

Appendix G – Design Guidelines





LCVMPO Bicycle Master Plan

Bicycle Facility Design Guidelines

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Introduction

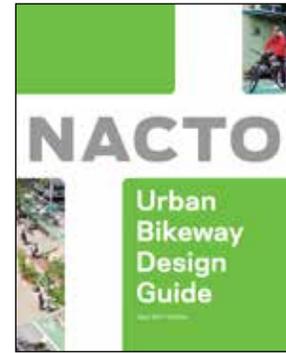
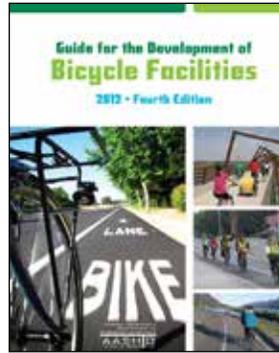
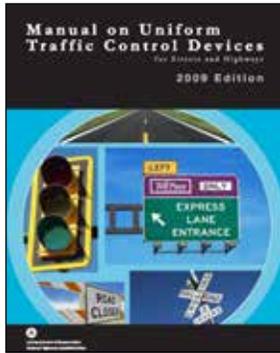
This technical handbook is intended to assist the Lewis-Clark Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization in the selection and design of bicycle facilities. The following sections pull together best practices by facility type from public agencies and municipalities nationwide. Within the design chapters, treatments are covered within a single sheet tabular format relaying important design information and discussion, example photos, schematics (if applicable), and existing summary guidance from current or upcoming draft standards. Existing standards are referenced throughout and should be the first source of information when seeking to implement any of the treatments featured here.

Guiding Principles

The following are guiding principles for these bicycle design guidelines:

- **The bicycling environment should be safe.** All bicycling routes should be physically safe and perceived as safe by all users. Safe means minimal conflicts with external factors, such as noise, vehicular traffic and protruding architectural elements. Safe also means routes are clear and well marked with appropriate pavement markings and directional signage.
- **The bicycle network should be accessible.** Shared use paths, bike routes and crosswalks should permit the mobility of residents of all ages and abilities. The bicycle network should employ principles of universal design. Bicyclists have a range of skill levels, and facilities should be designed with a goal of providing for inexperienced/recreational bicyclists (especially children and seniors) to the greatest extent possible.
- **Bicycle network improvements should be economical.** Bicycle improvements should achieve the maximum benefit for their cost, including initial cost and maintenance cost, as well as a reduced reliance on more expensive modes of transportation. Where possible, improvements in the right-of-way should stimulate, reinforce and connect with adjacent private improvements.
- **The bicycle network should connect to places people want to go.** The bicycle network should provide continuous direct routes and convenient connections between destinations such as homes, schools, shopping areas, public services, recreational opportunities and transit. A complete network of on-street bicycling facilities should connect seamlessly to existing and proposed multi-use trails to complete recreational and commuting routes.
- **The bicycling environment should be clear and easy to use.** Shared use paths and crossings should allow all people to easily find a direct route to a destination with minimal delays, regardless of whether these persons have mobility, sensory, or cognitive disability impairments. All roads are legal for the use of bicyclists (except freeways, from which each is prohibited unless a separate facility on that right of way is provided). This means that most streets are bicycle facilities and should be designed, marked and maintained accordingly.
- **The bicycling environment should be attractive and enhance community livability.** Good design should integrate with and support the development of complementary uses and should encourage preservation and construction of art, landscaping and other items that add value to communities. These components might include open spaces such as plazas, courtyards and squares, and amenities like street furniture, banners, art, plantings and special paving. These along with historical elements and cultural references, should promote a sense of place. Public activities should be encouraged and the municipal code should permit commercial activities such as dining, vending and advertising when they do not interfere with safety and accessibility.
- **Design guidelines are flexible and should be applied using professional judgment.** This document references specific national guidelines for bicycle facility design, as well as a number of design treatments not specifically covered under current guidelines. Statutory and regulatory guidance may change. For this reason, the guidance and recommendations in this document function to complement other resources considered during a design process, and in all cases sound engineering judgment should be used.

National Standards



The Federal Highway Administration's [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MUTCD) defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public traffic. The MUTCD is the primary source for guidance on lane striping requirements, signal warrants, and recommended signage and pavement markings.

To further clarify the MUTCD, the FHWA created a table of contemporary bicycle facilities that lists various bicycle-related signs, markings, signals, and other treatments and identifies their official status (e.g., can be implemented, currently experimental). See [Bicycle Facilities and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#).¹

Bikeway treatments not explicitly covered by the MUTCD are often subject to experiments, interpretations and official rulings by the FHWA. The [MUTCD Official Rulings](#) is a resource that allows website visitors to obtain information about these supplementary materials. Copies of various documents (such as incoming request letters, response letters from the FHWA, progress reports, and final reports) are available on this website.²

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) [Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities](#), updated in June 2012 provides guidance on dimensions, use, and layout of specific bicycle facilities. The standards and guidelines presented by AASHTO provide basic information, such as minimum sidewalk widths, bicycle lane dimensions, detailed striping requirements and recommended signage and pavement markings.

The National Association of City Transportation Officials' (NACTO) 2012 [Urban Bikeway Design Guide](#)³ is the newest publication of nationally recognized bicycle-specific design guidelines, and offers guidance on the current state of the practice designs. The NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide is based on current practices in the best cycling cities in the world. The intent of the guide is to offer substantive guidance for cities seeking to improve bicycle transportation in places where competing demands for the use of the right of way present unique challenges. All of the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide treatments are in use internationally and in many cities around the US.

Some of these treatments are not directly referenced in the current versions of the AASHTO Guide or the MUTCD, although many of the elements of these treatments are found within these documents. In all cases, engineering judgment is recommended to ensure that the application makes sense for the context of each treatment, given the many complexities of urban streets.

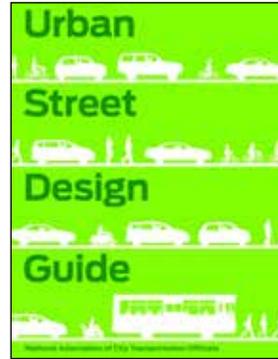
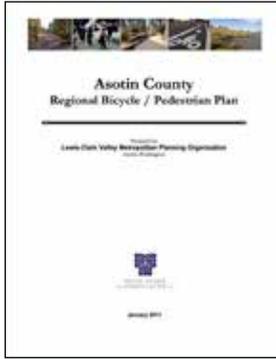
1 [Bicycle Facilities and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/mutcd_bike.htm). (2011). FHWA.

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/mutcd_bike.htm

2 MUTCD Official Rulings. FHWA. <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/orsearch.asp>

3 <http://nacto.org/cities-for-cycling/design-guide/>

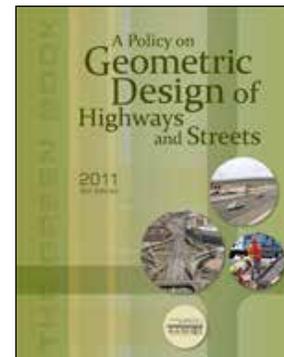
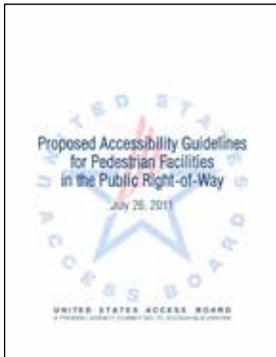
Local Standards



The [Asotin County Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#), published in January 2011, offers guidance and recommendations for future investment in the area. Through a planning process that included public involvement, a set of priority bike and pedestrian projects were identified.

In December 2013, the Washington state Department of Transportation became the first state DOT to adopt the [NACTO Urban Street Design Guide](#), a manual for creating bike and pedestrian friendly urban streets. This guide provides engineering instructions on crosswalks, protected bike lanes, public spaces and more.

Additional US Federal Guidelines



Meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is an important part of any bicycle and pedestrian facility project. The United States Access Board's proposed [Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines](#)⁴ (PROWAG) and the [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#)⁵ (2010 Standards) contain standards and guidance for the construction of accessible facilities. This includes requirements for sidewalk curb ramps, slope requirements, and pedestrian railings along stairs.

The 2011 AASHTO: [A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets](#) commonly referred to as the "Green Book," contains the current design research and practices for highway and street geometric design.

4 <http://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>

5 http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm

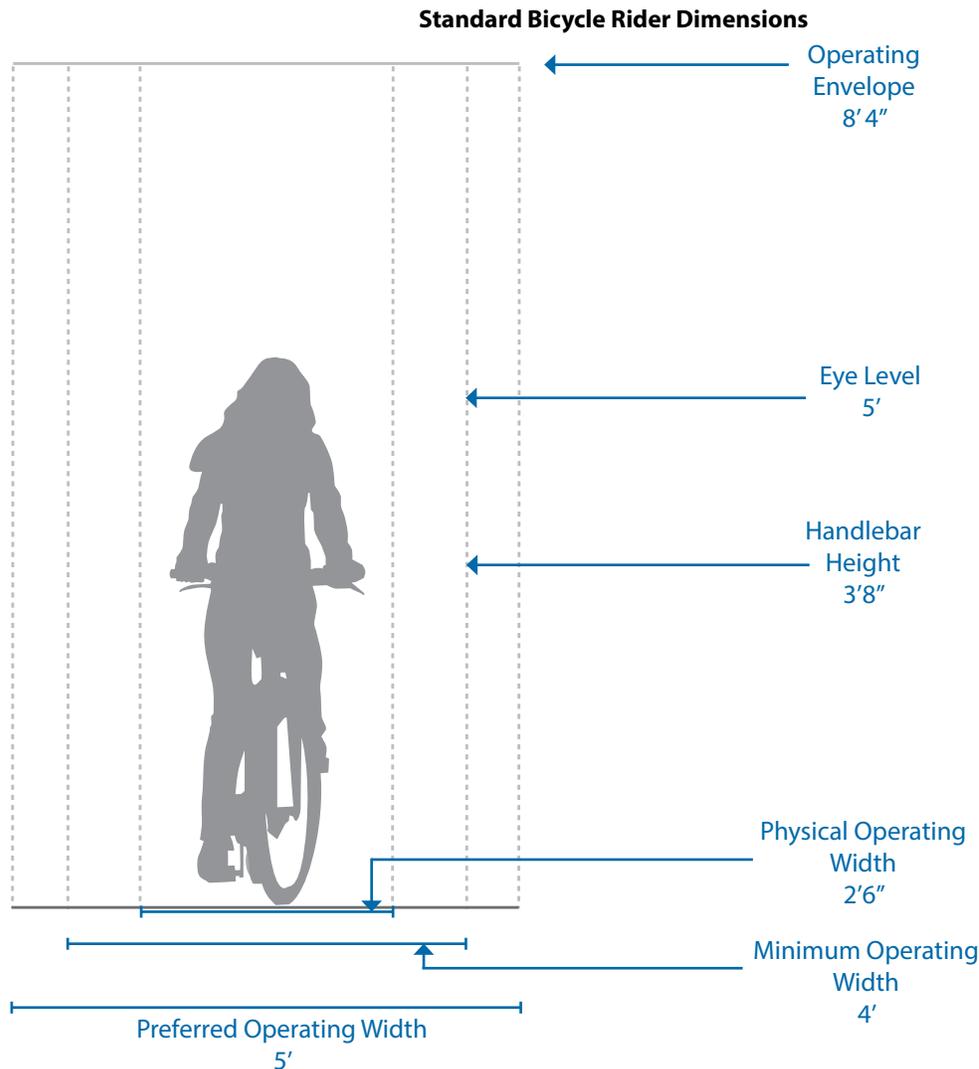
Design Needs of Bicyclists

The purpose of this section is to provide the facility designer with an understanding of how bicyclists operate and how their bicycle influences that operation. Bicyclists, by nature, are much more affected by poor facility design, construction and maintenance practices than motor vehicle drivers. Bicyclists lack the protection from the elements and roadway hazards provided by an automobile's structure and safety features. By understanding the unique characteristics and needs of bicyclists, a facility designer can provide quality facilities and minimize user risk.

Bicycle as a Design Vehicle

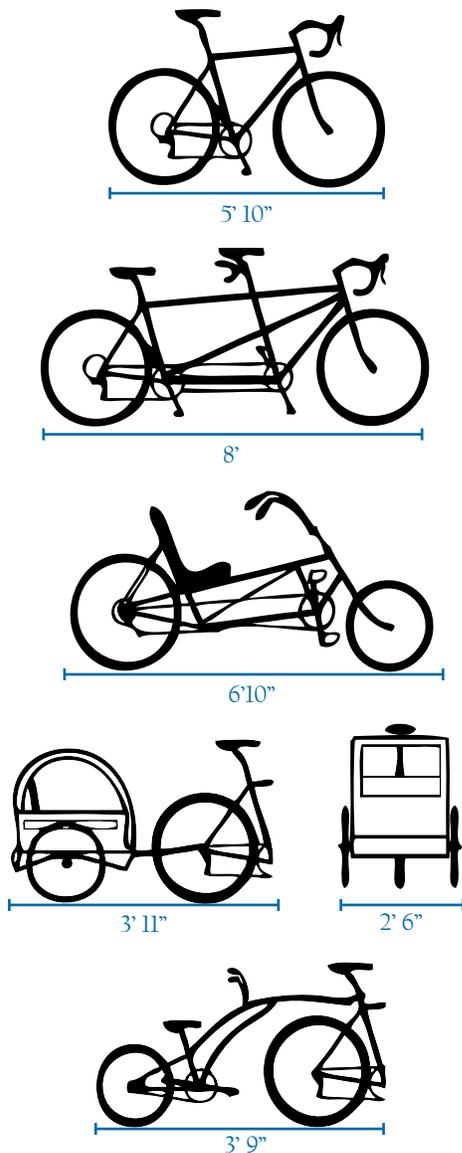
Similar to motor vehicles, bicyclists and their bicycles exist in a variety of sizes and configurations. These variations occur in the types of vehicle (such as a conventional bicycle, a recumbent bicycle or a tricycle), and behavioral characteristics (such as the comfort level of the bicyclist). The design of a bikeway should consider reasonably expected bicycle types on the facility and utilize the appropriate dimensions.

The figure below illustrates the operating space and physical dimensions of a typical adult bicyclist, which are the basis for typical facility design. Bicyclists require clear space to operate within a facility. This is why the minimum operating width is greater than the physical dimensions of the bicyclist. Bicyclists prefer five feet or more operating width, although four feet may be minimally acceptable.



Source: AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 4th Edition. 2012.

In addition to the design dimensions of a typical bicycle, there are many other commonly used pedal-driven cycles and accessories to consider when planning and designing bicycle facilities. The most common types include tandem bicycles, recumbent bicycles, and trailer accessories. The figure and table below summarize the typical dimensions for bicycle types.



Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Typical Dimensions

Source: AASHTO *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*, 4th Edition *AASHTO does not provide typical dimensions for tricycles.

Design Speed Expectations

The expected speed that different types of bicyclists can maintain under various conditions also influences the design of facilities such as shared use paths. The table to the right provides typical bicyclist speeds for a variety of conditions.

Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Typical Dimensions

Bicycle Type	Feature	Typical Dimensions
Upright Adult Bicyclist	Physical width	2 ft 6 in
	Operating width (Minimum)	4 ft
	Operating width (Preferred)	5 ft
	Physical length	5 ft 10 in
	Physical height of handlebars	3 ft 8 in
	Operating height	8 ft 4 in
	Eye height	5 ft
	Vertical clearance to obstructions (tunnel height, lighting, etc)	10 ft
Recumbent Bicyclist	Approximate center of gravity	2 ft 9 in - 3 ft 4 in
	Physical length	8 ft
Tandem Bicyclist	Eye height	3 ft 10 in
	Physical length	8 ft
Bicyclist with child trailer	Physical length	10 ft
	Physical width	2 ft 6 in

Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Design Speed Expectations

Bicycle Type	Feature	Typical Speed
Upright Adult Bicyclist	Paved level surfacing	15 mph
	Crossing Intersections	10 mph
	Downhill	30 mph
	Uphill	5 -12 mph
Recumbent Bicyclist	Paved level surfacing	18 mph

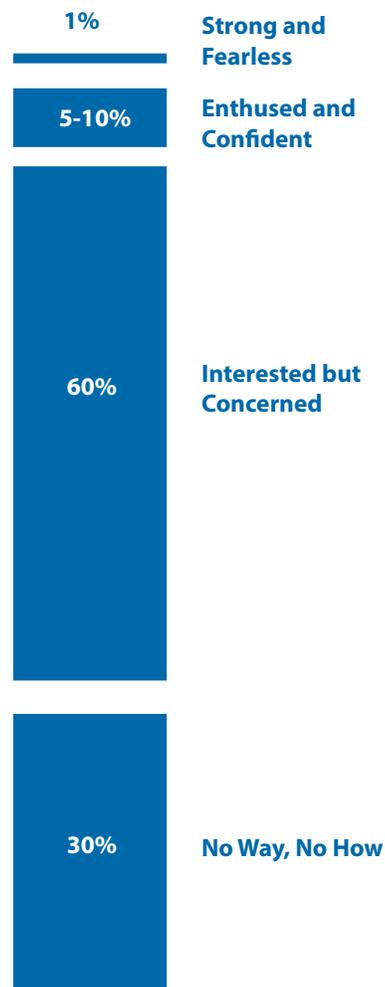
*Tandem bicycles and bicyclists with trailers have typical speeds equal to or less than upright adult bicyclists.

Types of Bicyclists

It is important to consider bicyclists of all skill levels when creating a non-motorized plan or project. Bicyclist skill level greatly influences expected speeds and behavior, both in separated bikeways and on shared roadways. Bicycle infrastructure should accommodate as many user types as possible, with decisions for separate or parallel facilities based on providing a comfortable experience for the greatest number of people.

The bicycle planning and engineering professions currently use several systems to classify the population which can assist in understanding the characteristics and infrastructure preferences of different bicyclists. The current AASHTO Guide to the Development of Bicycle Facilities encourages designers to identify their rider type based on the trip purpose (Recreational vs Transportation) and on the level of comfort and skill of the rider (Causal vs Experienced). A more detailed framework for understanding of the US population's relationship to transportation focused bicycling is illustrated in the figure below. Developed by planners in Portland, OR¹ and supported by research², this classification provides the following alternative categories to address varying attitudes towards bicycling in the US:

- **Strong and Fearless** (approximately 1% of population)
 - Characterized by bicyclists that will typically ride anywhere regardless of roadway conditions or weather. These bicyclists can ride faster than other user types, prefer direct routes and will typically choose roadway connections -- even if shared with vehicles -- over separate bicycle facilities such as shared use paths.
- **Enthused and Confident** (5-10% of population) - This user group encompasses bicyclists who are fairly comfortable riding on all types of bikeways but usually choose low traffic streets or shared use paths when available. These bicyclists may deviate from a more direct route in favor of a preferred facility type. This group includes all kinds of bicyclists such as commuters, recreationalists, racers and utilitarian bicyclists.
- **Interested but Concerned** (approximately 60% of population) – This user type comprises the bulk of the cycling population and represents bicyclists who typically only ride a bicycle on low traffic streets or shared use paths under favorable weather conditions. These bicyclists perceive significant barriers to their increased use of cycling, specifically traffic and other safety issues. These people may become “Enthused & Confident” with encouragement, education and experience.
- **No Way, No How** (approximately 30% of population)
 - Persons in this category are not bicyclists, and perceive severe safety issues with riding in traffic. Some people in this group may eventually become more regular cyclists with time and education. A significant portion of these people will not ride a bicycle under any circumstances.



Typical Distribution of Bicyclist Types

¹ Roger Geller, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation. *Four Types of Cyclists*. <http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?&a=237507>. 2009.

² Dill, J., McNeil, N. *Four Types of Cyclists? Testing a Typology to Better Understand Bicycling Behavior and Potential*. 2012.

Shared Roadways

On shared roadways, bicyclists and motor vehicles use the same roadway space. These facilities are typically used on roads with low speeds and traffic volumes, however they can be used on higher volume roads with wide outside lanes or shoulders. A motor vehicle driver will usually have to cross over into the adjacent travel lane to pass a bicyclist, unless a wide outside lane or shoulder is provided.

Shared roadways employ a large variety of treatments from simple signage and shared lane markings to more complex treatments including directional signage, traffic diverters, chicanes, chokers, and/or other traffic calming devices to reduce vehicle speeds or volumes.



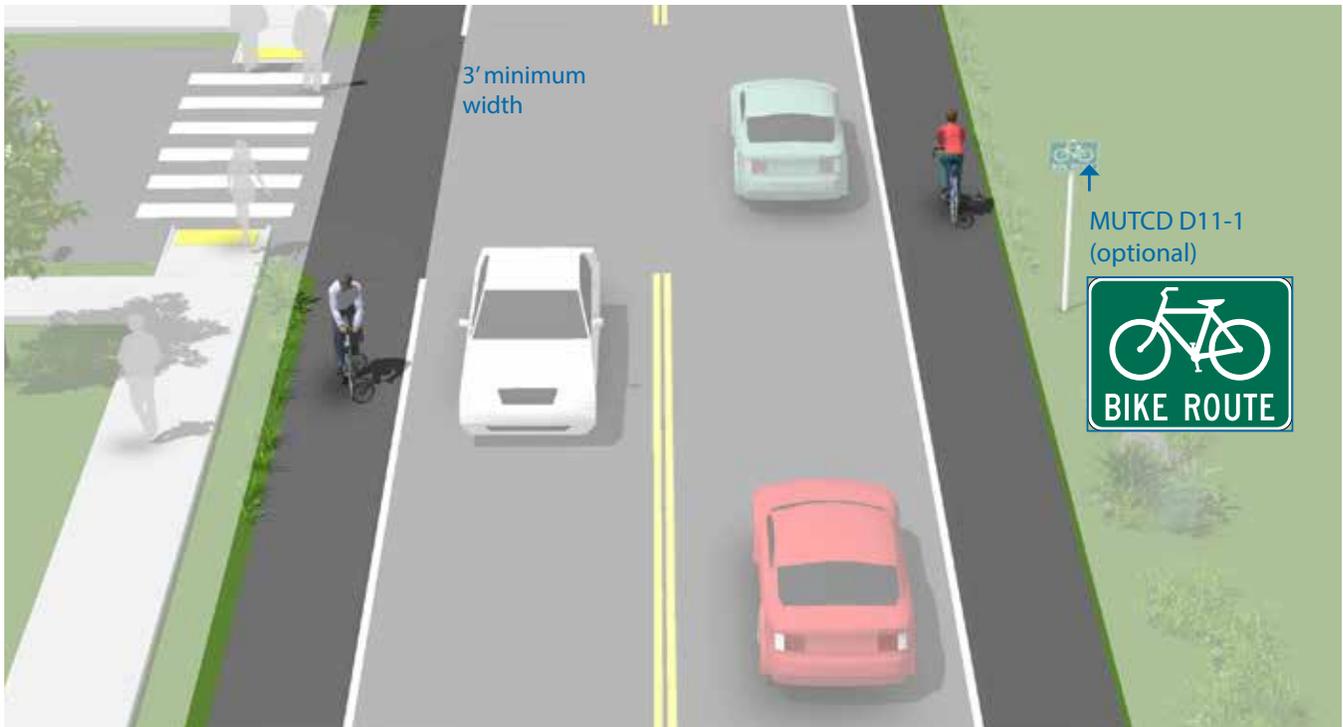
Shoulder Bikeways

Description

Typically found in less-dense areas, shoulder bikeways are paved roadways with striped shoulders (4'+) wide enough for bicycle travel. Shoulder bikeways often, but not always, include signage alerting motorists to expect bicycle travel along the roadway. Shoulder bikeways should be considered a temporary treatment, with full bike lanes planned for construction when the roadway is widened or completed with curb and gutter. This type of treatment is not typical in urban areas and should only be used where constraints exist.

Guidance

- If 4 feet or more is available for bicycle travel, the full bike lane treatment of signs, legends, and an 8" bike lane line would be provided.
- If it is not possible to meet minimum bicycle lane dimensions, a reduced width paved shoulder can still improve conditions for bicyclists on constrained roadways. In these situations, a minimum of 3 feet of operating space should be provided.
- Rumble strips are not recommended on shoulders used by bicyclists unless there is a minimum 4 foot clear path. 12 foot gaps every 40-60 feet should be provided to allow access as needed.



Discussion

A wide outside lane may be sufficient accommodation for bicyclists on streets with insufficient width for bike lanes but which do have space available to provide a wider (14'-16') outside travel lane. Consider configuring as a marked shared roadway in these locations.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates. Shoulder bikeways should be cleared of snow through routine snow removal operations.

Signed Shared Roadway

Description

Signed shared roadways are facilities shared with motor vehicles. They are typically used on roads with low speeds and traffic volumes, however can be used on higher volume roads with wide outside lanes or shoulders. A motor vehicle driver will usually have to cross over into the adjacent travel lane to pass a bicyclist, unless a wide outside lane or shoulder is provided.

