy 127	Hudson	49247	517-448-8968	
<u>B &amp; B's</u>					
* Ellis Inn B&B	415 West Adrian St	Blissfield	49228	517-486-3155	
Blissfield B&B	420 "	"	"	517-486-2878	
Camping					
Lenawee County Fairgrounds	602 North Dean St	Adrian	49221	517-263-3007	
# Sequoia Campground	2675 Gady Rd	"	"	517-264-5531	
Lake Hudson Recreation Area	5505 Morey Hwy	Hudson	49247	517-445-2265	
Bike Shops					
Adrian Locksmith & Cyclery	611 North Main St	Adrian	49221	517-263-1415	
Other Services, Notes					
* Motels and B&B's previously us	ed and found acceptable durir	ng route develop	ment		
** Less convenient to bike route the	han other motels listed	· · · · ·			
# Located between Adrian and Te	cumseh near Kiwanis Trail				



### **MONROE COUNTY**

#### **History and Geography:**

Monroe County is the easternmost county on Michigan's southern border and the only county on Lake Erie. French missionaries entered this territory as early as 1634 and settled on the river they named Riviere Aux Raisins for the grapes found there. In 1778 a trading post and fort were established, and Francois Navarre became the first white settler. When French families from Detroit settled here, they called their community Frenchtown. Monroe County was established in 1817 as one of the first steps in the organization of Michigan territory after the War of 1812.

Frenchtown, only the third major community in Michigan at that time, was renamed Monroe after James Monroe, fifth president of the United States, and became the county seat. Though not on the route, the city of Monroe must be mentioned, as most of the written history of the county centers in that area. The Battle of Frenchtown, also known as the battle of the River Raisin, was fought here in January of 1813 and was one of the bloodiest engagements of The War of 1812, more American casualties occurring here than in any other single battle of that war. Of the 934 Americans who fought here, only 33 escaped death or capture, and the subsequent massacre of the wounded enraged Americans throughout the Old Northwest Territory. Monroe's most famous resident, George Armstrong Custer, was born in Ohio, but spent much of his boyhood in Monroe. He went to college in Ohio and in 1864 he married Elizabeth Bacon of Monroe. He graduated last in his class at West Point in 1861, but brought great honor on himself by his distinguished and heroic Civil War record. That record has unfortunately been overshadowed by his defeat at the Battle of The Little Big Horn (a.k.a. "Custer's Last Stand").

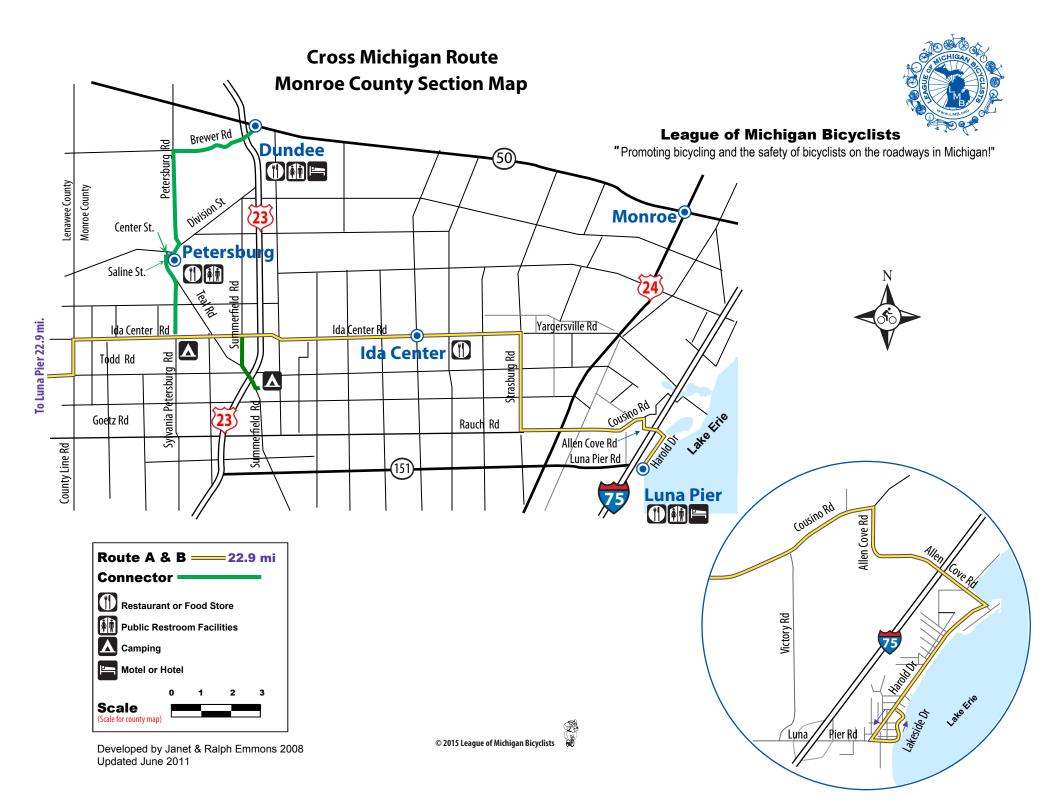
Monroe County industries include auto parts manufacturing, metal fabrication, cement, packaging, glass production and the La-Z-Boy Furniture Co. The Fermi Nuclear Plant plays a major role in supplying power to the area and the coal-powered Monroe Power Plant boasts the second largest generating capacity in North America, with stacks towering 805 feet. The county is a rich agricultural area noted for soybeans, grains, corn, sugar beets, potatoes and alfalfa.

#### Major Towns:

Luna Pier was a resort town for Toledo, Ohio area residents at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Currently, it offers lake-front summer cottages, a small beach, a pier protecting moorage for sport fishermen, and a quiet small-town atmosphere. Luna Pier also offers one of the few locations on Michigan's Lake Erie coast with food, lodging and easy access for low-traffic bicycle touring roads, thus it is a natural spot to begin or end a cross-Michigan trek.

#### **<u>Riding Conditions</u>**:

Monroe County offers an easy start for an east-to-west tour, being quiet, flat, low traffic and generally pleasant. It also provides the "opportunity" to prove out one's equipment and gear, in that its roads are by far the worst of the route and possibly of the entire state. Currently there are two options; the northern one currently the smoothest, but the southern option more direct and expedient when/IF it is ever repaved.





Monroe County Services					
Name of Service	Address	City	ZIP	Telephone	
<u>Motels</u>					
* Super 8	4163 Super 8 Drive	Luna Pier	48157	734-848-8880	
# Days Inn	130 Outer Dr	Dundee	48131	734-529-5505	
<u>B &amp; B's</u>					
(none near route)					
Camping					
Pirolli Park	6030 Petersburg Sylvania Rd	Petersburg	49270	734-279-1487	
KOA Kampground	15600 Tunnicliff Rd	"		734-856-4972	
Bike Shops					
(none near route)					
Other Services, Notes					
	und acceptable during route develop	ment			
	connector through Petersburg. Days				
most accessible from the bike	e route of several motels in Dundee				