**Bridgeport Hills Will Test Your Cycling Skills**

Welcome to Borough of Bridgeport, a tightknit community located in the heart of Montgomery County. Bridgeport was built upon an industrial past and the steep hillsides on the southern banks of the Schuylkill River across from the County Seat of Norristown. While some industry remains, today Bridgeport is poised for a new and exciting future, and with 4,600 residents living in just 0.8 square miles, there is a lot to see.

Your tour of Bridgeport starts on the river, just over the border at the Upper Merion Boathouse Park. From there you will wind your way up through the borough, climbing over 220 feet to the top of town and 20-mile views to the west at Bridgeport Memorial Park. Then the route takes you out the secret back door of Bridgeport to surrounding Upper Merion and, if you so choose, over to Workhorse Brewing just off of Crooked Lane. Afterwards, you will travel along quiet residential streets to the Norristown High Speed Line (NHSL) DeKalb Street Station, back up into Bridgeport and down into Swedesburg section of Upper Merion (you’ll never know you left Bridgeport). From there you will turn around and zigzag you way back to downtown before returning to the start.

As with our “Homes and Gardens of the Main Line,” this route avoids major highways and most (but not all) arterial streets. Accordingly, while all effort was made to minimize exposure to heavier traffic, some busier streets could not be avoided. Still, most adults should be able to easily tolerate the amount of traffic along the route. However, as the name suggests, the hills of Bridgeport CANNOT be avoided, so this route is recommended for fit cyclists not afraid of climbing hills. And, what goes up, must come down, so steep downhills are also to be expected. As such, those trying the route must also have a bike with properly functioning brakes, and know how to handle a bike on steep slopes under hard braking. The route is easily accessible by SEPTA from the Norristown Transit Center and the Norristown High Speed Line (NHSL). However, being a rather short route, we suggest adding the “Bridgeport Hills Will Test Your Cycling Skills” tour to a ride from the nearby Schuylkill River Trail, just two tenth of a mile away.

And while this tour takes you to a from two brewpubs and directly past some other fine establishments, make sure you consider visiting some other Bridgeport institutions like Suzy-Jo Donuts and Taphouse 23 on 4th Street, Bridgeport’s “Main Street”..

**Miles 6.6
Elevation Gain          454 ft
Max Grade Up          11.0%
Max Grade Down      15.5% (!!!)
Traffic Skill Level        Club level cyclists comfortable with steep hills and modest traffic volumes.**

**Text Color Key**

* Parks, Gardens and Trails
* SEPTA Stations
* Downtowns / Shopping
* **Places of Interest**
* Major Road Crossings / Areas of Caution

Mile 0.0 - START – Upper Merion Boathouse Park (Parking) 58 feet above sea-level

0.1 - **Norristown Fish Passage**

0.2 - Bike Shop: Giant of Bridgeport - Village Velo

0.2 - Water Street to 2nd Street on DeKalb Street (Waiting till Water and 1st Streets have the green light will stop traffic on DeKalb long enough for cyclists to ride the 250 feet to safely make the left on 2nd Street. If uncomfortable with this, cyclists can walk along the sidewalk till 2nd Street. The Chester Valley Trail Extension will soon provide a more comfortable alternative.) relevant

0.4 - Norfolk Southern Rail Crossing

0.5 - 4th Street / SR 23 Crossing

0.5 - Downtown Bridgeport (Food, Drink, Restaurants)

1.3 - East 9th Street – Second steepest climb of the ride 10.5% grade (Repeated at mile 3.7)

1.4 - Enter park parking lot. Take asphalt ramp to basketball courts and ride to left of courts

1.4 - Bridgeport Memorial Park

1.5 - **Highest point on ride (271 feet above sea-level) – Nice views to the north and west**

1.8 - Flinthill Road – Steepest descent on ride at -15.5% (VERY STEEP!!). Make sure brakes are in good working order so you can control your speed! STOP and bottom of hill.

1.8 - Entering Upper Merion Township

2.2 - Bob Holland Park

2.4 – 2.5/3.0 Crooked Road – A busier state route. Only continue left on Crooked if wanting to visit Workhorse Brewing. Otherwise continue straight onto Barnes Ave.

2.8 - Workhorse Brewing (Food, Drink)

3.4 - Entering Bridgeport Borough

3.4 - Crooked Ave at Dekalb Street (Food, Drink, Restaurants)

3.4 – 3.5 Crooked Road / DeKalb and Ford Streets – Busier state routes. However, roadways wider at these locations and relatively calm due to traffic signals.

3.5 - DeKalb Street SEPTA Norristown Highspeed Line Station

3.7 - **East 9th Street – Second steepest climb of the ride 10.5% grade.**

3.9 – 4.2 Grove Street descent (8.5% downhill grade). Make sure brakes are in good working order so you can control your speed! Potential for speeds in great excess of 25mph limit. STOP and bottom of hill.

4.3 - **Steepest climb of the tour (11% grade).** Union Ave between Prospect and Hurst St.

4.6 - Entering Upper Merion Township

5.0 - Swedesburg Park

5.3 - Entering Bridgeport Borough

5.5 - Taphouse 23 – Continue down Farley via the Taphouse 23 parking lot to the restaurant.

6.1 - Downtown Bridgeport (Food, Drink, Restaurants)

6.1 - 4th Street / SR 23 Crossing

6.2 - Norfolk Southern Rail Crossing

6.5 - Puddlers Kitchen & Tap by Conshohocken Brewing Co. (Food, Drink)

6.5 - Bike Shop: Giant of Bridgeport - Village Velo

6.5 - Frosty Falls (Take-out icecream)

Mile 6.6 - FINISH – Upper Merion Boathouse Park (Parking)