Guidance

Lane width varies depending on roadway configuration.

Bike route signage (D11-1) should be applied at intervals frequent enough to keep bicyclists informed of changes in route direction and to remind motorists of the presence of bicyclists. Commonly, this includes placement at:

- Beginning or end of Bicycle Route.
- At major changes in direction or at intersections with other bicycle routes.
- At intervals along bicycle routes not to exceed ½ mile.



Discussion

Signed Shared Roadways serve either to provide continuity with other bicycle facilities (usually bike lanes) or to designate preferred routes through high-demand corridors.

This configuration differs from a Bike boulevard due to a lack of traffic calming, wayfinding, pavement markings and other enhancements designed to provide a higher level of comfort for a broad spectrum of users.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.

Materials and Maintenance

Maintenance needs for bicycle wayfinding signs are similar to other signs, and will need periodic replacement due to wear.

Marked Shared Roadway

Description

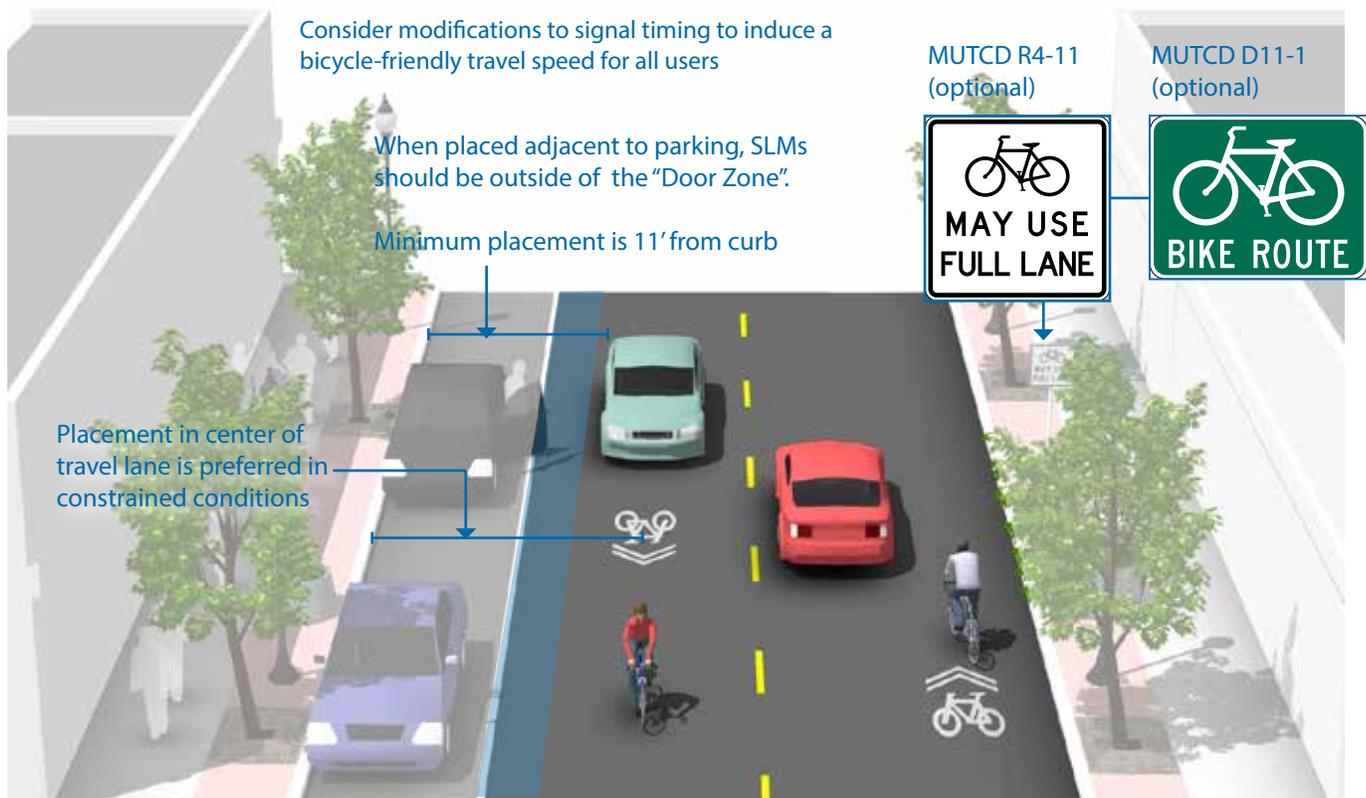
A marked shared roadway is a general purpose travel lane marked with shared lane markings (SLM) used to encourage bicycle travel and proper positioning within the lane.

In constrained conditions, the SLMs are placed in the middle of the lane. On a wide outside lane, the SLMs can be used to promote bicycle travel to the right of motor vehicles.

In all conditions, SLMs should be placed outside of the door zone of parked cars.

Guidance

- May be used on streets with a speed limit of 35 mph or under. Lower than 30 mph speed limit preferred.
- In constrained conditions, preferred placement is in the center of the travel lane to minimize wear and promote single file travel.
- Minimum placement of SLM marking centerline is 11 feet from edge of curb where on-street parking is present, 4 feet from edge of curb with no parking. If parking lane is wider than 7.5 feet, the SLM should be moved further out accordingly.



Discussion

If collector or arterial, this should not be a substitute for dedicated bicycle facilities if space is available.

Bike Lanes should be considered on roadways with outside travel lanes wider than 15 feet, or where other lane narrowing or removal strategies may provide adequate road space. SLMs shall not be used on shoulders, in designated bike lanes, or to designate bicycle detection at signalized intersections. (MUTCD 9C.07)

Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
- NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

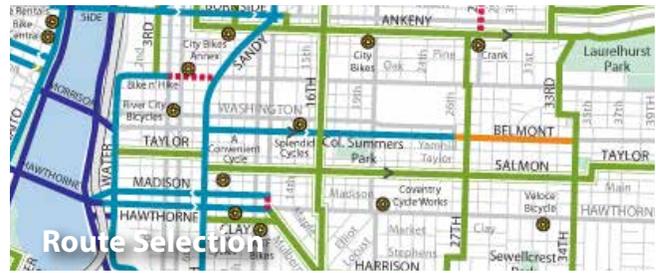
Placing SLMs between vehicle tire tracks will increase the life of the markings and minimize the long-term cost of the treatment.

Bike Boulevards

Bike boulevards are low-volume, low-speed streets modified to enhance bicyclist by using treatments such as signage, pavement markings, traffic calming and/or traffic reduction, and intersection modifications. These treatments allow through movements of bicyclists while discouraging similar through-trips by non-local motorized traffic.

Jurisdictions throughout the country use a wide variety of strategies to determine where specific treatments are applied. While no federal guidelines exist, several best practices have emerged for the development of bike boulevards. At a minimum, bike boulevards should include distinctive pavement markings and wayfinding signs. They can also use combinations of traffic calming, traffic diversion, and intersection treatments to improve the bicycling environment. The appropriate level of treatment to apply is dependent on roadway conditions, particularly motor vehicle speeds and volumes.

Traffic conditions on bike boulevards should be monitored to provide guidance on when and where treatments should be implemented. When motor vehicle speeds and volumes or bicyclist delay exceed the preferred limits, additional treatments should be considered for the bike boulevard.



Route Selection

Description

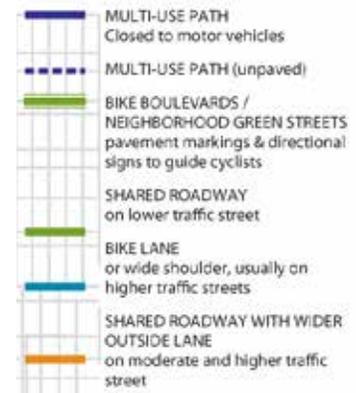
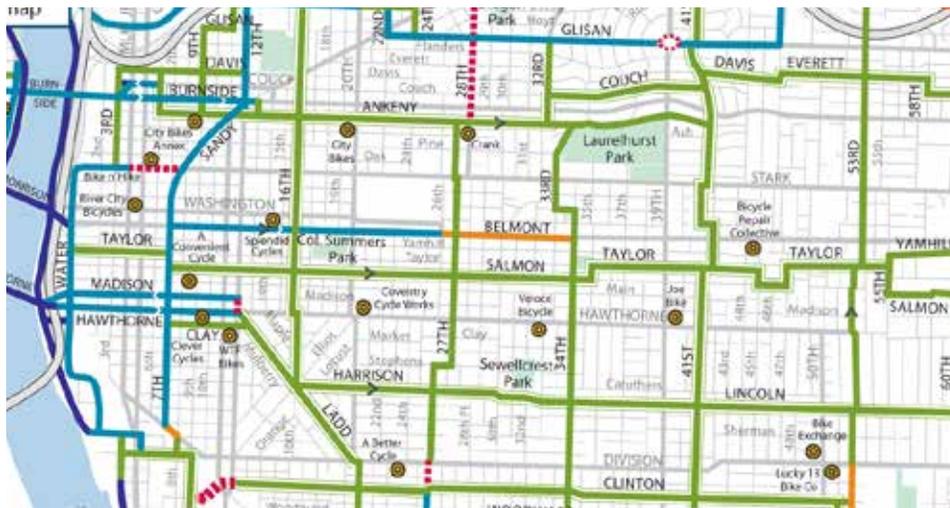
Bike boulevards should be developed on streets that improve connectivity to key destinations and provide a direct route for bicyclists. Local streets with existing traffic calming, traffic diversions, or signalized crossings of major streets are good candidates, as they tend to be existing bicycle routes and have low motor vehicle speeds and volumes. Other streets where residents have expressed a desire for traffic calming are also good options.

Bike boulevards parallel to commercial streets improve access for “interested but concerned” bicyclists and complement bike lanes on major roadways.

Guidance

- Streets are signed at 25 mph or less to improve the bicycling environment and decrease the risk and severity of crashes.
- Traffic volumes are limited to 3,000 vehicles per day (ideally less than 1,500) to minimize passing events and potential conflicts with motor vehicles.
- Use of streets that parallel major streets can discourage non-local motor vehicle traffic without significantly impacting motorists.
- Use of streets where a relatively continuous route for bicyclists exists and/or where treatments can provide wayfinding and improve crossing opportunities at offset intersections.
- Use of streets where bicyclists have right-of-way at intersections or where right-of-way is possible to assign to bicyclists.

In Portland, OR, the bicycle network includes a high density of bike boulevards parallel to streets with bike lanes.



Discussion

Bike boulevards should form a continuous network of streets or off-street facilities that accommodate bicyclists who are less willing to ride on streets with motorized traffic. Most bike boulevards are located on residential streets, though they can also be on commercial or industrial streets. Due to the presence of trucks and commercial vehicles, as well as the need to maintain good traffic flow and retain motor vehicle parking, bike boulevards on commercial or industrial streets can tolerate higher automobile speeds and volumes than would be desired on neighborhood streets. Vertical traffic calming can minimize impacts to large vehicles and parking.

Additional References and Guidelines

Alta Planning + Design and IBPI. *Bicycle Boulevard Planning and Design Handbook*. 2009.
 City of Berkeley. *Bicycle Boulevard Design Tools and Guidelines*. 2000.
 City of Emeryville. *Bicycle Boulevard Treatments*. 2011.

Materials and Maintenance

Repaving, street sweeping and other maintenance should occur with higher frequency than on other local streets.

Basic Treatments

Description

Signs and pavement markings are the minimum treatments necessary to designate a street as a bike boulevard. Together, they visibly designate a roadway to both bicyclists and motorists. Signs, and in some cases pavement markings, provide wayfinding to help bicyclists remain on the designated route.

Guidance

Pavement Markings

Place symbols every 250-800 feet along a linear corridor, as well as after every intersection.

On narrow streets where a motor vehicle cannot pass a bicyclist within one lane of traffic, place stencils in the center of the travel lane.

See Marked Shared Roadway guidance for additional information on the use of shared lane markings.

A bicycle symbol can be placed on a standard road sign, along with distinctive coloration.

Signs

See Bikeway Signing for guidance on developing bicycle wayfinding signage. Some cities have developed unique logos or colors for wayfinding signs that help brand their Bike boulevards.

Be consistent in content, design, and intent; colors reserved by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (MUTCD) for regulatory and warning road signs are not recommended.

Signs can include information about intersecting bikeways and distance/time information to key destinations.



Discussion

Wayfinding signs displaying destinations, distances, and “riding time” can dispel common misperceptions about time and distance while increasing users’ comfort and accessibility to the Bike boulevard network. Bike boulevards frequently include offset intersections or ‘jog’ onto another street. Signs and pavement markings can help bicyclists remain on the route. In addition, fewer businesses or services are located along local streets, and signs inform bicyclists of the direction to key destinations, including commercial districts, transit hubs, schools and universities, and other bikeways.

Additional References and Guidelines

City of Milwaukee. *Milwaukee Bicycle Wayfinding Signage Plan*. 2009.
 City of Oakland. *Design Guidelines for Bicycle Wayfinding Signage*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Pavement markings should be repainted and signs replaced as needed. Wayfinding signs should be regularly updated with new major destinations and bikeways.

Vertical Traffic Calming

Description

Motor vehicle speeds affect the frequency at which automobiles pass bicyclists as well as the severity of crashes that can occur. Maintaining motor vehicle speeds closer to those of bicyclists' greatly improves bicyclists' comfort on a street. Slower vehicular speeds also improve motorists' ability to see and react to bicyclists and minimize conflicts at driveways and other turning locations.

Vertical speed control measures are composed of slight rises in the pavement, on which motorists and bicyclists must reduce speed to cross.

Guidance

- Bike boulevards should have a maximum posted speed of 25 mph. Use traffic calming to maintain an 85th percentile speed below 22 mph.
- Speed humps are raised areas usually placed in a series across both travel lanes. A 14' long hump reduces impacts to emergency vehicles. Speed humps can be challenging for bicyclists, gaps can be provided in the center or by the curb for bicyclists and to improve drainage. Speed humps can also be offset to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- Speed lumps or cushions have gaps to accommodate the wheel tracks of emergency vehicles.
- Speed tables are longer than speed humps and flat-topped. Raised crosswalks are speed tables that are marked and signed for a pedestrian crossing.
- For all vertical traffic calming, slopes should not exceed 1:10 or be less steep than 1:25. Tapers should be no greater than 1:6 to reduce the risk of bicyclists losing their balance. The vertical lip should be no more than a 1/4" high.



Speed Hump



Offset Speed Hump



Temporary Speed Cushion



Raised Crosswalk

Discussion

Emergency vehicle response times should be considered where vertical deflection is used. Because emergency vehicles have a wider wheel base than passenger cars, speed lumps/cushions allow them to pass unimpeded while slowing most other traffic. Alternatively, speed tables are recommended because they cannot be straddled by a truck, decreasing the risk of bottoming out. Traffic calming can also deter motorists from driving on a street. Monitor vehicle volumes on adjacent streets to determine whether traffic calming results in inappropriate volumes. Traffic calming can be implemented on a trial basis.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 Alta Planning + Design and IBPL. *Bicycle Boulevard Planning and Design Handbook*. 2009.
 BikeSafe. *Bicycle countermeasure selection system*.
 Ewing, Reid. *Traffic Calming: State of the Practice*. 1999.
 Ewing, Reid and Brown, Steven. *U.S. Traffic Calming Manual*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide*. 2013.

Materials and Maintenance

Traffic calming should be designed to minimize impacts to snowplows. Vegetation should be regularly trimmed to maintain visibility and attractiveness.

Horizontal Traffic Calming

Description

Horizontal traffic calming devices cause drivers to slow down by constricting the roadway space or by requiring careful maneuvering.

Such measures may reduce the design speed of a street, and can be used in conjunction with reduced speed limits to reinforce the expectation of lowered speeds.

Guidance

- Maintain a minimum clear width of 20 feet (or 28 feet with parking on both sides), with a constricted length of at least 20 feet in the direction of travel.
- Chicanes are a series of raised or delineated curb extensions, edge islands, or parking bays on alternating sides of a street forming an “S”-shaped curb, which reduce vehicle speeds by requiring motorists to shift laterally through narrowed travel lanes.
- Pinchpoints are curb extensions placed on both sides of the street, narrowing the travel lane and encouraging all road users to slow down. When placed at intersections, pinchpoints are known as chokers or neckdowns. They reduce curb radii and further lower motor vehicle speeds.
- Traffic circles are raised or delineated islands placed at intersections that reduce vehicle speeds by narrowing turning radii and the travel lane. Traffic circles can also include a paved apron to accommodate the turning radii of larger vehicles like fire trucks or school buses.



Temporary Curb Extension



Chicane



Choker or Neckdown



Pinchpoint with Bicycle Access

Discussion

Horizontal speed control measures should not infringe on bicycle space. Where possible, provide a bicycle route outside of the element so bicyclists can avoid having to merge into traffic at a narrow pinch point. This technique can also improve drainage flow and reduce construction and maintenance costs. Traffic calming can also deter motorists from driving on a street. Monitor vehicle volumes on adjacent streets to determine whether traffic calming results in inappropriate volumes. Traffic calming can be implemented on a trial basis.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 Alta Planning + Design and IBPI. *Bicycle Boulevard Planning and Design Handbook*. 2009.
 BikeSafe. *Bicycle countermeasure selection system*.
 Ewing, Reid. *Traffic Calming: State of the Practice*. 1999.
 Ewing, Reid and Brown, Steven. *U.S. Traffic Calming Manual*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide*. 2013.

Materials and Maintenance

Traffic calming should be designed to minimize impacts to snowplows. Vegetation should be regularly trimmed to maintain visibility and attractiveness.

Traffic Diversion

Description

Motor vehicle traffic volumes affect the operation of a bike boulevard. Higher vehicle volumes reduce bicyclists' comfort and can result in more conflicts.

Implement volume control treatments based on the context of the bike boulevard, using engineering judgment. Target motor vehicle volumes range from 1,000 to 3,000 vehicles per day, above which the route should be striped as a bike lane or considered a signed shared roadway.

Guidance

- Traffic diversion treatments reduce motor vehicle volumes by completely or partially restricting through traffic on a bike boulevard.
- Partial closures allow full bicycle passage while restricting vehicle access to one way traffic at that point.
- Diagonal diverters require all motor vehicle traffic to turn.
- Median diverters (see Major Intersection Treatments) restrict through motor vehicle movements while providing a refuge for bicyclists to cross in two stages.
- Street closures create a “T” that blocks motor vehicles from continuing on a bike boulevard, while bicycle travel can continue unimpeded. Full closures can accommodate emergency vehicles with the use of mountable curbs (maximum of six inches high).



Partial Closure



Diagonal Diverter



Median Diverter



Full Closure

Discussion

Bike boulevards on streets with volumes higher than 3,000 vehicles per day are not recommended, although a segment of a bike boulevard may accommodate more traffic for a short distance if necessary to complete the corridor. Providing additional separation with a bike lane, cycle track or other treatment is recommended where traffic calming or diversion cannot reduce volumes below this threshold.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 Alta Planning + Design and IBPI. *Bicycle Boulevard Planning and Design Handbook*. 2009.
 Ewing, Reid. *Traffic Calming: State of the Practice*. 1999.
 Ewing, Reid and Brown, Steven. *U.S. Traffic Calming Manual*. 2009.
 Oregon Department of Transportation. *Right-In Right-Out Channelization*. 1998.

Materials and Maintenance

Depending on the diverter type, these treatments can be challenging to keep clear of snow and debris. Vegetation should be regularly trimmed to maintain visibility and attractiveness.

Minor Intersection Treatments

Description

Treatments at minor roadway intersections are designed to improve the visibility of a bike boulevard, raise awareness of motorists on the cross-street that they are likely to encounter bicyclists, and enhance safety for all road users.

Guidance

- On the bike boulevard, the majority of intersections with minor roadways should stop-control cross traffic to minimize bicyclist delay. This will maximize bicycling efficiency.
- Traffic circles are a type of horizontal traffic calming that can be used at minor street intersections. Traffic circles reduce conflict potential and severity while providing traffic calming to the corridor.
- If a stop sign is present on the bike boulevard, a second stop bar for bicyclists can be placed closer to the centerline of the cross street than the motorists' stop bar to increase the visibility of bicyclists waiting to cross the street.
- Curb extensions can be used to move bicyclists closer to the centerline to improve visibility and encourage motorists to let them cross.



Stop Signs on Cross-Street



Traffic Circles



Bicycle Forward Stop Bar



Curb Extension

Discussion

Stop signs increase bicycling time and energy expenditure, frequently leading to non-compliance by bicyclists and motorists, and/or use of other less desirable routes. Bike boulevards should have fewer stops or delays than other local streets. A typical bicycle trip of 30 minutes can increase to 40 minutes if there is a STOP sign at every block (*Berkeley Bicycle Boulevard Design Tools and Guidelines*). If several stop signs are turned along a corridor, speeds should be monitored and traffic-calming treatments used to reduce excessive vehicle speeds on the bike boulevard.

Additional References and Guidelines

City of Berkeley. *Bicycle Boulevard Design Tools and Guidelines*. 2000.
 City of London Transport for London. *Advanced stop lines (ASLS) background and research studies*.
 Transportation Research Board. *Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings*. NCHRP Report # 562. 2006.

Materials and Maintenance

Vegetation in traffic circles and curb extensions should be regularly trimmed to maintain visibility and attractiveness. Repaint bicycle stop bars as needed.

Major Intersection Treatments

Description

The quality of treatments at major street crossings can significantly affect a bicyclist’s choice to use a bike boulevard, as opposed to another road that provides a crossing treatment.

Guidance

- Bike boxes increase bicyclist visibility to motorists and reduce the danger of right “hooks” by providing a space for bicyclists to wait at signalized intersections.
- Median islands provided at uncontrolled intersections of bike boulevards and major streets allow bicyclists to cross one direction of traffic at a time as gaps in traffic occur.
- Hybrid beacons, active warning beacons and bicycle signals can facilitate bicyclists crossing a busy street on which cross-traffic does not stop.
- Select treatments based on engineering judgment; see National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report # 562 *Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings* (2006) for guidance on appropriate use of crossing treatments. Treatments are designed to improve visibility and encourage motorists to stop for pedestrians; with engineering judgement many of the same treatments are appropriate for use along bike boulevards.



Bike Box



Median Island



Hybrid Beacon (HAWK)



Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB)

Discussion

Bike boulevard retrofits to local streets are typically located on streets without existing signalized accommodation at crossings of collector and arterial roadways. Without treatments for bicyclists, these intersections can become major barriers along the bike boulevard and compromise safety.

Additional References and Guidelines

Transportation Research Board. *Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings*. NCHRP Report # 562. 2006.
 Federal Highway Administration. *Safety Effects of Marked Versus Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations*. FHWA-RD-04-100. 2004.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Maintain signs, markings, and other treatments and replace as needed. Monitor intersections for bicyclist delay to determine if additional treatments are warranted.

Offset Intersection Treatments

Description

Offset intersections can be challenging for bicyclists who are required to briefly travel along the busier cross street in order to continue along the Bike boulevard.

Guidance

- Appropriate treatments depend on volume of traffic including turning volumes, traffic speeds and the type of bicyclist using the crossing.
- Contraflow bike lanes allow bicyclists to travel against the flow of traffic on a one-way street and can improve bike boulevard connectivity.
- Bicycle left-turn lanes can be painted where a bike boulevard is offset to the right on a street that has sufficient traffic gaps. Bicyclists cross one direction of traffic and wait in a protected space for a gap in the other direction. The bike turn pockets should be at least 4 feet wide, with a total of 11 feet for both turn pockets and center striping.
- Short bike lanes on the cross street assist with accessing a bike boulevard that jogs to the left. Crossing treatments should be provided on both sides to minimize wrong-way riding.
- A cycle track can be provided on one side of a busy street. Bicyclists enter the cycle track from the bike boulevard to reach the connecting segment of the bike boulevard. This maneuver may be signaled on one side.



Contraflow Bike Lane



Left Turn Bike Lanes



Short Bike Lanes on the Cross Street



Cycle Track Connection

Discussion

Because bike boulevards are located on local streets, the route is often discontinuous. Wayfinding and pavement markings assist bicyclists with remaining on the route.

Additional References and Guidelines

Hendrix, Michael. *Responding to the Challenges of Bicycle Crossings at Offset Intersections*. Third Urban Street Symposium. 2007.
NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates. Facilities should be cleared of snow through routine snow removal operations.

Separated Bikeways

Designated exclusively for bicycle travel, separated bikeways are segregated from vehicle travel lanes by striping, and can include pavement stencils and other treatments. Separated bikeways are most appropriate on arterial and collector streets where higher traffic volumes and speeds warrant greater separation.

Separated bikeways can increase safety and promote proper riding by:

- Defining road space for bicyclists and motorists, reducing the possibility that motorists will stray into the bicyclists' path.
- Discouraging bicyclists from riding on the sidewalk.
- Reducing the incidence of wrong way riding.
- Reminding motorists that bicyclists have a right to the road.



