



When planning a cross-state or multi-state tour, consider using the services of the local CVB (Convention & Visitors Bureau), also known as DMO (Destination Management Organization, or a Visitors Center. **WHY?**

1) LOCAL SOURCE EXPERTS:

*This is important for a host of reasons. Foremost, they know the community and can answer a multitude of questions. Like, who to contact for...? Who would be helpful and maybe who to avoid.*

2) HELP DETERMINE IF YOUR PLANS FIT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY:

*Does your route and time of day make sense based on local traffic patterns? Where is camping permitted? Where can you store bikes? Do you need local permits?*

3) OFFER LODGING, RESTAURANT AND RETAIL CONTACTS TO ENHANCE GUEST EXPERIENCE:

*Making reservations through a national booking service will not offer local rates and amenities - which cycling tour often requires. If local ground transportation does not exist, how close is the lodging from restaurants and retail? A local contact can answer many more questions, than a phone operator in a call center in Mumbai.*

*If the CVB is involved in your planning process and an issue/delay arises, the CVB could possibly intervene on your behalf. They could aid with changing or altering a local contract. Involving them early in the planning process, positions them better to help should the need arise.*

4) CYCLING FRIENDLY BUSINESSES:

*Where do local cycling or running groups hang out? A local biker bar does not always equate to the needs of a "bicycling" group. What other local businesses are bicycle friendly whether your tour is just passing through or overnighting. Is your gear safe outside?*

5) HELP FIND THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF A COMMUNITY:

*The trending buzz word in tourism is "experience" (the modern take on "Stop and Smell the Roses"). What will become the memories a guest takes home with them? Not just creating a good or bad time, but an experience. These can be developed in advance of your arrival to assure your time in a community is so rewarding your rider's will want to come back. From dining, to history, to hands-on activities. What unique experience can only be done here in our town?*

NOTE: All CVBs are not staffed or funded the same. Services will vary and some may require a charge.  
Provided by Patrick Tuttle, [VisitJoplinMO.com](http://VisitJoplinMO.com), Joplin MO, a Route 66 Host Community.

*As a sidebar: knowing a little of your rider's backgrounds/interest will help with this. Experience itineraries can be created around local food, history, culture, and agriculture to name just a few. Be creative and the experience will be worth it.*

*In many cases the CVB will manage or provide local Event Calendars. This will help to inform you of activities your rider's could enjoy, or dates you should avoid because of high traffic or limited lodging.*

6) OFTEN THEY OFFER TOUR GUIDES AND/OR LOCAL SUPPORT:

*If you are lucky you will connect with a CVB that has staff or ambassadors who can also serve as local guides. Based on what was developed under #5, this person will be able to enrich the experience and bring the local flair to life. Many times this person is a volunteer so consider offering a tip or donation if it is a historical site or museum.*

7) LOCAL MAPS AND VISITOR GUIDES:

*If the organization is the "tourism" expert for the area they will also have local maps, guides and brochures. These can be provided upon arrival or you can request a specific number to be mailed before the tour begins. This will offer your riders local insight prior to rolling into town. Local mementoes such as post cards and magnets may be available. These can easily be packed on a bike.*

8) MOST HAVE LIMITED BUDGET, BUT SOME COULD OFFER BUDGET SUPPORT:

*Financial support is rare from a CVB unless a tour is generating a significant number of room nights. The majority of U.S. CVBs are funding through a Lodging Tax. So, unless your tour is generating revenue, funding is unlikely. The exception to this would be support offered in #6 & 7 above.*

9) LOCAL SUPPORT TEAM SHOULD YOU NEED MEDICAL SERVICE, A BIKE SHOP OR GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

*In a worst case scenario, just like planning and making reservations, the CVB can assist should a dire need arise. At least they can give loved ones a local reference should they need to come to the aid of their family rider.*

10) A CVB NEAR THE MIDWAY POINT OF A TRIP COULD SERVE AS AN F.B.O. (FORWARD BASE OF OPERATION):

*There will be a mid-point of any ride of a great length. This also assures that there will be a change in weather or at least a change in support gear. A CVB can serve as a Forward base of Operation where you can mail packages to/from (at your cost). But, with advance notice, you know your items will be stored and ready to use on an extended journey.*