Bike Lane without On-Street Parking

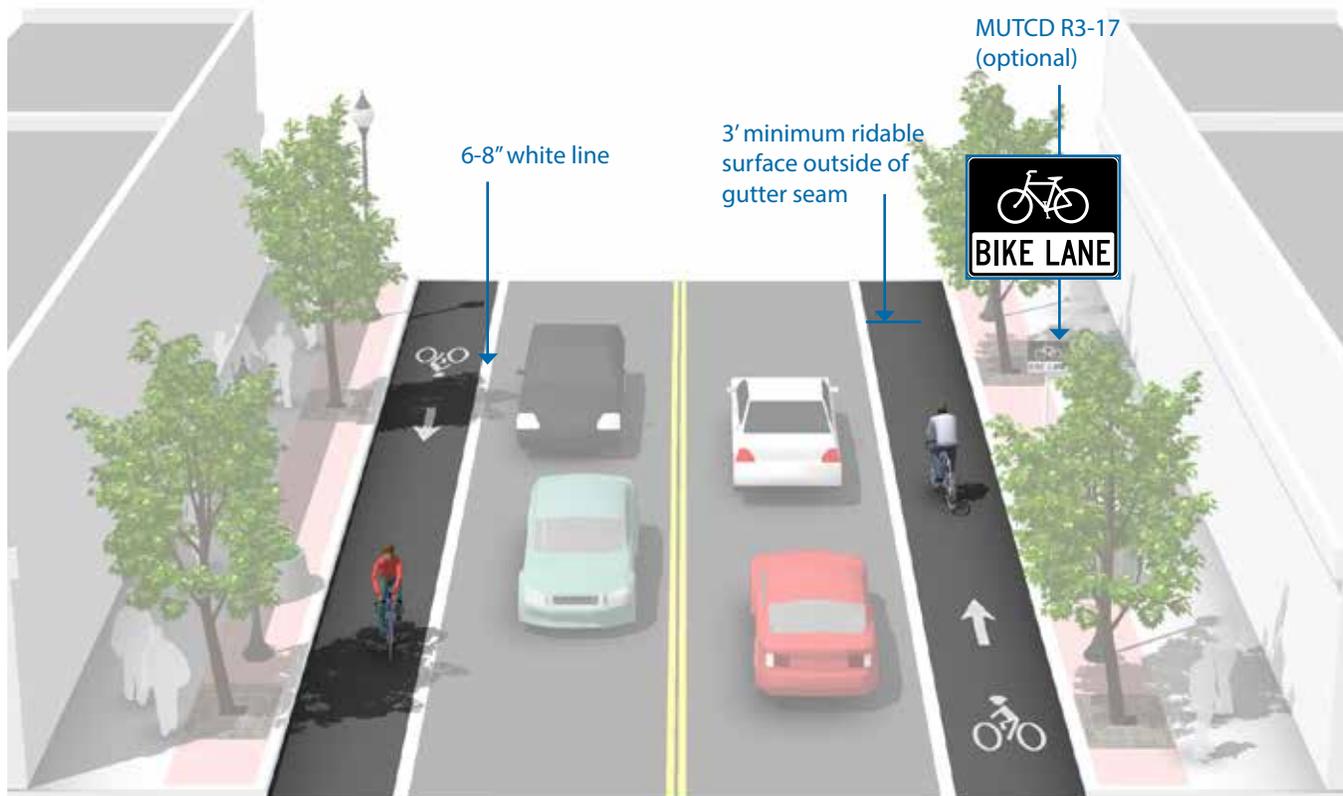
Description

Bike lanes designate an exclusive space for bicyclists through the use of pavement markings and signage. The bike lane is typically located on the right side of the street, between the adjacent travel lane and curb, and is used in the same direction as motor vehicle traffic.

A bike lane width of 7 feet makes it possible for bicyclists to ride side-by-side or pass each other without leaving the bike lane, thereby increasing the capacity of the lane.

Guidance

- 4 foot minimum when no curb and gutter is present.
- 5 foot minimum when adjacent to curb and gutter or 3 feet more than the gutter pan width if the gutter pan is wider than 2 feet.
- 7 foot maximum width for use adjacent to arterials with high travel speeds. Greater widths may encourage motor vehicle use of bike lane. Configure as buffered bicycle lanes when a wider facility is desired.



Discussion

Wider bicycle lanes are desirable in certain situations such as on higher speed arterials (45 mph+) where use of a wider bicycle lane would increase separation between passing vehicles and bicyclists. Appropriate signing and stenciling is important with wide bicycle lanes to ensure motorists do not mistake the lane for a vehicle lane or parking lane. Consider buffered bicycle lanes when further separation is desired.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of snow through routine snow removal operations.

Bike Lane Adjacent to On-Street Parallel Parking

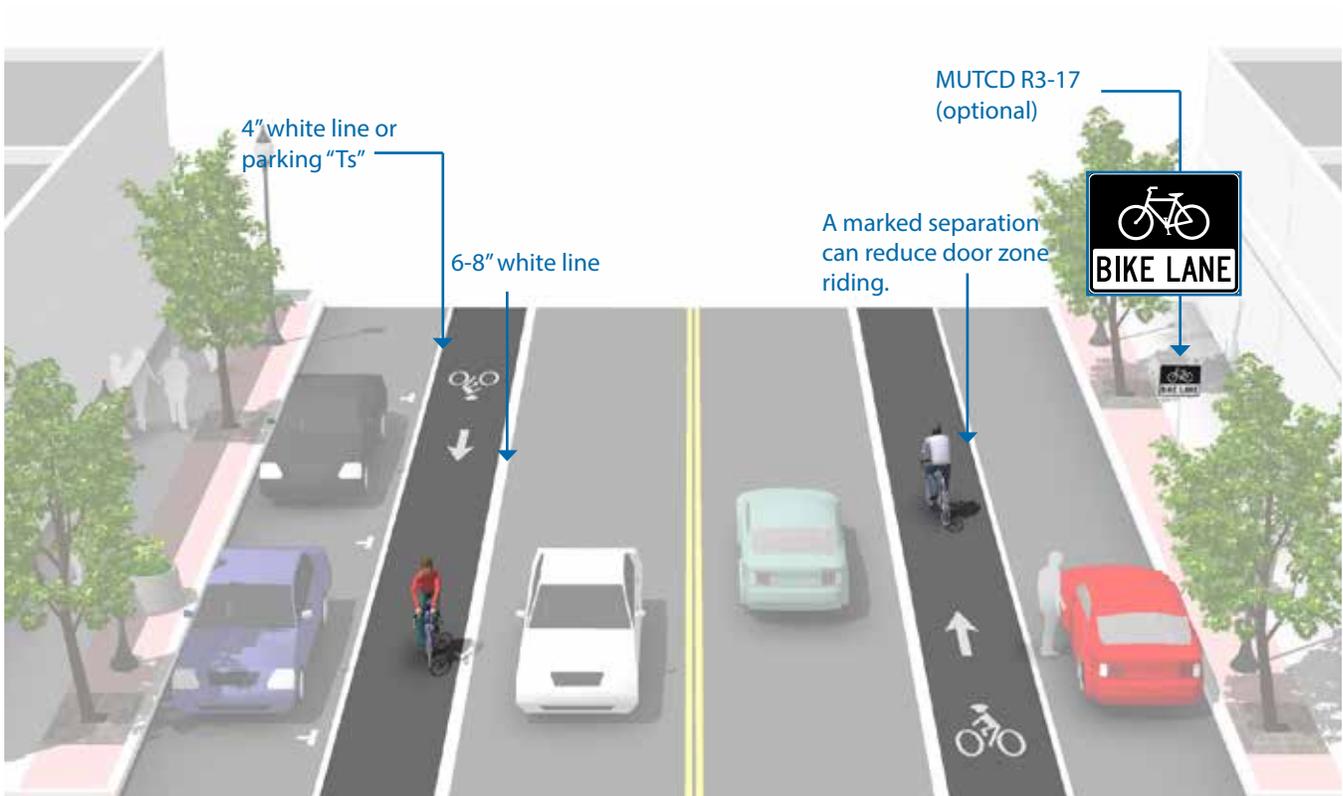
Description

Bike lanes designate an exclusive space for bicyclists through the use of pavement markings and signage. The bike lane is located adjacent to motor vehicle travel lanes and is used in the same direction as motor vehicle traffic. Bike lanes are typically on the right side of the street, between the adjacent travel lane and curb, road edge or parking lane.

Many bicyclists, particularly less experienced riders, are more comfortable riding on a busy street if it has a striped and signed bikeway than if they are expected to share a lane with vehicles.

Guidance

- 12 foot minimum from curb face to edge of bike lane.
- 14.5 foot preferred from curb face to edge of bike lane.
- 7 foot maximum for marked width of bike lane. Greater widths may encourage vehicle loading in bike lane. Configure as buffered bicycle lanes when a wider facility is desired.



Discussion

Bike lanes adjacent to on-street parallel parking require special treatment in order to avoid crashes caused by an open vehicle door. The bike lane should have sufficient width to allow bicyclists to stay out of the door zone while not encroaching into the adjacent vehicular lane. Parking stall markings, such as parking "Ts" and double white lines create a parking side buffer that encourages bicyclists to ride farther away from the door zone.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of snow through routine snow removal operations.

Bike Lanes and Diagonal Parking

Description

In certain areas with high parking demand such as urban commercial areas, diagonal parking can be used to increase parking supply.

Back-in diagonal parking improves sight distances between drivers and bicyclists when compared to conventional head-in diagonal parking. Back-in parking is best paired with a dedicated bicycle lane.

Conventional front-in diagonal parking is not compatible or recommended with the provision of bike lanes, as drivers backing out of conventional diagonal parking have limited visibility of approaching bicyclists. Under these conditions, shared lane markings should be used to guide bicyclists away from reversing automobiles.

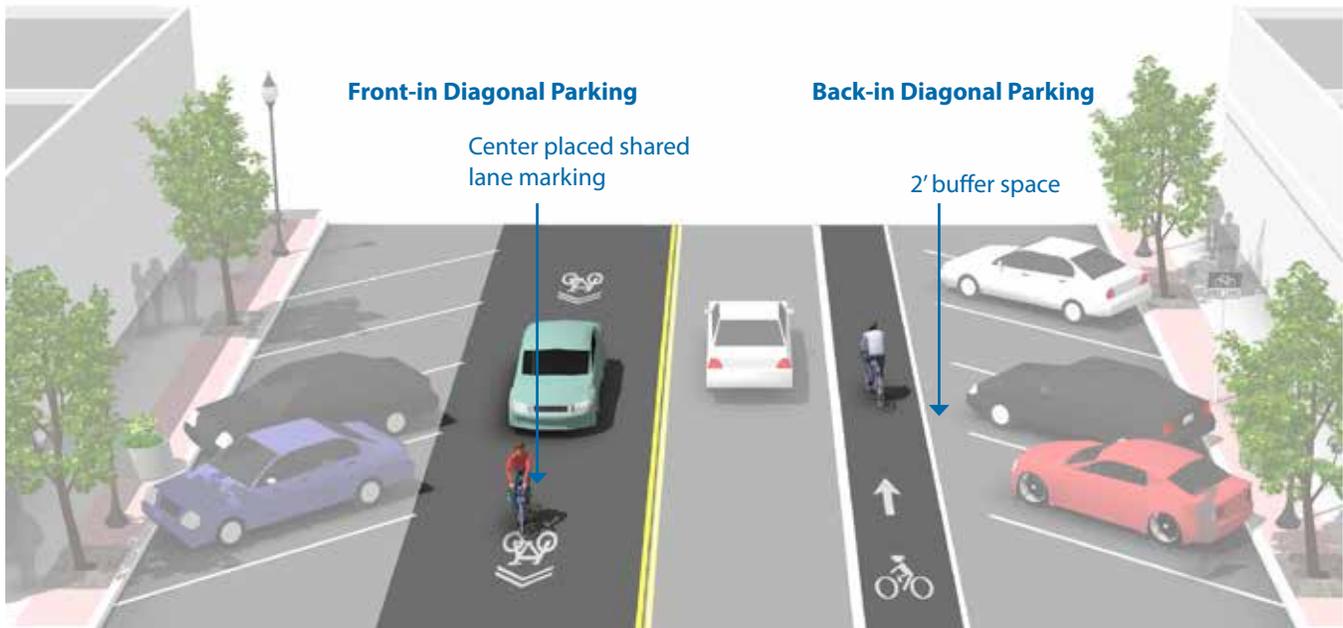
Guidance

Front-in Diagonal Parking

- Shared lane markings are the preferred facility with front-in diagonal parking

Back-in Diagonal Parking

- 5 foot minimum marked width of bike lane
- Parking bays are sufficiently long to accommodate most vehicles (so vehicles do not block bike lane)



Discussion

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of snow through routine snow removal operations.

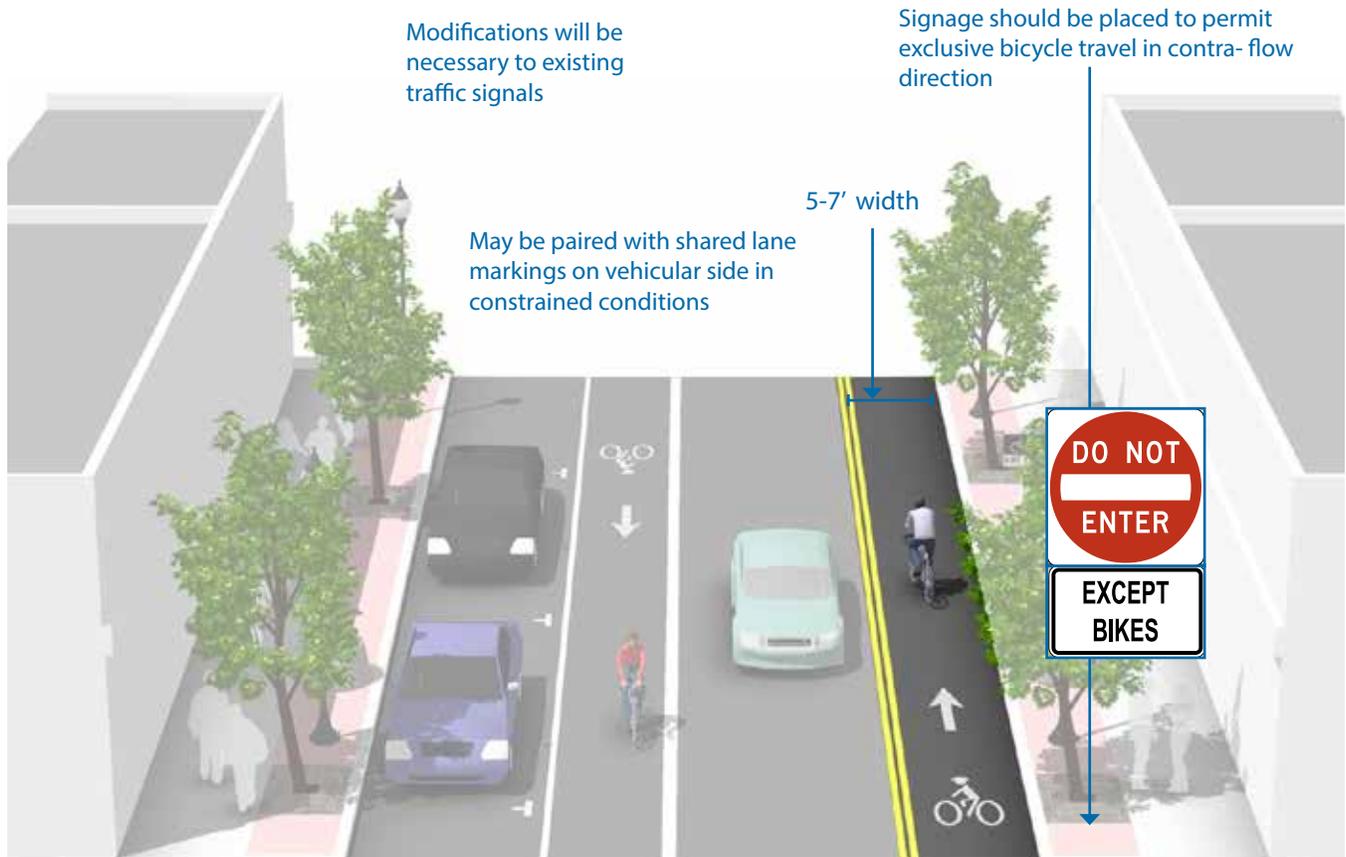
Contra-flow Bike Lane on One-way Street

Description

Contra-flow bike lanes provide bidirectional bicycle access on a roadway that is one-way for motor vehicle traffic. This treatment can provide direct access and connectivity for bicyclists and reducing travel distances. Contra-flow bike lanes can also be used to convert two-way motor vehicle traffic to one-way to reduce traffic volumes where desired.

Guidance

- The contra-flow bike lane should be 5-7 feet wide and marked with a solid double yellow line and appropriate signage. Bike lane markings should be clearly visible to ensure that the contra-flow lane is exclusively for bicycles. Coloration should be considered in the bike lane.
- Signage specifically allowing bicycles at the entrance of the contra flow lane is recommended.



Discussion

Because of the opposing direction of travel, contra-flow bike lanes increase the speed differential between bicyclists and motor vehicles in the adjacent travel lane. If space permits consider a buffered bike lane or cycle track configuration to provide additional separation.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of snow through routine snow removal operations.

Buffered Bike Lane

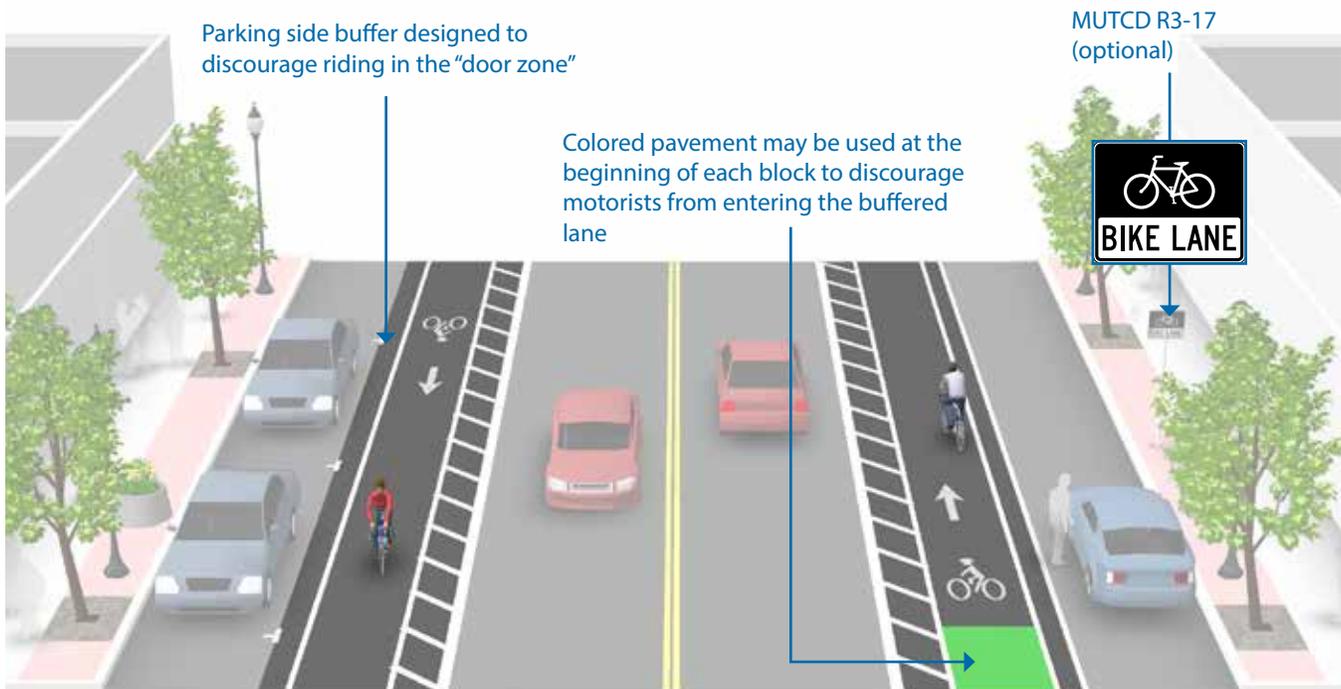
Description

Buffered bike lanes are conventional bicycle lanes paired with a designated buffer space, separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent motor vehicle travel lane and/or parking lane. Buffered bike lanes follow general guidance for buffered preferential vehicle lanes as per MUTCD guidelines (section 3D-01).

Buffered bike lanes are designed to increase the space between the bike lane and the travel lane and/or parked cars. This treatment is appropriate for bike lanes on roadways with high motor vehicle traffic volumes and speed, adjacent to parking lanes, or a high volume of truck or oversized vehicle traffic.

Guidance

- The minimum bicycle travel area (not including buffer) is 5 feet wide.
- Buffers should be at least 2 feet wide. If 3 feet or wider, mark with diagonal or chevron hatching. For clarity at driveways or minor street crossings, consider a dotted line for the inside buffer boundary where cars are expected to cross.
- Buffered bike lanes can buffer the travel lane only, or parking lane only depending on available space and the objectives of the design.



Discussion

Frequency of right turns by motor vehicles at major intersections should determine whether continuous or truncated buffer striping should be used approaching the intersection. Commonly configured as a buffer between the bicycle lane and motor vehicle travel lane, a parking side buffer may also be provided to help bicyclists avoid the 'door zone' of parked cars.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (3D-01)*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of snow through routine snow removal operations.

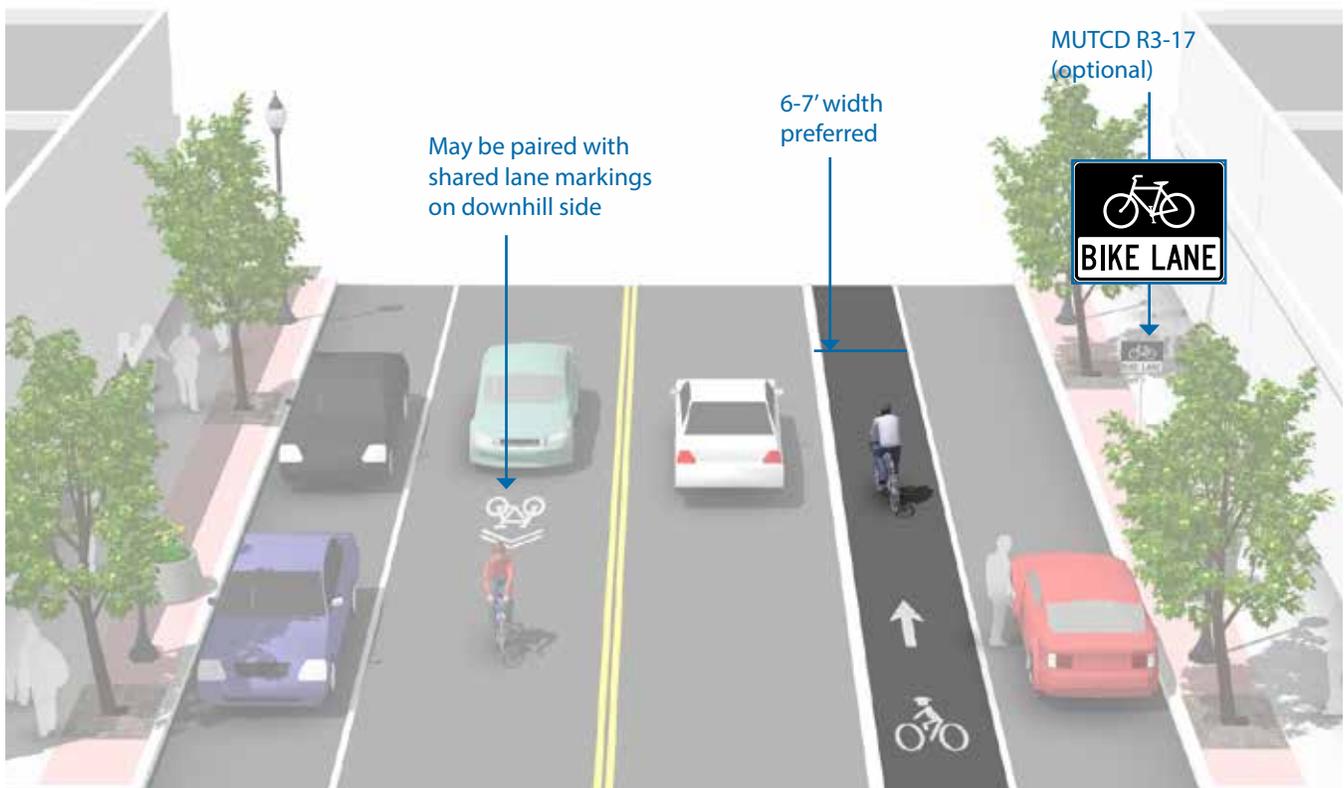
Uphill Bicycle Climbing Lane

Description

Uphill bike lanes (also known as “climbing lanes”) enable motorists to safely pass slower-speed bicyclists, thereby improving conditions for both travel modes.

Guidance

- Uphill bike lanes should be 6-7 feet wide (wider lanes are preferred because extra maneuvering room on steep grades can benefit bicyclists).
- Can be combined with shared lane markings for downhill bicyclists who can more closely match prevailing traffic speeds.



Discussion

This treatment is typically found on retrofit projects as newly constructed roads should provide adequate space for bicycle lanes in both directions of travel. Accommodating an uphill bicycle lane often includes delineating on-street parking (if provided), narrowing travel lanes and/or shifting the centerline if necessary.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.
 AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of snow through routine snow removal operations.

Cycle Tracks

A cycle track is an exclusive bike facility that combines the user experience of a separated path with the on-street infrastructure of a conventional bike lane. A cycle track is physically separated from motor traffic and distinct from the sidewalk. Cycle tracks have different forms but all share common elements—they provide space that is intended to be exclusively or primarily used by bicycles, and are separated from motor vehicle travel lanes, parking lanes, and sidewalks. In situations where on-street parking is allowed, cycle tracks are located to the curb-side of the parking (in contrast to bike lanes).

Cycle tracks may be one-way or two-way, and may be at street level, sidewalk level or at an intermediate level. If at sidewalk level, a curb or median separates them from motor traffic, while different pavement color/texture separates the cycle track from the sidewalk. If at street level, they can be separated from motor traffic by raised medians, on-street parking or bollards.

A two-way cycle track is desirable when more destinations are on one side of a street (therefore preventing additional crossings), if the facility connects to a path or other bicycle facility on one side of the street, or if there is not enough room for a cycle track on both sides of the road.

By separating bicyclists from motor traffic, cycle tracks can offer a higher level of comfort than bike lanes and are attractive to a wider spectrum of the public.

Intersections and approaches must be carefully designed to promote safety and facilitate left-turns from the right side of the street.



One Way Cycle Tracks



Two-Way Cycle Tracks



Driveways and Minor Streets



Major Street Crossings



Shared Use Paths along Roadways

Cycle Track Separation and Placement

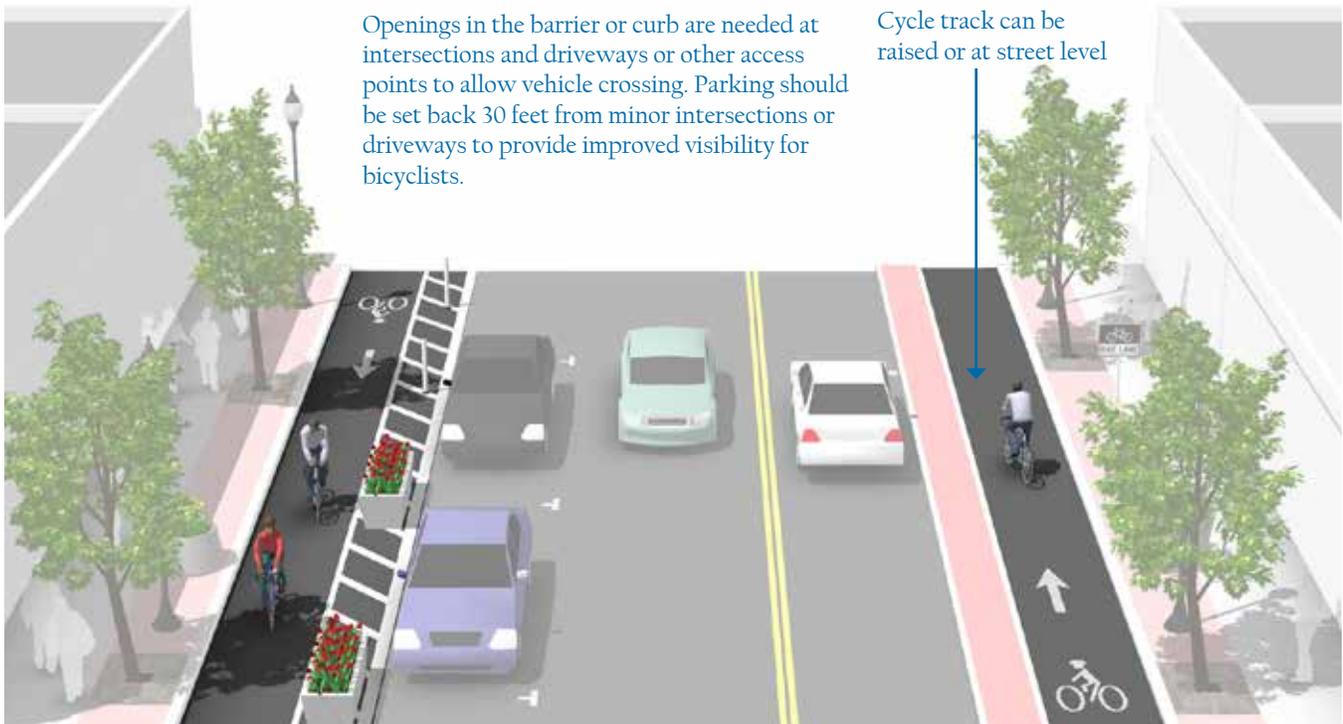
Description

Protection is provided through physical barriers and can include bollards, parking, a planter strip, an extruded curb, or on-street parking. Cycle tracks using these protection elements typically share the same elevation as adjacent travel lanes.

Raised cycle tracks may be at the level of the adjacent sidewalk or set at an intermediate level between the roadway and sidewalk to separate the cycle track from the pedestrian area.

Guidance

- Cycle tracks should ideally be placed along streets with long blocks and few driveways or mid-block access points for motor vehicles. Cycle tracks located on one-way streets have fewer potential conflict areas than those on two-way streets.
- In situations where on-street parking is allowed, cycle tracks shall be located between the parking lane and the sidewalk (in contrast to bike lanes).



Discussion

Sidewalks or other pedestrian facilities should not be narrowed to accommodate the cycle track as pedestrians will likely walk on the cycle track if sidewalk capacity is reduced. Visual and physical cues (e.g., pavement markings & signage) should be used to make it clear where bicyclists and pedestrians should be travelling. If possible, separate the cycle track and pedestrian zone with a furnishing zone.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

In cities with winter climates, barrier separated and raised cycle tracks may require special equipment for snow removal.

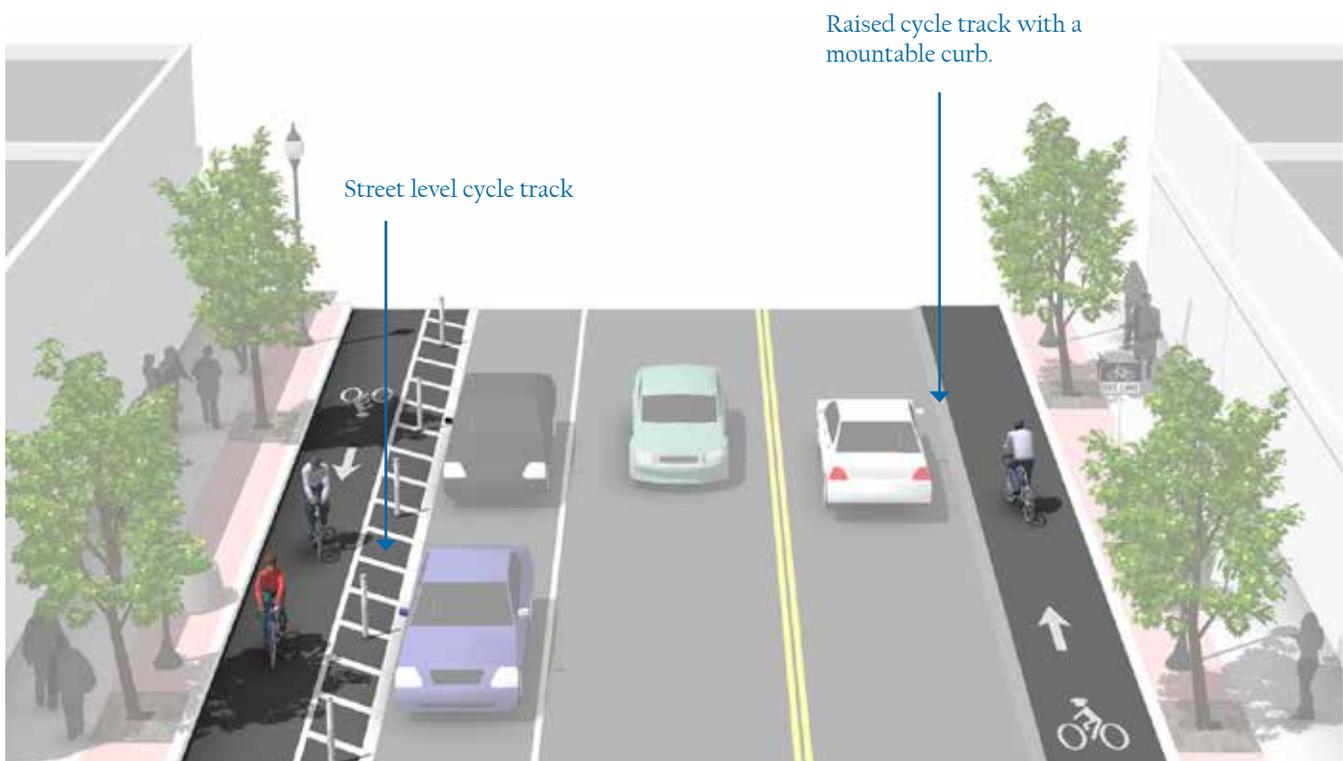
One-Way Cycle Tracks

Description

One-way cycle tracks are physically separated from motor traffic and distinct from the sidewalk. Cycle tracks are either raised or at street level and use a variety of elements for physical protection from passing traffic.

Guidance

- 7 foot recommended minimum to allow passing.
- 5 foot minimum width in constrained locations.
- When placed adjacent to parking, the parking buffer should be three feet wide to allow for passenger loading and to prevent door collisions.
- When placed adjacent to a travel lane, one-way raised cycle tracks may be configured with a mountable curb to allow entry and exit from the bicycle lane for passing other bicyclists or to access vehicular turn lanes.



Discussion

Special consideration should be given at transit stops to manage bicycle and pedestrian interactions. Driveways and minor street crossings are unique challenges to cycle track design. Parking should be prohibited within 30 feet of the intersection to improve visibility. Color, yield markings and “Yield to Bikes” signage should be used to identify the conflict area and make it clear that the cycle track has priority over entering and exiting traffic. If configured as a raised cycle track, the crossing should be raised so that the sidewalk and cycle track maintain their elevation through the crossing.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

In cities with winter climates, barrier separated and raised cycle tracks may require special equipment for snow removal.

Driveways and Minor Street Crossings

Description

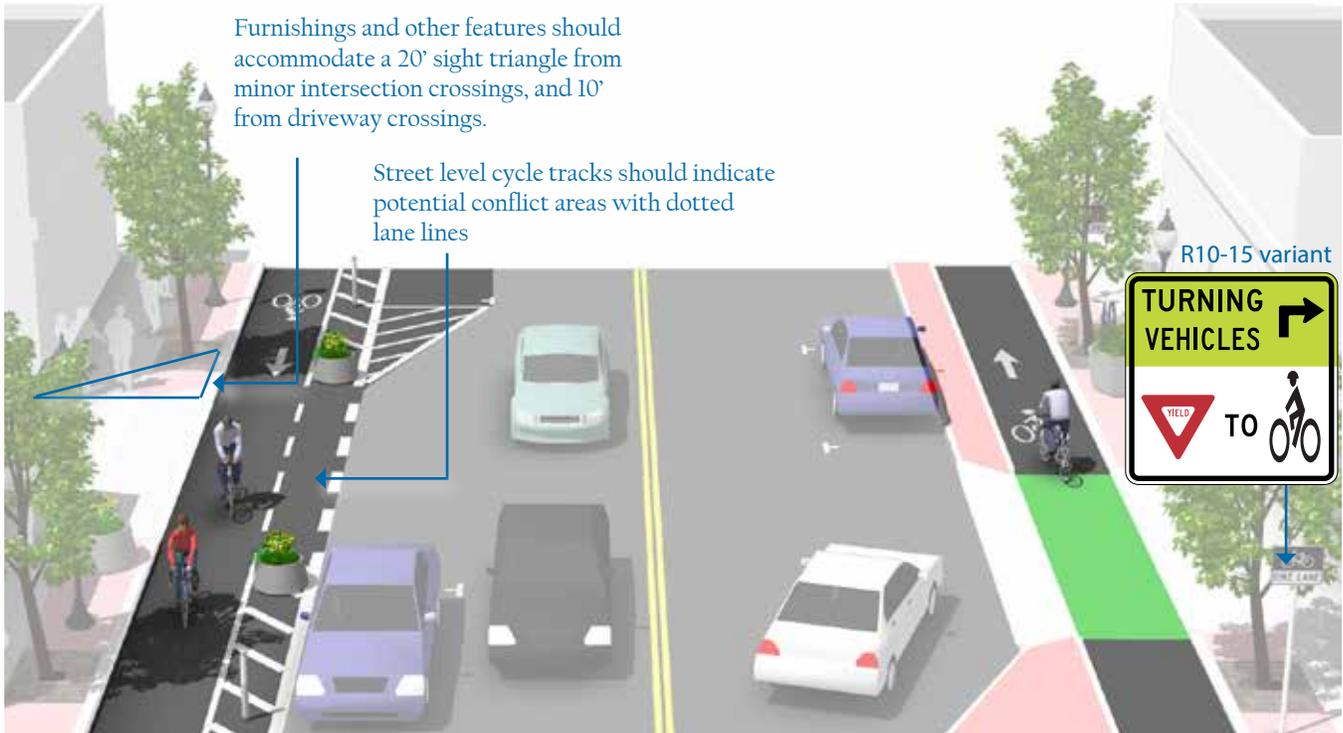
The added separation provided by cycle tracks creates additional considerations at intersections that should be addressed.

At driveways and crossings of minor streets a smaller fraction of automobiles will cross the cycle track. Bicyclists should not be expected to stop at these minor intersections if the major street does not stop.

Guidance

- If raised, maintain the height of the cycle track through the crossing, requiring automobiles to cross over.
- Remove parking 30 feet prior the intersection.
- Use colored pavement markings and/or shared lane markings through the conflict area.
- Place warning signage to identify the crossing.

Openings in the barrier or curb are needed at intersections and driveways or other access points to allow vehicle crossing.



Discussion

At these locations, bicyclist visibility is important, as a buffer of parked cars or vegetation can reduce the visibility of a bicyclist traveling in the cycle track. Markings and signage should be present that make it easy to understand where bicyclists and pedestrians should be travelling. Access management should be used to reduce the number of crossings of driveways on a cycle track. Driveway consolidations and restrictions on motorized traffic movements reduce the potential for conflict.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

In cities with winter climates, barrier separated and raised cycle tracks may require special equipment for snow removal.

Major Street Crossings

Description

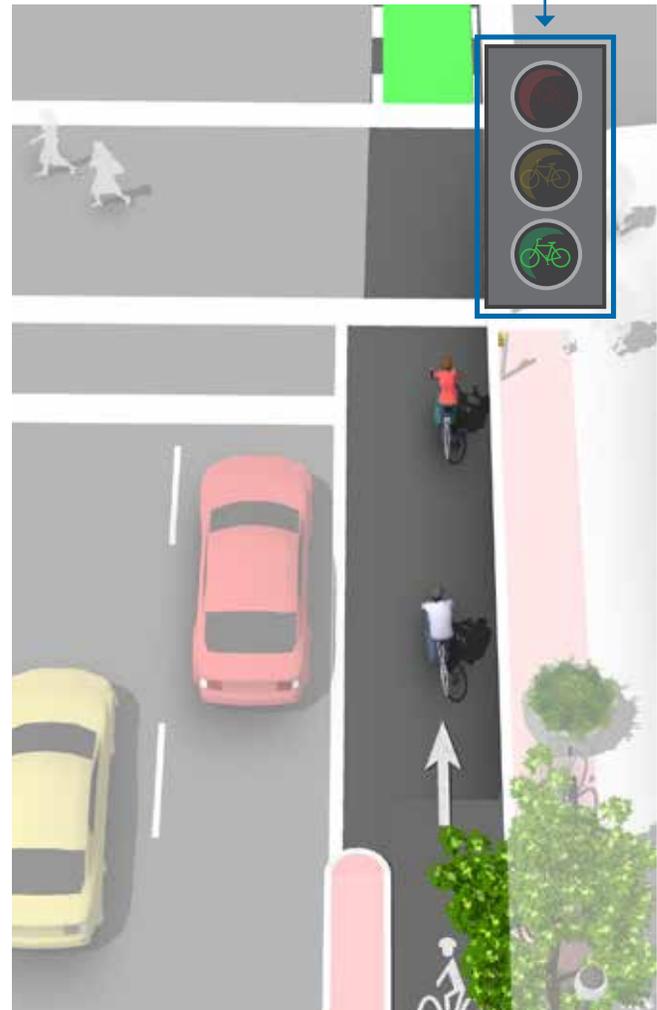
Cycle tracks approaching major intersections must minimize and mitigate potential conflicts and provide connections to intersecting facility types.

Cycle track crossings of signalized intersections can also be accomplished through the use of a bicycle signal phase which reduces conflicts with motor vehicles by separating bicycle movements from any conflicting motor vehicle movements.

Guidance

- Drop cycle track buffer and transition to bike lane 16' in advance of the intersection.
- Remove parking 16' -50' in advance of the buffer termination.
- Use a bike box or advanced stop line treatment to place bicyclists in front of traffic.
- Use colored pavement markings through the conflict area.
- Provide for left-turning movements with two-stage turn boxes.
- Consider using a protected phase bicycle signal to isolate conflicts between bicyclists and motor vehicle traffic.
- In constrained conditions with right turn only lanes, consider transitioning to a shared bike lane/turn lane.

Demand-only bicycle signals can be implemented to reduce vehicle delay and to prevent an empty signal phase from regularly occurring.



Discussion

Signalization utilizing a bicycle signal head can also be set to provide cycle track users a green phase in advance of vehicle phases. The length of the signal phase will depend on the width of the intersection.

The same conflicts exist at non-signalized intersections. Warning signs, special markings and the removal of on-street parking in advance of the intersection can raise visibility and awareness of bicyclists.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

In cities with winter climates, barrier separated and raised cycle tracks may require special equipment for snow removal.

Separated Bikeways at Intersections

Intersections are junctions at which different modes of transportation meet and facilities overlap. An intersection facilitates the interchange between bicyclists, motorists, pedestrians and other modes in order to advance traffic flow in a safe and efficient manner. Designs for intersections with bicycle facilities should reduce conflict between bicyclists (and other vulnerable road users) and vehicles by heightening the level of visibility, denoting clear right-of-way and facilitating eye contact and awareness with other modes. Intersection treatments can improve both queuing and merging maneuvers for bicyclists, and are often coordinated with timed or specialized signals.

The configuration of a safe intersection for bicyclists may include elements such as color, signage, medians, signal detection and pavement markings. Intersection design should take into consideration existing and anticipated bicyclist, pedestrian and motorist movements. In all cases, the degree of mixing or separation between bicyclists and other modes is intended to reduce the risk of crashes and increase bicyclist comfort. The level of treatment required for bicyclists at an intersection will depend on the bicycle facility type used, whether bicycle facilities are intersecting, and the adjacent street function and land use.



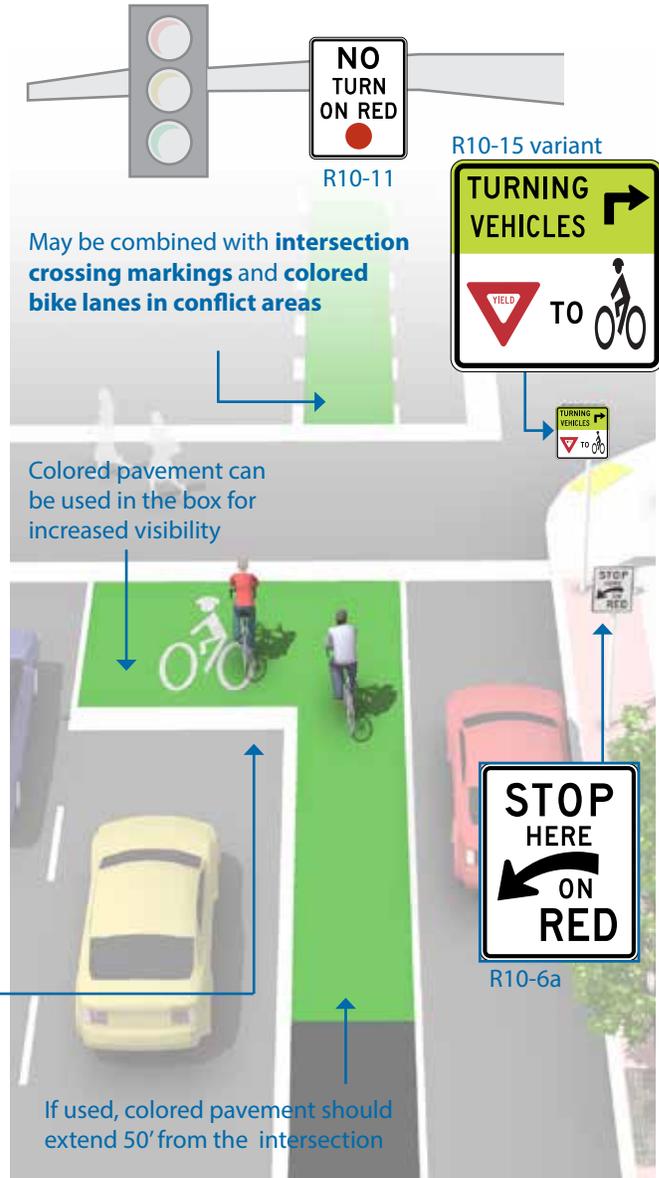
Bike Box

Description

A bike box is a designated area located at the head of a traffic lane at a signalized intersection that provides bicyclists with a safe and visible space to get in front of queuing motorized traffic during the red signal phase. Motor vehicles must queue behind the white stop line at the rear of the bike box.

Guidance

- 14' minimum depth
- A “No Turn on Red” (MUTCD R10-11) sign shall be installed overhead to prevent vehicles from entering the Bike Box.
- A “Stop Here on Red” sign should be post-mounted at the stop line to reinforce observance of the stop line.
- A “Yield to Bikes” sign should be post-mounted in advance of and in conjunction with an egress lane to reinforce that bicyclists have the right-of-way going through the intersection.
- An ingress lane should be used to provide access to the box.
- A supplemental “Wait Here” legend can be provided in advance of the stop bar to increase clarity to motorists.



Discussion

Bike boxes are considered experimental by the FHWA. Bike boxes should be placed only at signalized intersections, and right turns on red shall be prohibited for motor vehicles. Bike boxes should be used in locations that have a large volume of bicyclists and are best utilized in central areas where traffic is usually moving more slowly. Prohibiting right turns on red improves safety for bicyclists yet does not significantly impede motor vehicle travel.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.
 FHWA. Interim Approval (IA-14) has been granted. Requests to use green colored pavement need to comply with the provisions of Paragraphs 14 through 22 of Section 1A.10. 2011.

Materials and Maintenance

Because the effectiveness of markings depends entirely on their visibility, maintaining markings should be a high priority.

Bike Lanes at Right Turn Only Lanes

Description

The appropriate treatment at right-turn lanes is to place the bike lane between the right-turn lane and the right-most through lane or, where right-of-way is insufficient, to use a shared bike lane/turn lane.

The design (right) illustrates a bike lane pocket, with signage indicating that motorists should yield to bicyclists through the conflict area.

Guidance

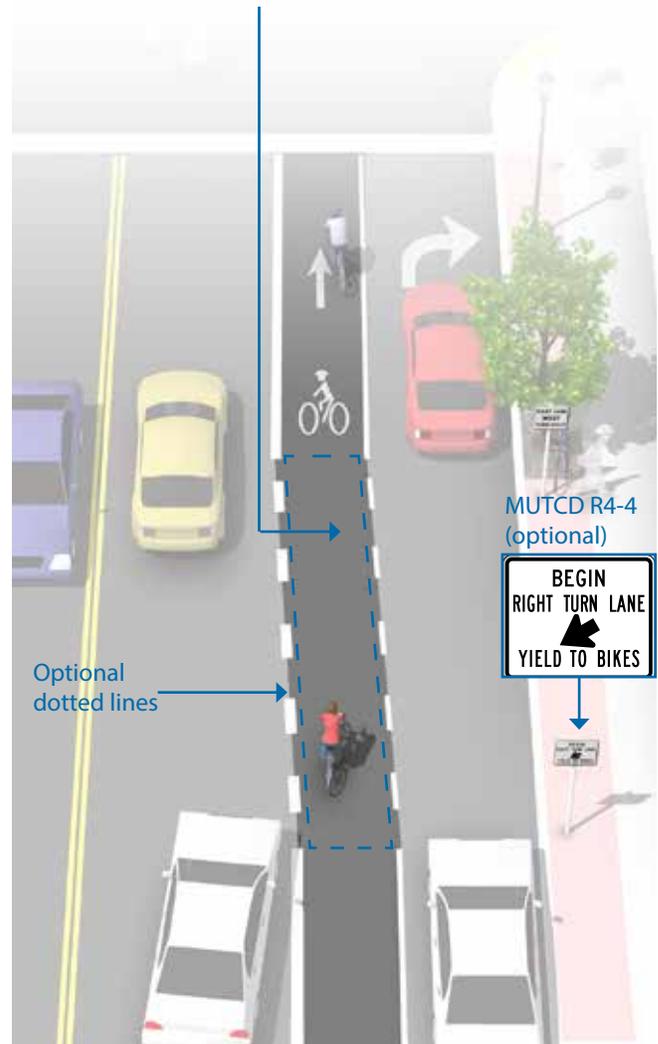
At auxiliary right turn only lanes (add lane):

- Continue existing bike lane width; standard width of 5 to 6 feet or 4 feet in constrained locations.
- Use signage to indicate that motorists should yield to bicyclists through the conflict area.
- Consider using colored conflict areas to promote visibility of the mixing zone.

Where a through lane becomes a right turn only lane:

- Do not define a dotted line merging path for bicyclists.
- Drop the bicycle lane in advance of the merge area.
- Use shared lane markings to indicate shared use of the lane in the merging zone.

Colored pavement may be used in the weaving area to increase visibility and awareness of potential conflict



Discussion

For other potential approaches to providing accommodations for bicyclists at intersections with turn lanes, please see guidance on shared bike lane/turn lane, bicycle signals, and colored bike facilities.

Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
- NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Because the effectiveness of markings depends entirely on their visibility, maintaining markings should be a high priority.

Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas

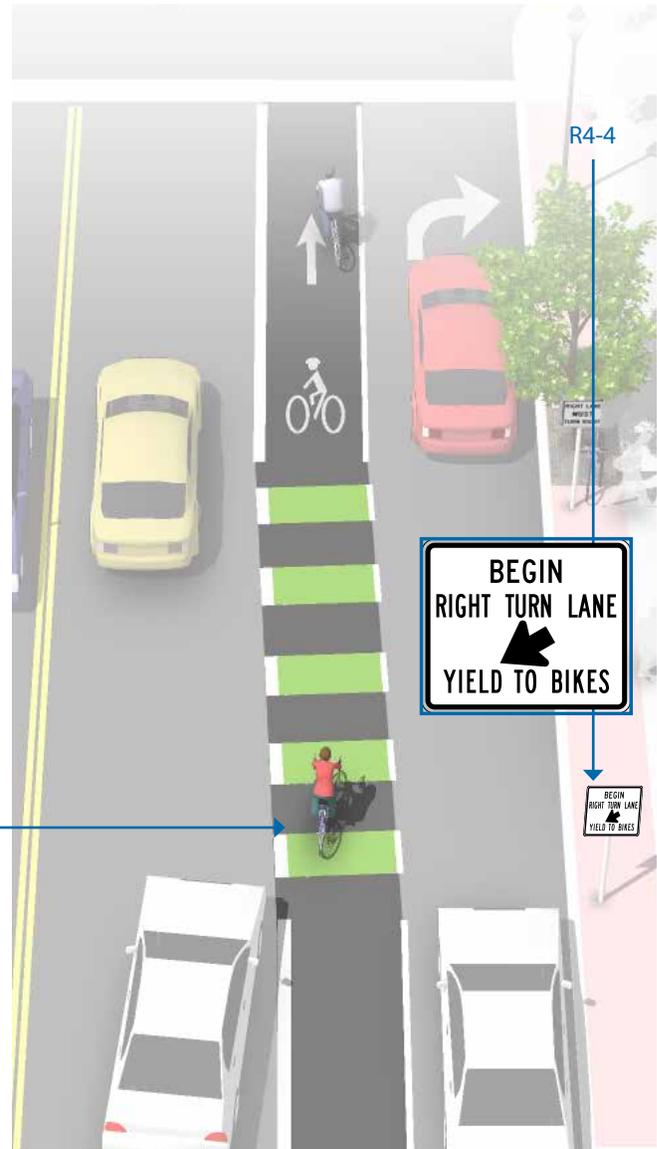
Description

Colored pavement within a bicycle lane increases the visibility of the facility and reinforces priority of bicyclists in conflict areas.

Guidance

- Green colored pavement was given interim approval by the Federal Highways Administration in March 2011. See interim approval for specific colored pavement standards.
- The colored surface should be skid resistant and retro-reflective.
- A “Yield to Bikes” sign should be used at intersections or driveway crossings to reinforce that bicyclists have the right-of-way in colored bike lane areas.

Normal white dotted edge lines should define colored space



Discussion

Evaluations performed in Portland, OR, St. Petersburg, FL and Austin, TX found that significantly more motorists yielded to bicyclists and slowed or stopped before entering the conflict area after the application of the colored pavement when compared with an uncolored treatment.

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. Interim Approval (IA-14) has been granted. Requests to use green colored pavement need to comply with the provisions of Paragraphs 14 through 22 of Section 1A.10. 2011.
NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Because the effectiveness of markings depends entirely on their visibility, maintaining markings should be a high priority.

Combined Bike Lane / Turn Lane

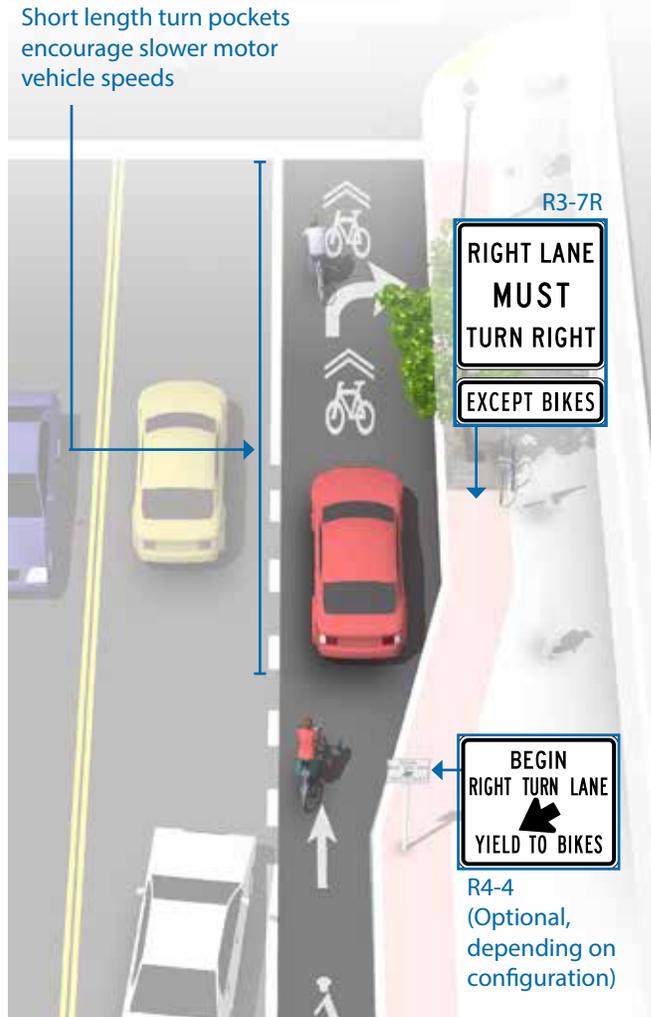
Description

The combined bicycle/right turn lane places shared lane markings within a right turn only lane.

This treatment is recommended at intersections lacking sufficient space to accommodate both a standard through bike lane and right turn lane.

Guidance

- Maximum shared turn lane width is 13 feet; narrower is preferable.
- Shared Lane Markings should indicate preferred positioning of bicyclists within the combine lane.
- A “RIGHT LANE MUST TURN RIGHT” sign with an “EXCEPT BIKES” plaque may be needed to make it legal for through bicyclists to use a right turn lane.
- The BEGIN RIGHT TURN LANE YIELD TO BIKES (R4-4) sign may be used where motor vehicles entering an exclusive right-turn lane must weave across bicycle traffic in bicycle lanes. The R4-4 sign should not be used when bicyclists need to move left because of a right-turn lane drop situation.



Discussion

Case studies cited by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center indicate that this treatment works best on streets with lower posted speeds (30 MPH or less) and with lower traffic volumes (10,000 ADT or less). May not be appropriate for high-speed arterials or intersections with long right turn lanes. May not be appropriate for intersections with large percentages of right-turning heavy vehicles.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Locate markings out of tire tread to minimize wear. Because the effectiveness of markings depends on their visibility, maintaining markings should be a high priority.

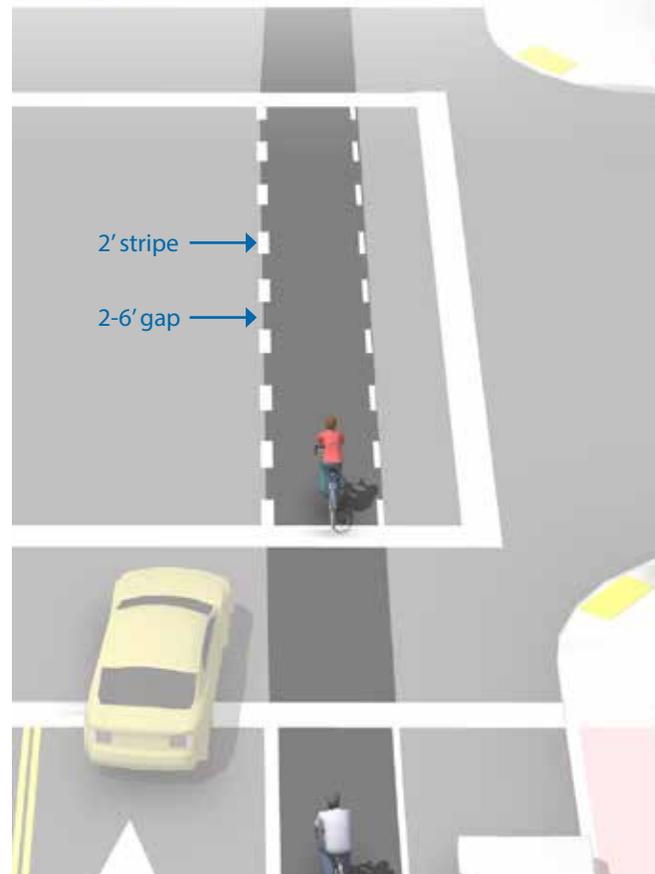
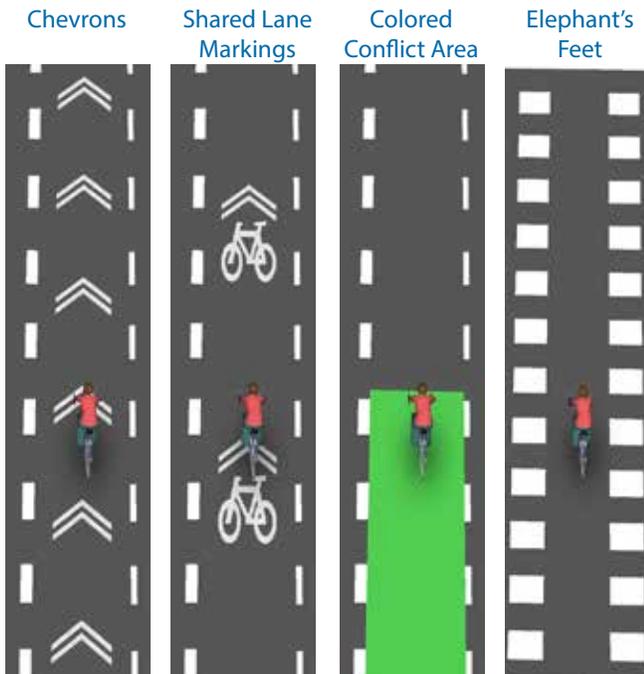
Intersection Crossing Markings

Description

Bicycle pavement markings through intersections indicate the intended path of bicyclists through an intersection or across a driveway or ramp. They guide bicyclists on a safe and direct path through the intersection and provide a clear boundary between the paths of through bicyclists and either through or crossing motor vehicles in the adjacent lane.

Guidance

- See MUTCD Section 3B.08: “dotted line extensions”
- Crossing striping shall be at least six inches wide when adjacent to motor vehicle travel lanes. Dotted lines should be two-foot lines spaced two to six feet apart.
- Chevrons, shared lane markings, or colored bike lanes in conflict areas may be used to increase visibility within conflict areas or across entire intersections. Elephant’s Feet markings are common in Europe and Canada.



Discussion

Additional markings such as chevrons, shared lane markings, or colored bike lanes in conflict areas are strategies currently in use in the United States and Canada. Cities considering the implementation of markings through intersections should standardize future designs to avoid confusion.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. (3A.06). 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Because the effectiveness of marked crossings depends entirely on their visibility, maintaining marked crossings should be a high priority.

Two-Stage Turn Boxes

Description

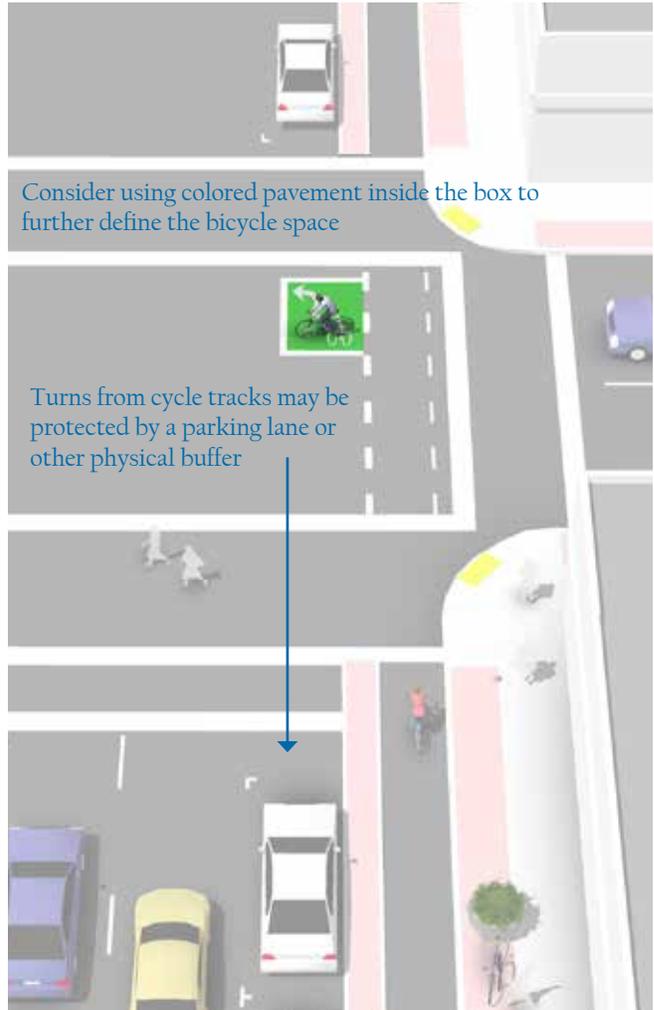
Two-stage turn queue boxes offer bicyclists a safe way to make left turns at multi-lane signalized intersections from a right side cycle track or bike lane.

On right side cycle tracks, bicyclists are often unable to merge into traffic to turn left due to physical separation, making the provision of two-stage left turn boxes critical. Design guidance for two-stage turns apply to both bike lanes and cycle tracks.

Guidance

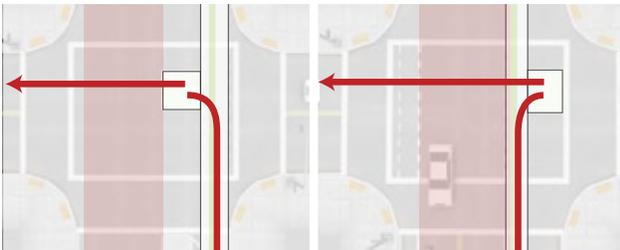
- The queue box shall be placed in a protected area. Typically this is within an on-street parking lane or cycle track buffer area.
- 6' minimum depth of bicycle storage area
- Bicycle stencil and turn arrow pavement markings shall be used to indicate proper bicycle direction and positioning.
- A “No Turn on Red” (MUTCD R10-11) sign shall be installed on the cross street to prevent vehicles from entering the turn box.

Turns from a bicycle lane may be protected by an adjacent parking lane or crosswalk setback space



Cycle track turn box protected by physical buffer:

Bike lane turn box protected by parking lane:



Discussion

Two-Stage Turn boxes are considered experimental by FHWA.

While two stage turns may increase bicyclist comfort in many locations, this configuration will typically result in higher average signal delay for bicyclists due to the need to receive two separate green signal indications (one for the through street, followed by one for the cross street) before proceeding.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas or in winter climates.

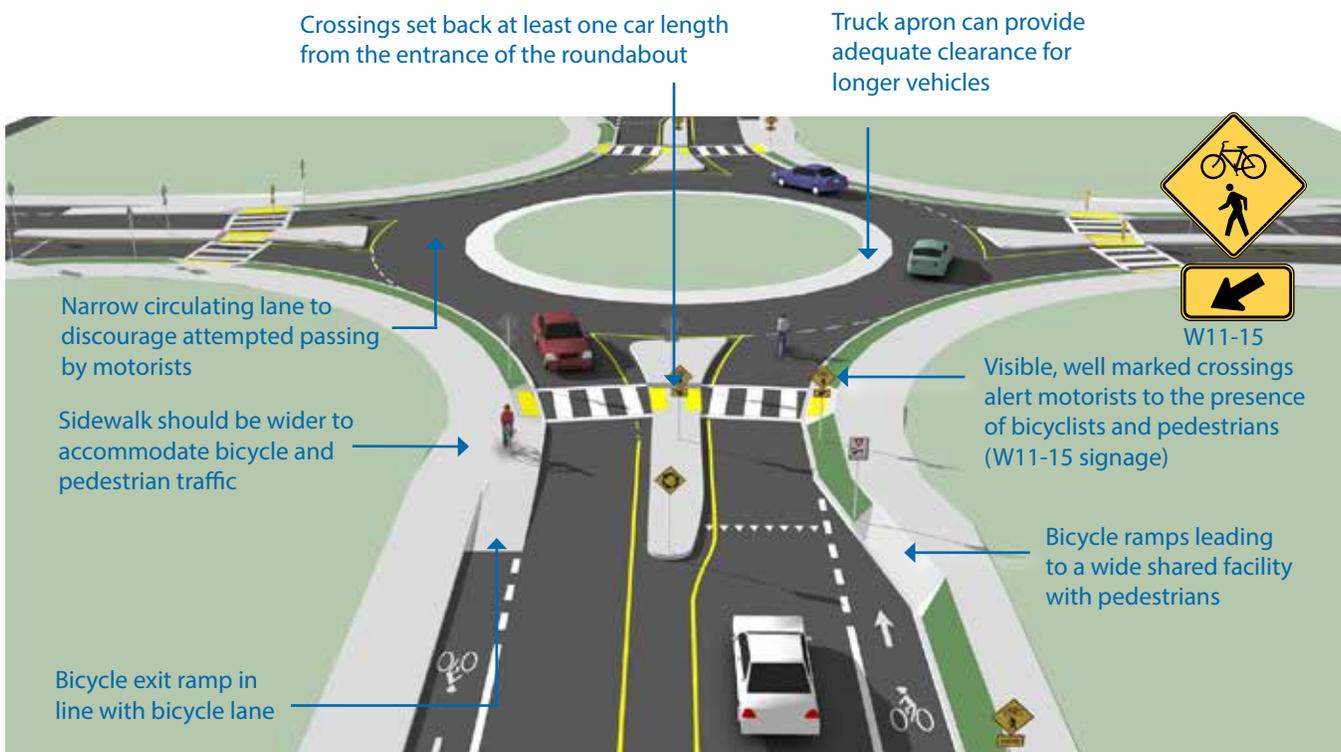
Bicyclists at Single Lane Roundabouts

Description

In single lane roundabouts it is important to indicate to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians the right-of-way rules and correct way for them to circulate, using appropriately designed signage, pavement markings, and geometric design elements.

Guidelines

- 25 mph maximum circulating design speed.
- Design approaches/exits to the lowest speeds possible.
- Encourage bicyclists navigating the roundabout like motor vehicles to “take the lane.”
- Maximize yielding rate of motorists to pedestrians and bicyclists at crosswalks.
- Provide separated facilities for bicyclists who prefer not to navigate the roundabout on the roadway.



Discussion

Research indicates that while single-lane roundabouts may benefit bicyclists and pedestrians by slowing traffic, multi-lane roundabouts may present greater challenges and significantly increase safety problems for these users.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.

FHWA. *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide*. 2000.

TRB. *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide, Second Edition*. NCHRP 672. 2010.

Materials and Maintenance

Signage and striping require routine maintenance.

Bike Lanes at Diverging Ramp Lanes

Description

Some arterials may contain high speed freeway-style designs such as merge lanes and exit ramps, which can create difficulties for bicyclists. The entrance and exit lanes typically have intrinsic visibility problems because of low approach angles and feature high speed differentials between bicyclists and motor vehicles.

Strategies to improve safety focus on increasing sight distances, creating formal crossings, and minimizing crossing distances.

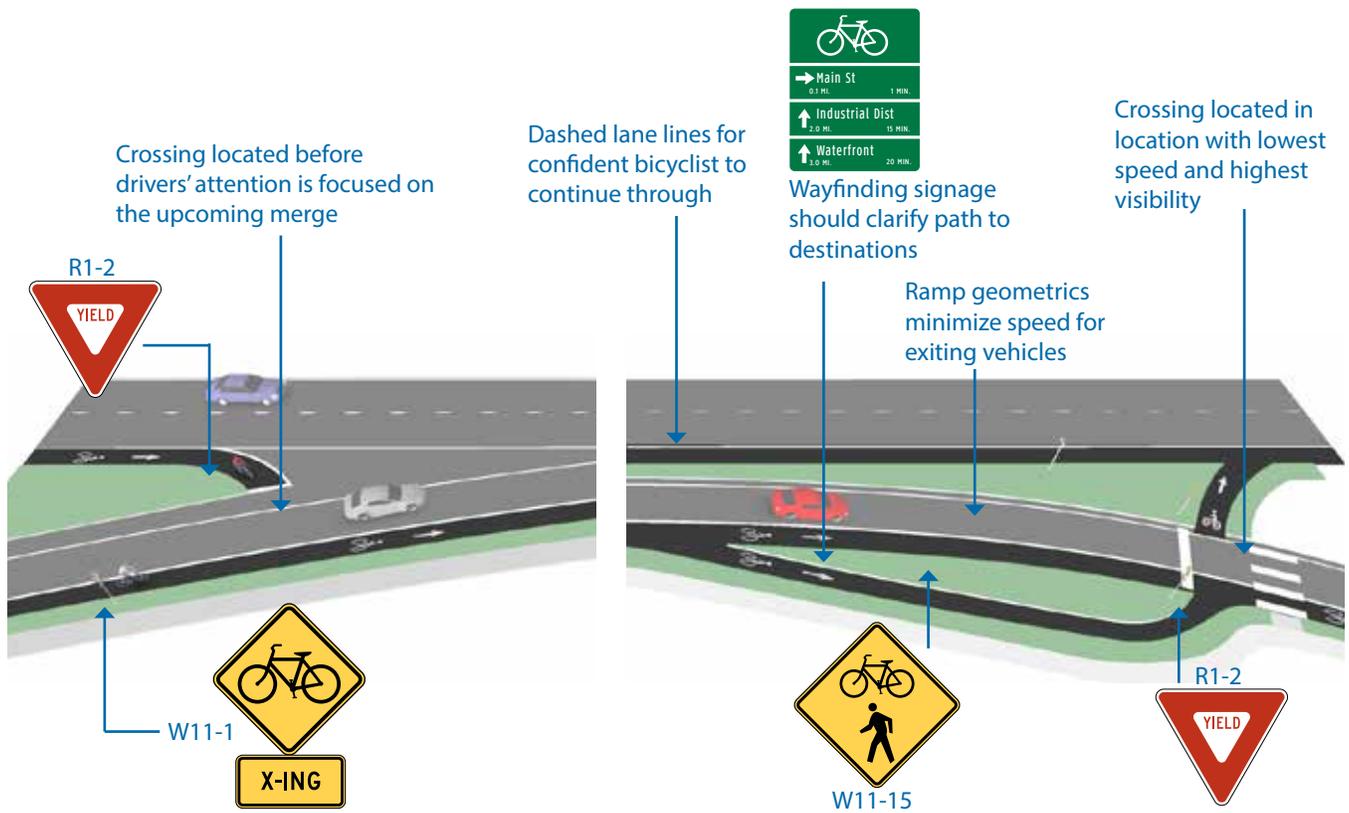
Guidance

Entrance Ramps:

Angle the bike lane to increase the approach angle with entering traffic. Position crossing before drivers' attention is focused on the upcoming merge.

Exit Ramps:

Use a jug handle turn to bring bicyclists to increase the approach angle with exiting traffic, and add yield striping and signage to the bicycle approach.



Discussion

While the jug-handle approach is the preferred configuration at exit ramps, provide the option for through bicyclists to perform a vehicular merge and proceed straight through under safe conditions.

Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
- FHWA. *Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Lesson 15: Bicycle Lanes*. 2006.

Materials and Maintenance

Locate crossing markings out of wheel tread when possible to minimize wear and maintenance costs.

Signalization

Bicycle signals and beacons facilitate bicyclist crossings of roadways. Bicycle signals make crossing intersections safer for bicyclists by clarifying when to enter an intersection and by restricting conflicting vehicle movements. Bicycle signals are traditional three lens signal heads with green, yellow and red bicycle stenciled lenses that can be employed at standard signalized intersections. Flashing amber warning beacons can be utilized at unsignalized intersection crossings. Push buttons, signage, and pavement markings may be used to supplement these facilities for both bicyclists and motorists.

Determining which type of signal or beacon to use for a particular intersection depends on a variety of factors. These include speed limits, Average Daily Traffic (ADT), anticipated bicycle crossing traffic, and the configuration of planned or existing bicycle facilities. Signals may be necessary as part of the construction of a protected bicycle facility such as a cycle track with potential turning conflicts, or to decrease vehicle or pedestrian conflicts at major crossings. An intersection with bicycle signals may reduce stress and delays for a crossing bicyclist, and discourage illegal and unsafe crossing maneuvers.



Bicycle Detection and Actuation

Description

Push Button Actuation

User-activated button mounted on a pole facing the street.

Loop Detectors

Bicycle-activated loop detectors are installed within the roadway to allow the presence of a bicycle to trigger a change in the traffic signal. This allows the bicyclist to stay within the lane of travel without having to maneuver to the side of the road to trigger a push button.

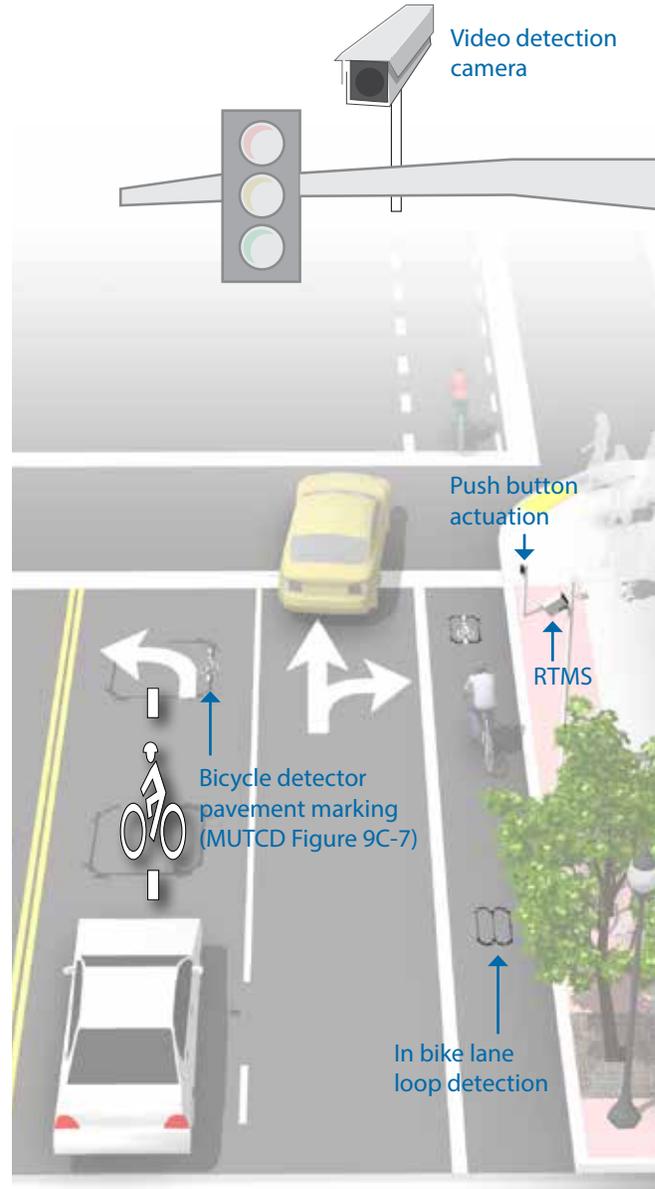
Loops that are sensitive enough to detect bicycles should be supplemented with pavement markings to instruct bicyclists how to trip them.

Video Detection Cameras

Video detection systems use digital image processing to detect a change in the image at a location. These systems can be calibrated to detect bicycles. Video camera system costs range from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per intersection.

Remote Traffic Microwave Sensor Detection (RTMS)

RTMS is a system which uses frequency modulated continuous wave radio signals to detect objects in the roadway. This method marks the detected object with a time code to determine its distance from the sensor. The RTMS system is unaffected by temperature and lighting, which can affect standard video detection.



Discussion

Proper bicycle detection should meet two primary criteria: 1) accurately detects bicyclists and 2) provides clear guidance to bicyclists on how to actuate detection (e.g., what button to push, where to stand).

Bicycle loops and other detection mechanisms can also provide bicyclists with an extended green time before the light turns yellow so that bicyclists of all abilities can reach the far side of the intersection.

Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
- NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Signal detection and actuation for bicyclists should be maintained with other traffic signal detection and roadway pavement markings.

Active Warning Beacons

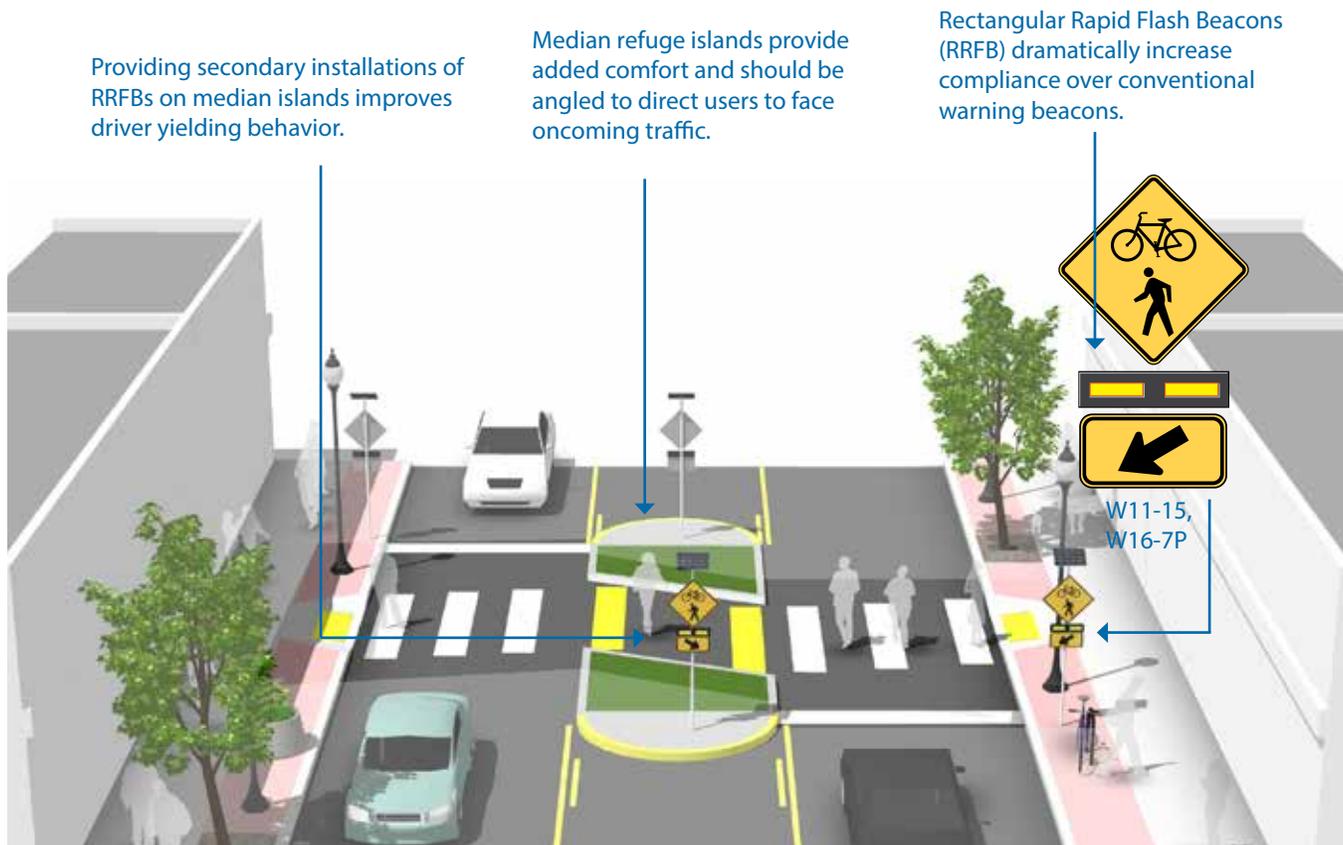
Description

Active warning beacons are user actuated illuminated devices designed to increase motor vehicle yielding compliance at crossings of multi lane or high volume roadways.

Types of active warning beacons include conventional circular yellow flashing beacons, in-roadway warning lights, or Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB).

Guidance

- Warning beacons shall not be used at crosswalks controlled by YIELD signs, STOP signs or traffic signals.
- Warning beacons shall initiate operation based on pedestrian or bicyclist actuation and shall cease operation at a predetermined time after actuation or, with passive detection, after the pedestrian or bicyclist clears the crosswalk.



Discussion

Rectangular rapid flash beacons have the highest compliance of all the warning beacon enhancement options.

A study of the effectiveness of going from a no-beacon arrangement to a two-beacon RRFB installation increased yielding from 18 percent to 81 percent. A four-beacon arrangement raised compliance to 88 percent. Additional studies over long term installations show little to no decrease in yielding behavior over time.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 FHWA. *MUTCD - Interim Approval for Optional Use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (1A-11)*. 2008.

Materials and Maintenance

Depending on power supply, maintenance can be minimal. If solar power is used, RRFBs can run for years without issue.

Bicycle Signal Heads

Description

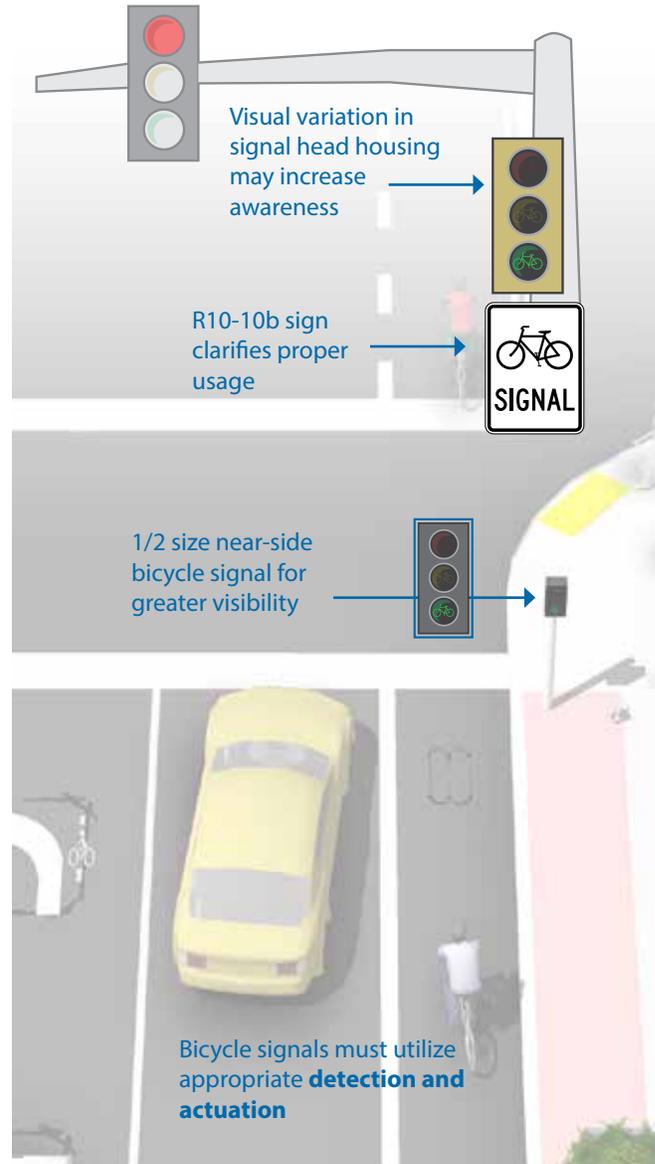
A bicycle signal is an electrically powered traffic control device that should only be used in combination with an existing traffic signal. Bicycle signals are typically used to improve identified safety or operational problems involving bicycle facilities. Bicycle signal heads may be installed at signalized intersections to indicate bicycle signal phases and other bicycle-specific timing strategies. Bicycle signals can be actuated with bicycle sensitive loop detectors, video detection, or push buttons.

Bicycle signals are typically used to provide guidance for bicyclists at intersections where they may have different needs from other road users (e.g., bicycle-only movements).

Guidance

Specific locations where bicycle signals have had a demonstrated positive effect include:

- Those with high volume of bicyclists at peak hours
- Those with high numbers of bicycle/motor vehicle crashes, especially those caused by turning vehicle movements
- At T-intersections with major bicycle movement along the top of the “T.”
- At the confluence of an off-street bike path and a roadway intersection
- Where separated bike paths run parallel to arterial streets



Discussion

Local municipal code should be checked or modified to clarify that at intersections with bicycle signals, bicyclists should only obey the bicycle signal heads. For improved visibility, smaller (4 inch lens) near-sided bicycle signals should be considered to supplement far-side signals.

Additional References and Guidelines

- FHWA. *MUTCD - Interim Approval for Optional Use of a Bicycle Signal Face (IA-16)*. 2013.
- NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Bicycle signal heads require the same maintenance as standard traffic signal heads, such as replacing bulbs and responding to power outages.

Bikeway Signing

The ability to navigate through a city is informed by landmarks, natural features and other visual cues. Signs throughout the city should indicate to bicyclists:

- Direction of travel
- Location of destinations
- Travel time/distance to those destinations

These signs will increase users' comfort and accessibility to the bicycle systems.

Signage can serve both wayfinding and safety purposes including:

- Helping to familiarize users with the bicycle network
- Helping users identify the best routes to destinations
- Helping to address misperceptions about time and distance
- Helping overcome a “barrier to entry” for people who are not frequent bicyclists (e.g., “interested but concerned” bicyclists)

A community-wide bicycle wayfinding signage plan would identify:

- Sign locations
- Sign type – what information should be included and design features
- Destinations to be highlighted on each sign – key destinations for bicyclists
- Approximate distance and travel time to each destination

Bicycle wayfinding signs also visually cue motorists that they are driving along a bicycle route and should use caution. Signs are typically placed at key locations leading to and along bicycle routes, including the intersection of multiple routes. Too many road signs tend to clutter the right-of-way, and it is recommended that these signs be posted at a level most visible to bicyclists rather than per vehicle signage standards.



Wayfinding Sign Types



Wayfinding Sign Placement

Wayfinding Sign Types

Description

A bicycle wayfinding system consists of comprehensive signing and/or pavement markings to guide bicyclists to their destinations along preferred bicycle routes. There are three general types of wayfinding signs:

Confirmation Signs

Indicate to bicyclists that they are on a designated bikeway. Make motorists aware of the bicycle route.

Can include destinations and distance/time. Do not include arrows.

Turn Signs

Indicate where a bikeway turns from one street onto another street. Can be used with pavement markings.

Include destinations and arrows.

Decisions Signs

Mark the junction of two or more bikeways.

Inform bicyclists of the designated bike route to access key destinations. Includes destinations and arrows and distances.

Travel times are optional but recommended.



Discussion

There is no standard color for bicycle wayfinding signage. Section 1A.12 of the MUTCD establishes the general meaning for signage colors. Green is the color used for directional guidance and is the most common color of bicycle wayfinding signage in the US, including those in the MUTCD.

Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
- NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Maintenance needs for bicycle wayfinding signs are similar to other signs and will need periodic replacement due to wear.

Wayfinding Sign Placement

Confirmation Signs

Every ¼ to ½ mile on off-street facilities and every 2 to 3 blocks along on-street bicycle facilities, unless another type of sign is used (e.g., within 150 ft of a turn or decision sign). Should be placed soon after turns to confirm destination(s). Pavement markings can also act as confirmation that a bicyclist is on a preferred route.

Turn Signs

Near-side of intersections where bike routes turn (e.g., where the street ceases to be a bicycle route or does not go through). Pavement markings can also indicate the need to turn to the bicyclist.

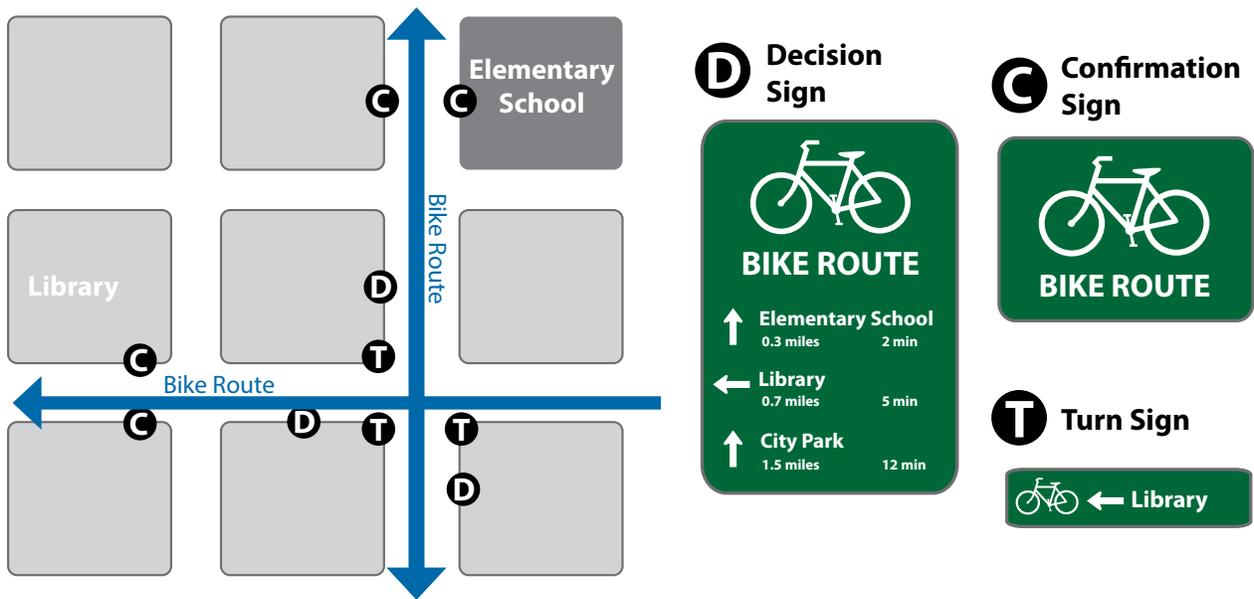
Guidance

Signs are typically placed at decision points along bicycle routes – typically at the intersection of two or more bikeways and at other key locations leading to and along bicycle routes.

Decisions Signs

Near-side of intersections in advance of a junction with another bicycle route.

Along a route to indicate a nearby destination.



Discussion

It can be useful to classify a list of destinations for inclusion on the signs based on their relative importance to users throughout the area. A particular destination’s ranking in the hierarchy can be used to determine the physical distance from which the locations are signed. For example, primary destinations (such as the downtown area) may be included on signage up to 5 miles away. Secondary destinations (such as a transit station) may be included on signage up to two miles away. Tertiary destinations (such as a park) may be included on signage up to one mile away.

Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
- NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Maintenance needs for bicycle wayfinding signs are similar to other signs and will need periodic replacement due to wear.

Retrofitting Existing Streets to add Bikeways

Most major streets are characterized by conditions (e.g., high vehicle speeds and/or volumes) for which dedicated bike lanes are the most appropriate facility to accommodate safe and comfortable riding. Although opportunities to add bike lanes through roadway widening may exist in some locations, many major streets have physical and other constraints that would require street retrofit measures within existing curb-to-curb widths. As a result, much of the guidance provided in this section focuses on effectively reallocating existing street width through striping modifications to accommodate dedicated bike lanes.

Although largely intended for major streets, these measures may be appropriate for any roadway where bike lanes would be the best accommodation for bicyclists.



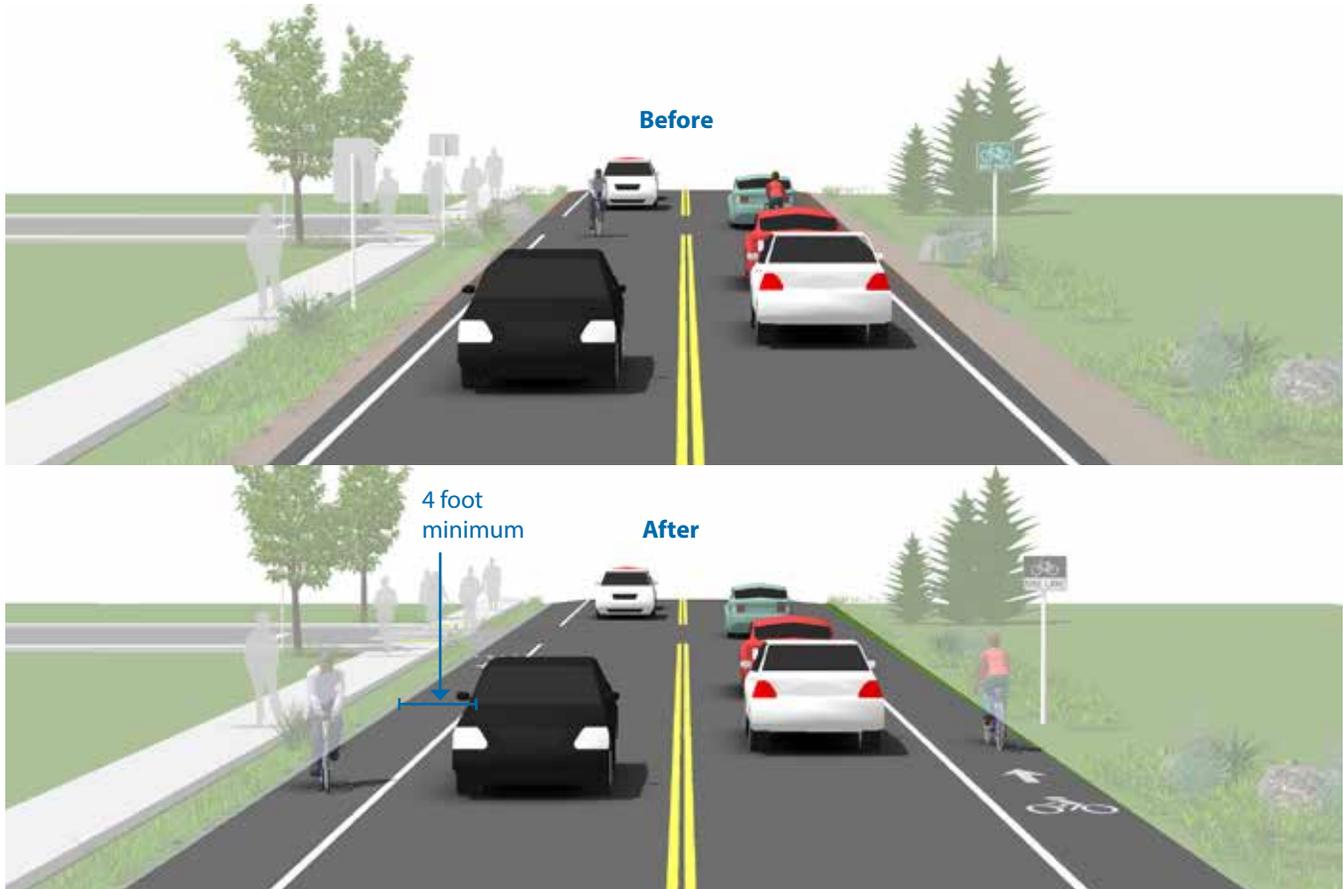
Roadway Widening

Description

Bike lanes can be accommodated on streets with excess right-of-way through shoulder widening. Although roadway widening incurs higher expenses compared with re-striping projects, bike lanes can be added to streets currently lacking curbs, gutters and sidewalks without the high costs of major infrastructure reconstruction.

Guidance

- Guidance on bicycle lanes applies to this treatment.
- 4 foot minimum width when no curb and gutter is present.
- 6 foot width preferred.



Discussion

Roadway widening is most appropriate on roads lacking curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

If it is not possible to meet minimum bicycle lane dimensions, a reduced width paved shoulder can still improve conditions for bicyclists on constrained roadways. In these situations, a minimum of 3 feet of operating space should be provided.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

The extended bicycle area should not contain any rough joints where bicyclists ride. Saw or grind a clean cut at the edge of the travel lane, or feather with a fine mix in a non-ridable area of the roadway.

Lane Narrowing

Description

Lane narrowing utilizes roadway space that exceeds minimum standards to provide the needed space for bike lanes. Many roadways have existing travel lanes that are wider than those prescribed in local and national roadway design standards, or which are not marked. Most standards allow for the use of 11 foot and sometimes 10 foot wide travel lanes to create space for bike lanes.

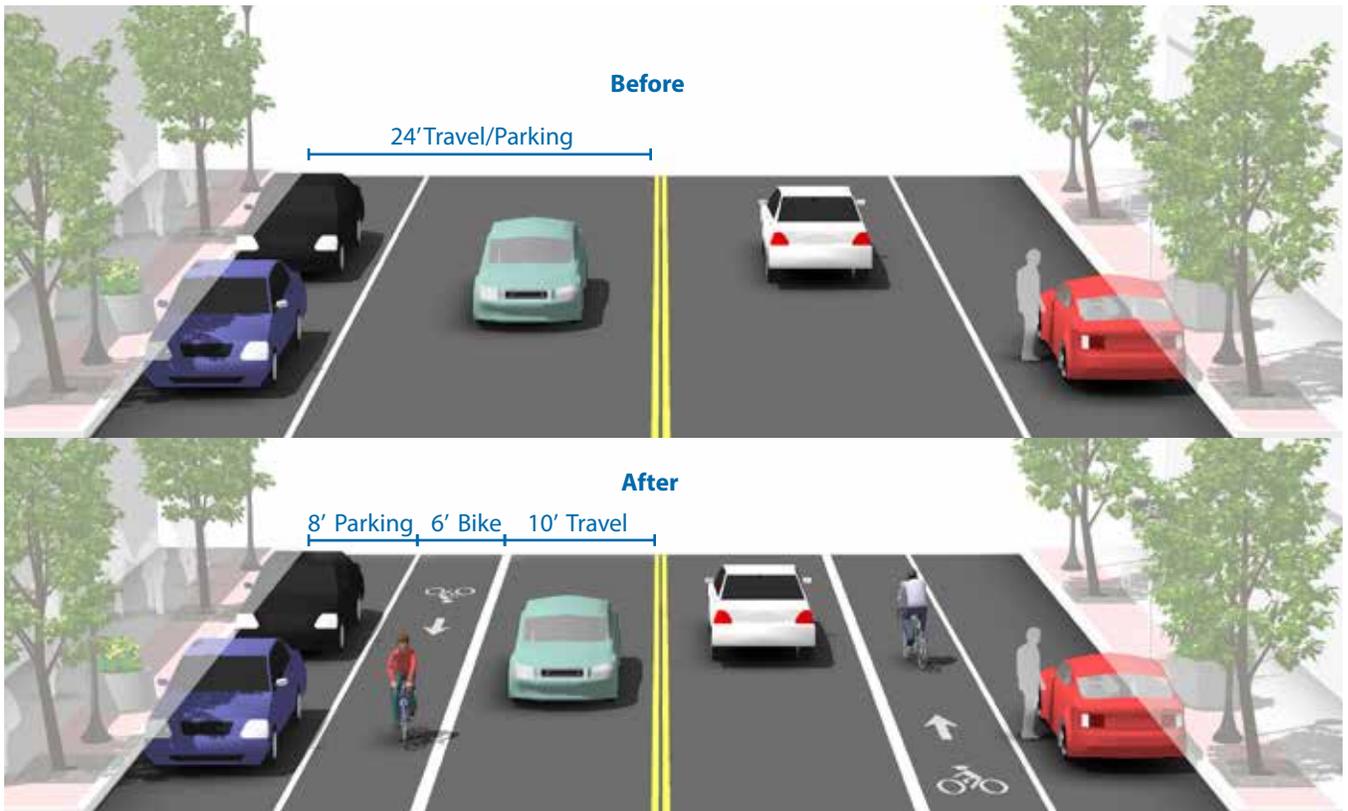
Guidance

Vehicle lane width:

- Before: 10-15 feet
- After: 10-11 feet

Bicycle lane width:

- Guidance on bicycle lanes applies to this treatment.



Discussion

Special consideration should be given to the amount of heavy vehicle traffic and horizontal curvature before the decision is made to narrow travel lanes. Center turn lanes can also be narrowed in some situations to free up pavement space for bike lanes.

AASHTO supports reduced width lanes in *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*: “On interrupted-flow operation conditions at low speeds (45 mph or less), narrow lane widths are normally adequate and have some advantages.”

Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- AASHTO. *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*. 2004.
- NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide*. 2013.

Materials and Maintenance

Repair rough or uneven pavement surface. Use bicycle compatible drainage grates. Raise or lower existing grates and utility covers so they are flush with the pavement.

Lane Reconfiguration

Description

The removal of a single travel lane will generally provide sufficient space for bike lanes on both sides of a street. Streets with excess vehicle capacity provide opportunities for bike lane retrofit projects.

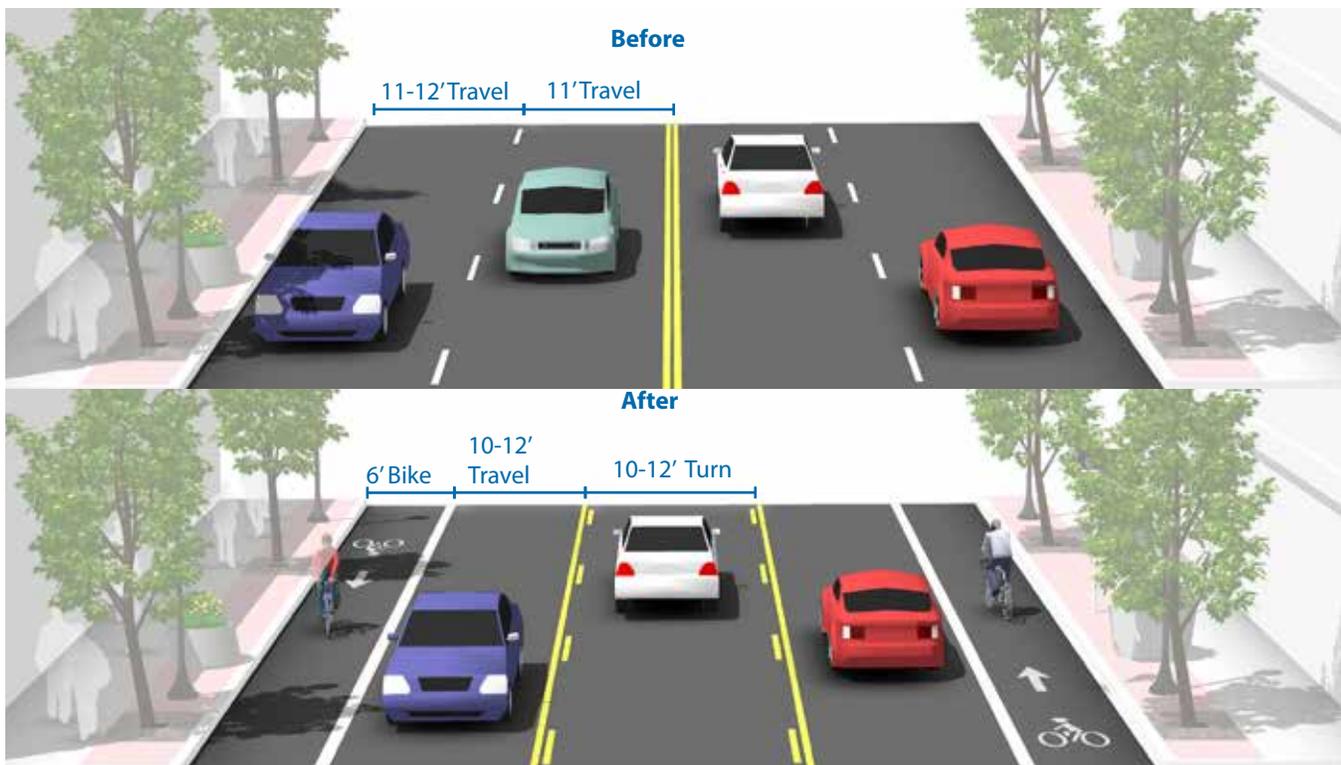
Guidance

Vehicle lane width:

- Width depends on project. No narrowing may be needed if a lane is removed.

Bicycle lane width:

- Guidance on bicycle lanes applies to this treatment.



Discussion

Depending on a street's existing configuration, traffic operations, user needs and safety concerns, various lane reduction configurations may apply. For instance, a four-lane street (with two travel lanes in each direction) could be modified to provide one travel lane in each direction, a center turn lane, and bike lanes. Prior to implementing this measure, a traffic analysis should identify potential impacts.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Evaluation of Lane Reduction "Road Diet" Measures on Crashes*.
 Publication Number: FHWA-HRT-10-053. 2010.
 NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide*. 2013.

Materials and Maintenance

Repair rough or uneven pavement surface. Use bicycle compatible drainage grates. Raise or lower existing grates and utility covers so they are flush with the pavement.

Parking Reduction

Description

Bike lanes can replace one or more on-street parking lanes on streets where excess parking exists and/or the importance of bike lanes outweighs parking needs. For example, parking may be needed on only one side of a street. Eliminating or reducing on-street parking also improves sight distance for bicyclists in bike lanes and for motorists on approaching side streets and driveways.

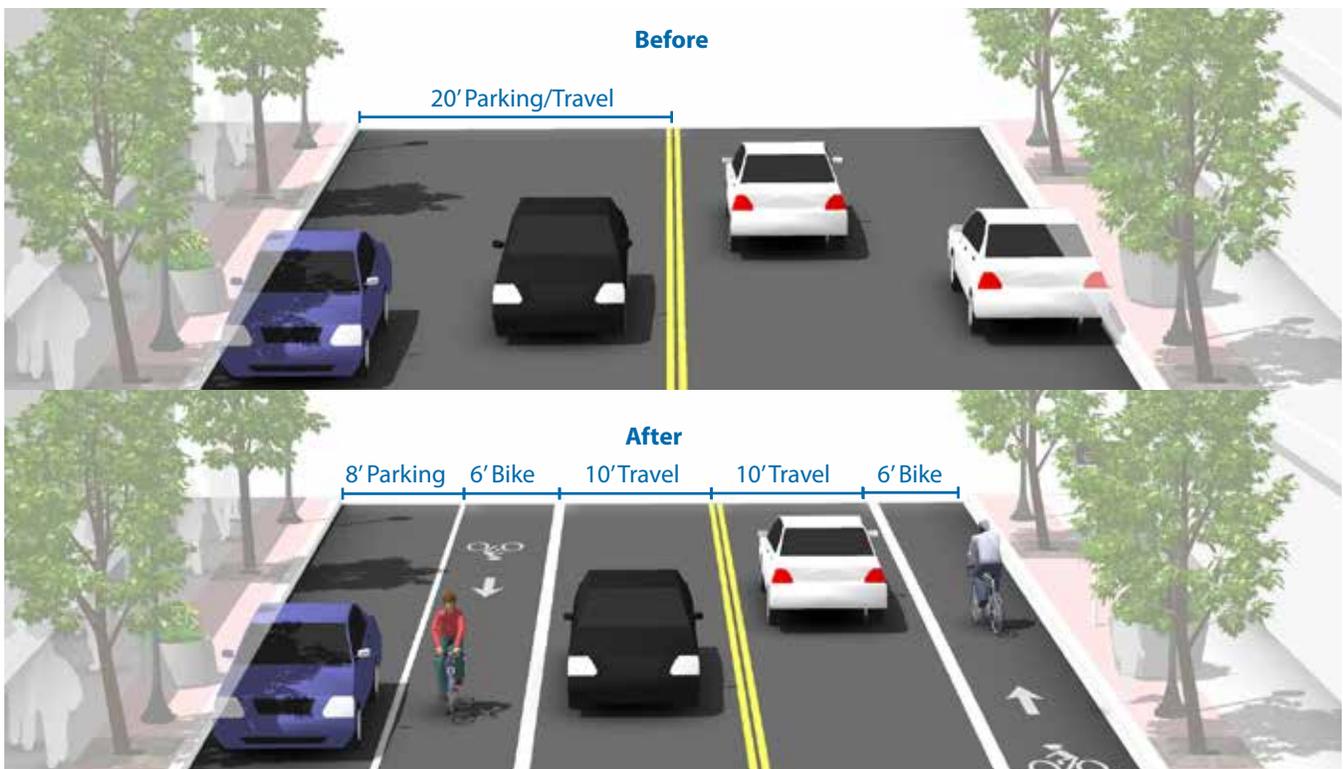
Guidance

Vehicle lane width:

- Parking lane width depends on project. No travel lane narrowing may be required depending on the width of the parking lanes.

Bicycle lane width:

- Guidance on bicycle lanes applies to this treatment.



Discussion

Removing or reducing on-street parking to install bike lanes requires comprehensive outreach to the affected businesses and residents. Prior to reallocating on-street parking for other uses, a parking study should be performed to gauge demand and to evaluate impacts to people with disabilities.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 AASHTO. *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*. 2004.

Materials and Maintenance

Repair rough or uneven pavement surface. Use bicycle compatible drainage grates. Raise or lower existing grates and utility covers so they are flush with the pavement

Shared Use Paths and Off-Street Facilities

A shared use path allows for two-way, off-street bicycle use and also may be used by pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, joggers and other non-motorized users. These facilities are frequently found in parks, along rivers, beaches, and in greenbelts or utility corridors where there are few conflicts with motorized vehicles. Path facilities can also include amenities such as lighting, signage, and fencing (where appropriate).

Key features of shared use paths include:

- Frequent access points from the local road network.
- Directional signs to direct users to and from the path.
- A limited number of at-grade crossings with streets or driveways.
- Terminating the path where it is easily accessible to and from the street system.
- Separate treads for pedestrians and bicyclists when heavy use is expected.



General Design Practices

Description

Shared use paths can provide a desirable facility, particularly for recreation, and users of all skill levels preferring separation from traffic. Bicycle paths should generally provide directional travel opportunities not provided by existing roadways.

Guidance

Width

- 8 feet is the minimum allowed for a two-way bicycle path and is only recommended for low traffic situations.
- 10 feet is recommended in most situations and will be adequate for moderate to heavy use.
- 12 feet is recommended for heavy use situations with high concentrations of multiple users. A separate track (5' minimum) can be provided for pedestrian use.

Lateral Clearance

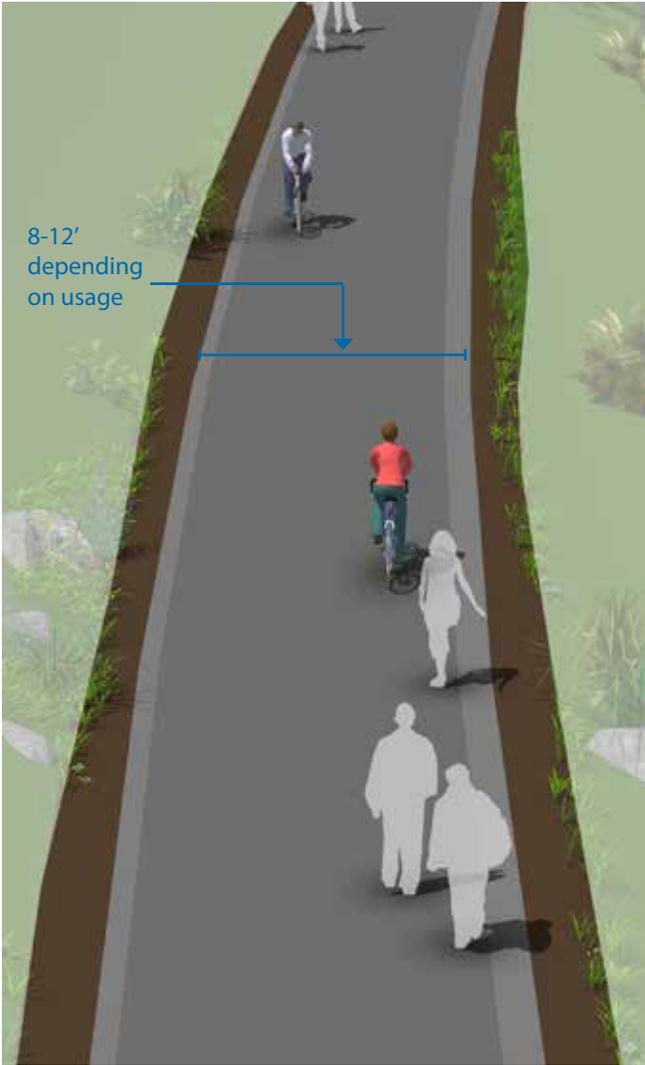
- A 2 foot or greater shoulder on both sides of the path should be provided. An additional foot of lateral clearance (total of 3') is required by the MUTCD for the installation of signage or other furnishings.
- If bollards are used at intersections and access points, they should be colored brightly and/or supplemented with reflective materials to be visible at night.

Overhead Clearance

- Clearance to overhead obstructions should be 8 feet minimum, with 10 feet recommended.

Striping

- When striping is required, use a 4 inch dashed yellow centerline stripe with 4 inch solid white edge lines.
- Solid centerlines can be provided on tight or blind corners, and on the approaches to roadway crossings.



Discussion

Terminate the path where it is easily accessible to and from the street system, preferably at a controlled intersection or at the beginning of a dead-end street.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 Flink, C. *Greenways: A Guide To Planning Design And Development*. 1993.

Materials and Maintenance

Asphalt is the most common surface for bicycle paths. The use of concrete for paths has proven to be more durable over the long term. Saw cut concrete joints rather than troweled improve the experience of path users.

Shared Use Paths in River and Utility Corridors

Description

Utility and waterway corridors often offer excellent shared use path development and bikeway gap closure opportunities. Utility corridors typically include powerline and sewer corridors, while waterway corridors include canals, drainage ditches, rivers, and beaches. These corridors offer excellent transportation and recreation opportunities for bicyclists of all ages and skills.

Guidance

Shared use paths in utility corridors should meet or exceed general design practices. If additional width allows, wider paths, and landscaping are desirable.

Access Points

Any access point to the path should be well-defined with appropriate signage designating the pathway as a bicycle facility and prohibiting motor vehicles.

Path Closure

Public access to the shared use path may be prohibited during the following events:

- Canal/flood control channel or other utility maintenance activities
- Inclement weather or the prediction of storm conditions



Discussion

Similar to railroads, public access to flood control channels or canals may be undesirable. Hazardous materials, deep water or swift current, steep, slippery slopes, and debris all may constitute risks for public access. Appropriate fencing may be desired to keep path users within the designated travel way. Creative design of fencing is encouraged to make the path facility feel welcoming to the user.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 Flink, C. *Greenways: A Guide To Planning Design And Development*. 1993.

Materials and Maintenance

Asphalt is the most common surface for bicycle paths. The use of concrete for paths has proven to be more durable over the long term. Saw cut concrete joints rather than troweled improve the experience of path users.

Local Neighborhood Accessways

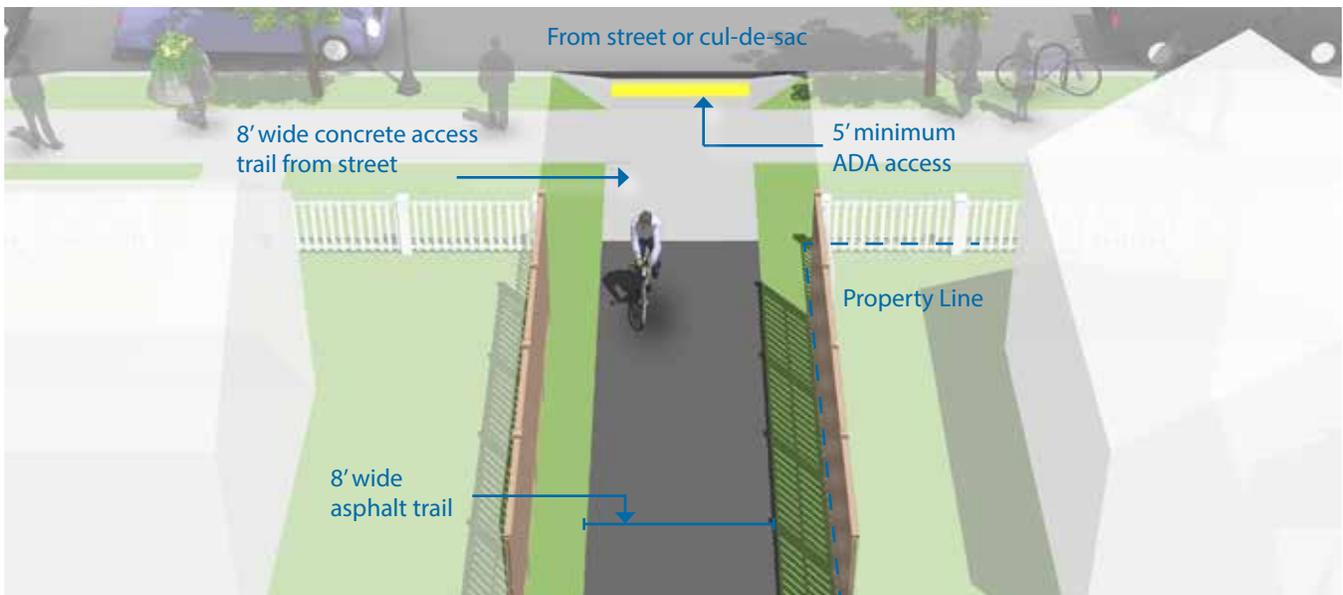
Description

Neighborhood accessways provide residential areas with direct bicycle and pedestrian access to parks, trails, greenspaces, and other recreational areas. They most often serve as small trail connections to and from the larger trail network, typically having their own rights-of-way and easements.

Additionally, these smaller trails can be used to provide bicycle and pedestrian connections between dead-end streets, cul-de-sacs, and access to nearby destinations not provided by the street network.

Guidance

- Neighborhood accessways should remain open to the public.
- Trail pavement shall be at least 8' wide to accommodate emergency and maintenance vehicles, meet ADA requirements and be considered suitable for multi-use.
- Trail widths should be designed to be less than 8' wide only when necessary to protect large mature native trees over 18" in caliper, wetlands or other ecologically sensitive areas.
- Access trails should slightly meander whenever possible.



Discussion

Neighborhood accessways should be designed into new subdivisions at every opportunity and should be required by City/County subdivision regulations.

For existing subdivisions, Neighborhood and homeowner association groups are encouraged to identify locations where such connects would be desirable. Nearby residents and adjacent property owners should be invited to provide landscape design input.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 FHWA. *Federal Highway Administration University Course on Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Lesson 19: Greenways and Shared Use Paths*. 2006.
 NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide*. 2013.

Materials and Maintenance

Asphalt is the most common surface for bicycle paths. The use of concrete for paths has proven to be more durable over the long term. Saw cut concrete joints rather than troweled improve the experience of path users.

Path/Roadway Crossings

At-grade roadway crossings can create potential conflicts between path users and motorists, however, well-designed crossings can mitigate many operational issues and provide a higher degree of safety and comfort for path users. This is evidenced by the thousands of successful facilities around the United States with at-grade crossings. In most cases, at-grade path crossings can be properly designed to provide a reasonable degree of safety and can meet existing traffic and safety standards. Path facilities that cater to bicyclists can require additional considerations due to the higher travel speed of bicyclists versus pedestrians.

Consideration must be given to adequate warning distance based on vehicle speeds and line of sight, with the visibility of any signs absolutely critical. Directing the active attention of motorists to roadway signs may require additional alerting devices such as a flashing beacon, roadway striping or changes in pavement texture. Signing for path users may include a standard “STOP” or “YIELD” sign and pavement markings, possibly combined with other features such as bollards or a bend in the pathway to slow bicyclists. Care must be taken not to place too many signs at crossings lest they begin to lose their visual impact.

A number of striping patterns have emerged over the years to delineate path crossings. A median stripe on the path approach will help to organize and warn path users. Crosswalk striping is typically a matter of local and State preference, and may be accompanied by pavement treatments to help warn and slow motorists. In areas where motorists do not typically yield to crosswalk users, additional measures may be required to increase compliance.



Marked/Unsignalized Crossings



Active Warning Beacons



Route Users to Existing Signals



Signalized/Controlled Crossings



Undercrossings



Overcrossings

Marked/Unsignalized Crossings

Description

A marked/unsignalized crossing typically consists of a marked crossing area, signage and other markings to slow or stop traffic. The approach to designing crossings at mid-block locations depends on an evaluation of vehicular traffic, line of sight, pathway traffic, use patterns, vehicle speed, road type, road width, and other safety issues such as proximity to major attractions.

When space is available, using a median refuge island can improve user safety by providing pedestrians and bicyclists space to perform the safe crossing of one side of the street at a time.

Guidance

Maximum traffic volumes

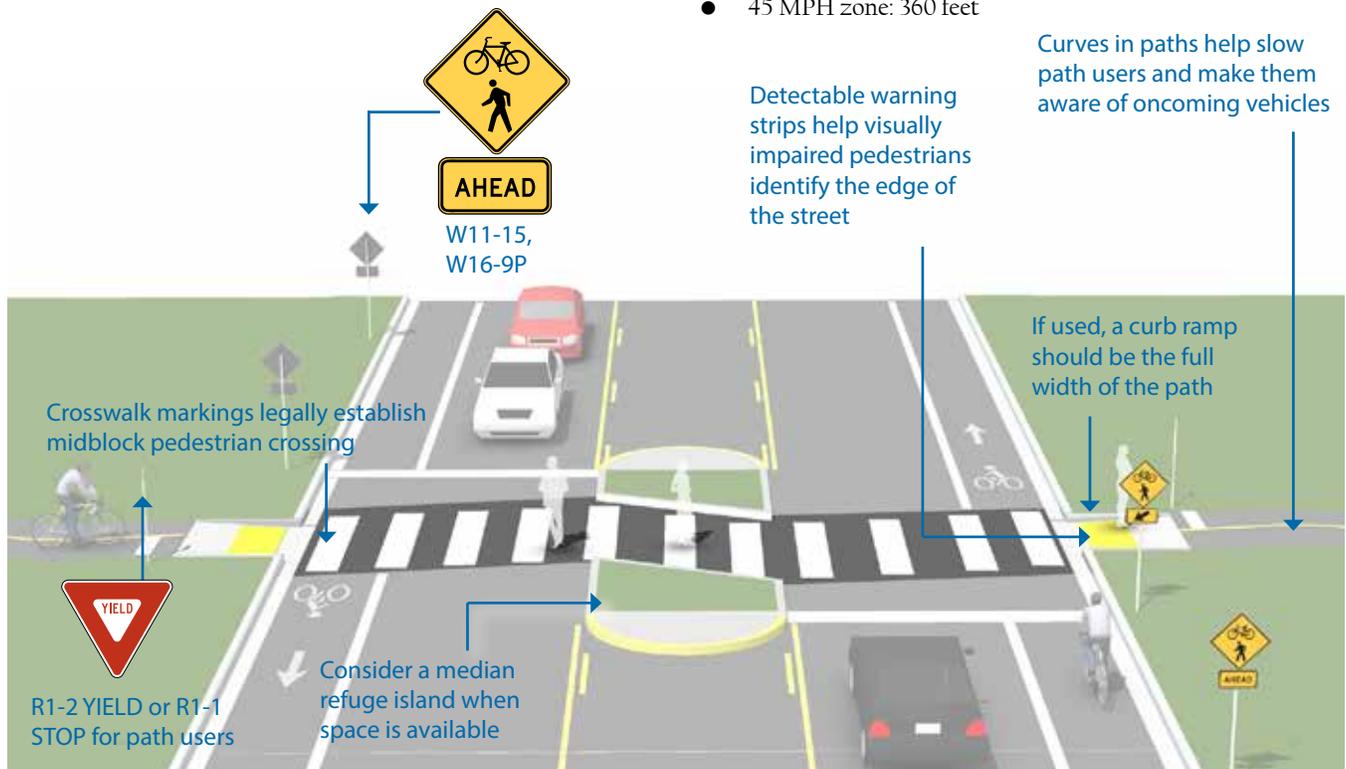
- ≤9,000-12,000 Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume
- Up to 15,000 ADT on two-lane roads, preferably with a median
- Up to 12,000 ADT on four-lane roads with median

Maximum travel speed

- 35 MPH

Minimum line of sight

- 25 MPH zone: 155 feet
- 35 MPH zone: 250 feet
- 45 MPH zone: 360 feet



Discussion

Unsignalized crossings of multi-lane arterials over 15,000 ADT may be possible with features such as sufficient crossing gaps (more than 60 per hour), median refuges, and/or active warning devices like rectangular rapid flash beacons or in-pavement flashers, and excellent sight distance. For more information see the discussion of active warning beacons.

On roadways with low to moderate traffic volumes (<12,000 ADT) and a need to control traffic speeds, a raised crosswalk may be the most appropriate crossing design to improve pedestrian visibility and safety.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.

Materials and Maintenance

Locate markings out of wheel tread when possible to minimize wear and maintenance costs.

Active Warning Beacons

Description

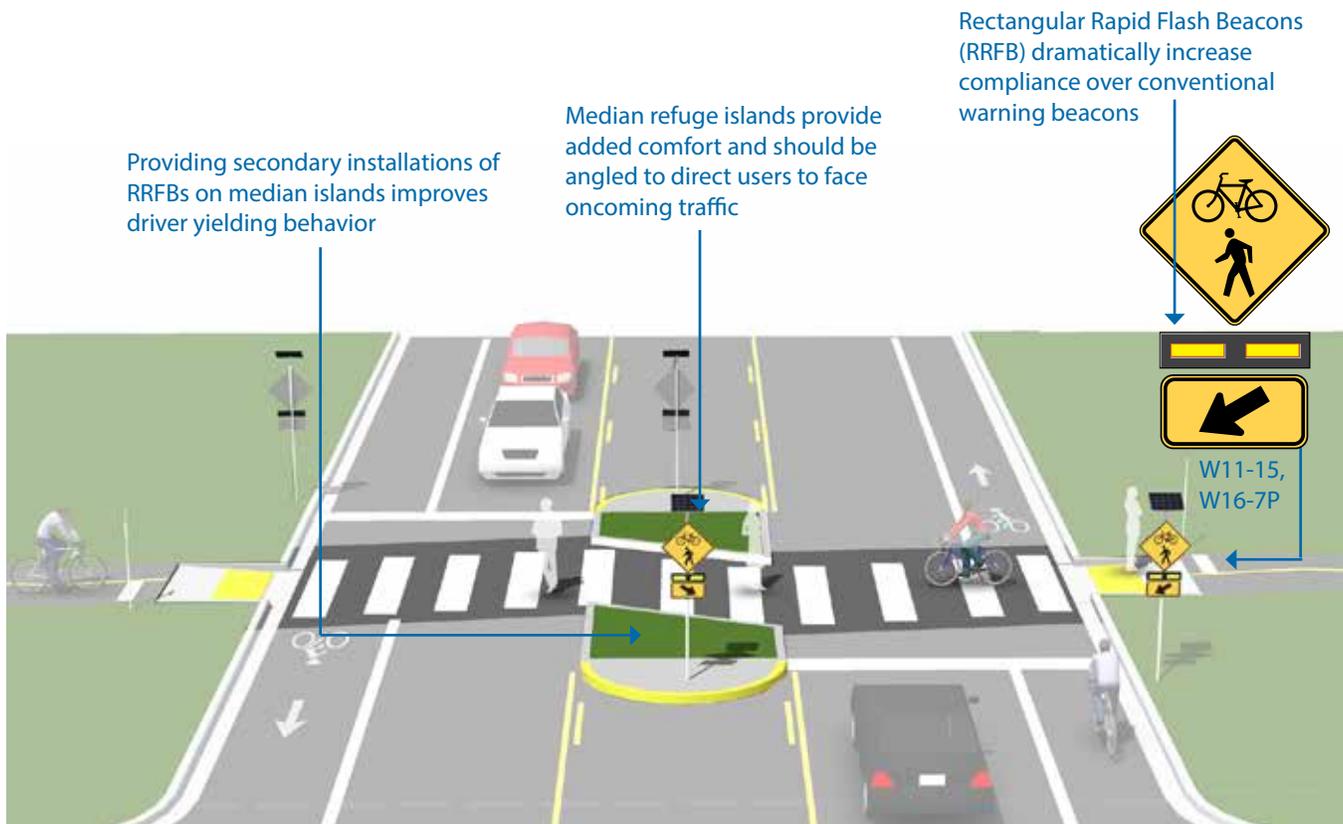
Enhanced marked crossings are unsignalized crossings with additional treatments designed to increase motor vehicle yielding compliance on multi-lane or high volume roadways.

These enhancements include pathway user or sensor actuated warning beacons, Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB) shown below, or in-roadway warning lights.

Guidance

Guidance for marked/unsignalized crossings applies.

- Warning beacons shall not be used at crosswalks controlled by YIELD signs, STOP signs, or traffic control signals.
- Warning beacons shall initiate operation based on user actuation and shall cease operation at a predetermined time after the user actuation or, with passive detection, after the user clears the crosswalk.



Discussion

Rectangular rapid flash beacons show the most increased compliance of all the warning beacon enhancement options.

A study of the effectiveness of going from a no-beacon arrangement to a two-beacon RRFB installation increased yielding from 18 percent to 81 percent. A four-beacon arrangement raised compliance to 88%. Additional studies of long term installations show little to no decrease in yielding behavior over time.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 FHWA. *MUTCD - Interim Approval for Optional Use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (1A-11)*. 2008.

Materials and Maintenance

Locate markings out of wheel tread when possible to minimize wear and maintenance costs. Signing and striping need to be maintained to help users understand any unfamiliar traffic control.

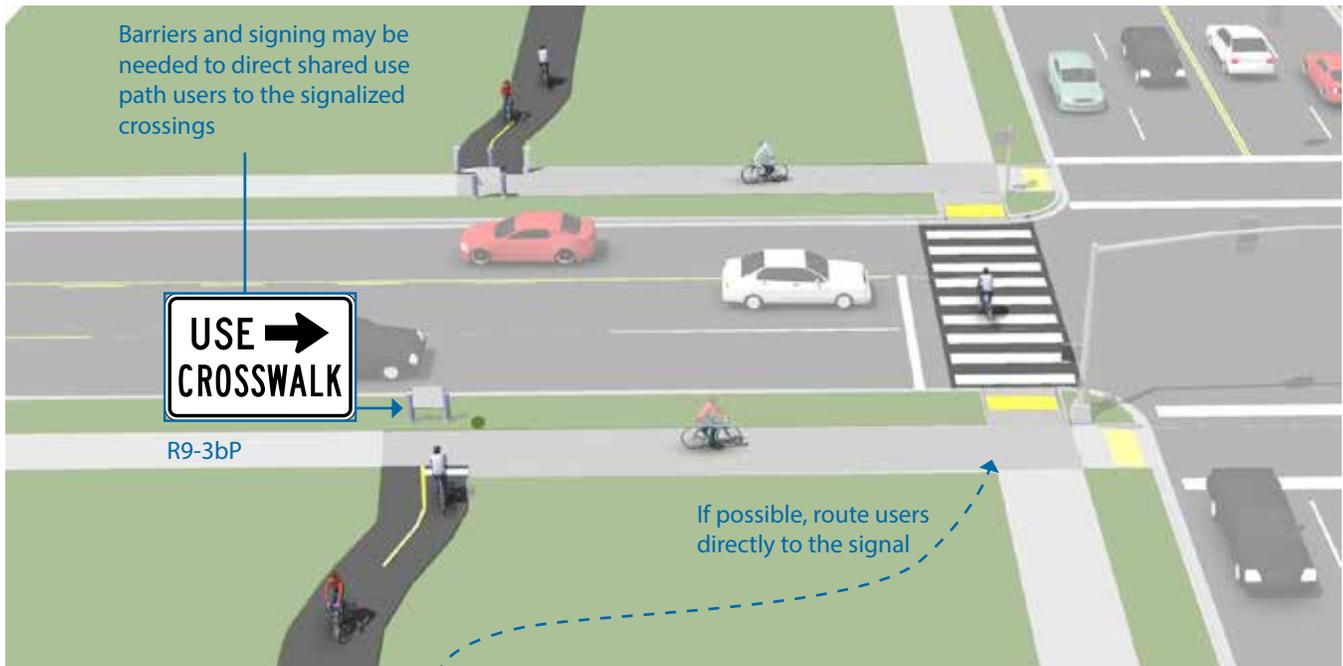
Route Users to Signalized Crossings

Description

Path crossings within approximately 400 feet of an existing signalized intersection with pedestrian crosswalks are typically diverted to the signalized intersection to avoid traffic operation problems when located so close to an existing signal. For this restriction to be effective, barriers and signing may be needed to direct path users to the signalized crossing. If no pedestrian crossing exists at the signal, modifications should be made.

Guidance

Path crossings should not be provided within approximately 400 feet of an existing signalized intersection. If possible, route path directly to the signal.



Discussion

In the US, the minimum distance a marked crossing can be from an existing signalized intersection varies from approximately 250 to 660 feet. Engineering judgement and the context of the location should be taken into account when choosing the appropriate allowable setback. Pedestrians are particularly sensitive to out of direction travel and undesired mid-block crossing may become prevalent if the distance is too great.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*. 2004.

Materials and Maintenance

If a sidewalk is used for crossing access, it should be kept clear of snow and debris and the surface should be level for wheeled users.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Crossings

Description

Pedestrian hybrid beacons provide a high level of comfort for crossing users through the use of a red-signal indication to stop conflicting motor vehicle traffic.

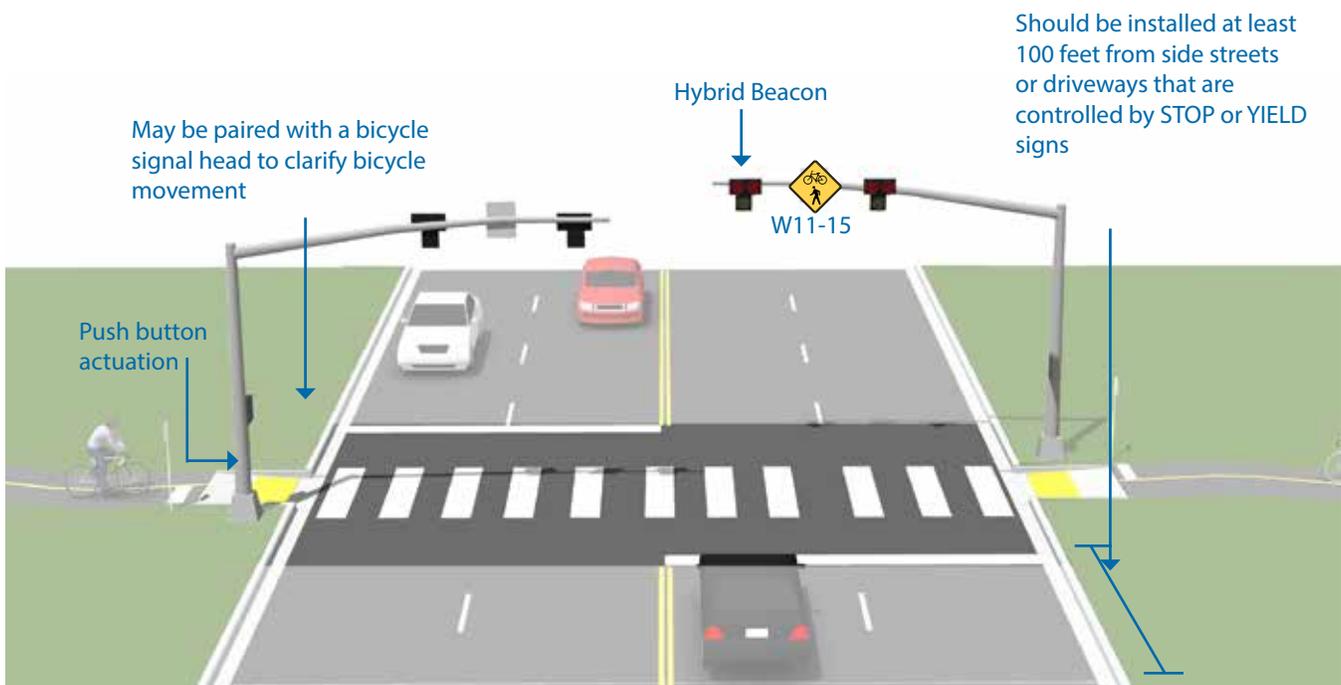
Hybrid beacon installation faces only cross motor vehicle traffic, stays dark when inactive, and uses a unique ‘wig-wag’ signal phase to indicate activation. Vehicles have the option to proceed after stopping during the final flashing red phase, which can reduce motor vehicle delay when compared to a full signal installation.

Guidance

Hybrid beacons (illustrated here) may be installed without meeting traffic signal control warrants if roadway speed and volumes are excessive for comfortable path crossings.

FHWA does not allow bicycle signals to be used with Hybrid beacons, though some cities have done so successfully.

To maximize safety when used for bicycle crossings, the flashing ‘wig-wag’ phase should be very short and occur after the pedestrian signal head has changed to a solid “DON’T WALK” indication as bicyclists can enter an intersection quickly.



Discussion

Shared use path signals are normally activated by push buttons but may also be triggered by embedded loop, infrared, microwave or video detectors. The maximum delay for activation of the signal should be two minutes, with minimum crossing times determined by the width of the street.

Each crossing, regardless of traffic speed or volume, requires additional review by a registered engineer to identify sight lines, potential impacts on traffic progression, timing with adjacent signals, capacity and safety.

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. *Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Guide - Recommendations and Case Study*. 2014.

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.

Materials and Maintenance

Hybrid beacons are subject to the same maintenance needs and requirements as standard traffic signals. Signing and striping need to be maintained to help users understand any unfamiliar traffic control.

Full Traffic Signal Crossings

Description

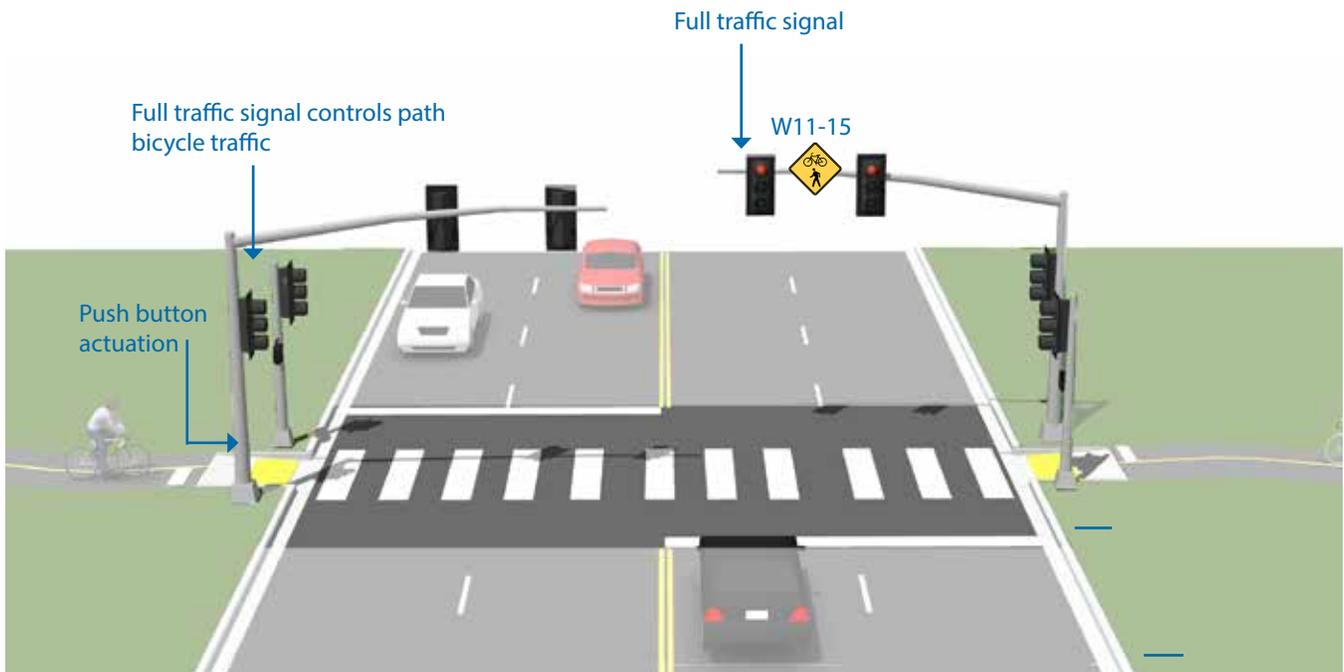
Signalized crossings provide the most protection for crossing path users through the use of a red-signal indication to stop conflicting motor vehicle traffic.

A full traffic signal installation treats the path crossing as a conventional 4-way intersection and provides standard red-yellow-green traffic signal heads for all legs of the intersection.

Guidance

Full traffic signal installations must meet MUTCD pedestrian, school or modified warrants. Additional guidance for signalized crossings:

- Located more than 300 feet from an existing signalized intersection
- Roadway travel speeds of 40 MPH and above
- Roadway ADT exceeds 15,000 vehicles



Discussion

Shared use path signals are normally activated by push buttons but may also be triggered by embedded loop, infrared, microwave or video detectors. The maximum delay for activation of the signal should be two minutes, with minimum crossing times determined by the width of the street.

Each crossing, regardless of traffic speed or volume, requires additional review by a registered engineer to identify sight lines, potential impacts on traffic progression, timing with adjacent signals, capacity and safety.

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

Traffic signals require routine maintenance. Signing and striping need to be maintained to help users understand any unfamiliar traffic control.

Undercrossings

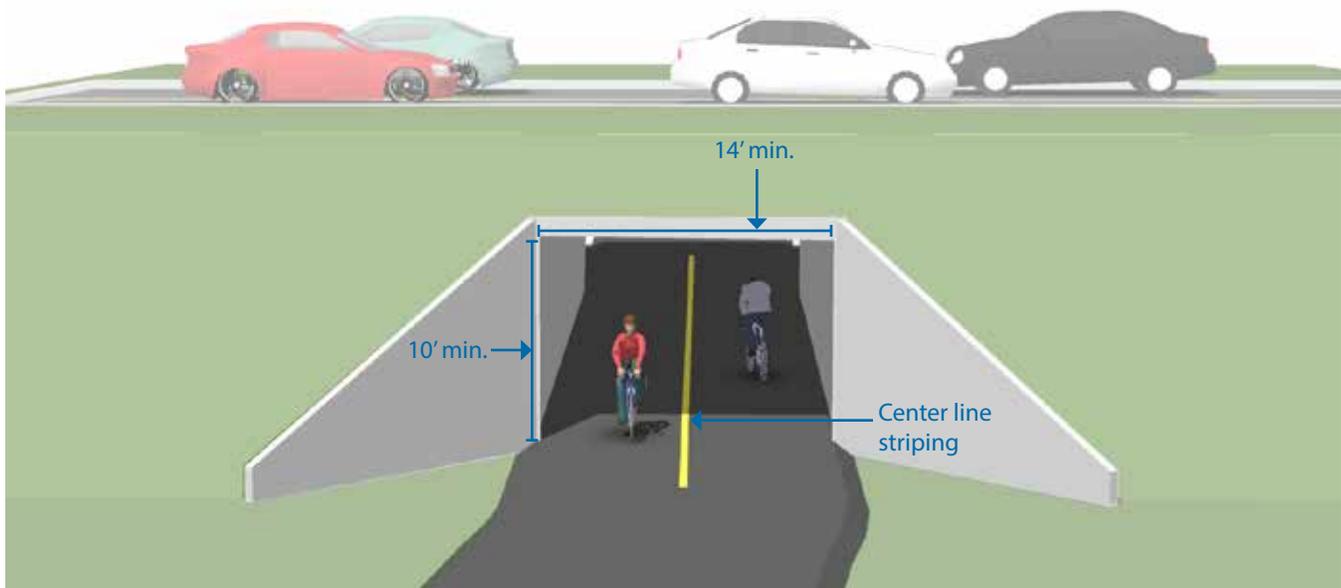
Description

Bicycle/pedestrian undercrossings provide critical non-motorized system links by joining areas separated by barriers such as railroads and highway corridors. In most cases, these structures are built in response to user demand for safe crossings where they previously did not exist.

There are no minimum roadway characteristics for considering grade separation. Depending on the type of facility or the desired user group grade separation may be considered in many types of projects.

Guidance

- 14 foot minimum width, greater widths preferred for lengths over 60 feet.
- 10 foot minimum height.
- The undercrossing should have a centerline stripe even if the rest of the path does not have one.
- Lighting should be considered during the design process for any undercrossing with high anticipated use or in culverts and tunnels.



Discussion

Safety is a major concern with undercrossings. Shared use path users may be temporarily out of sight from public view and may experience poor visibility themselves. To mitigate safety concerns, an undercrossing should be designed to be spacious, well-lit, equipped with emergency cell phones at each end and completely visible for its entire length from end to end.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*. 2004.

Materials and Maintenance

14 foot width allows for maintenance vehicle access.

Potential problems include conflicts with utilities, drainage, flood control and vandalism.

Overcrossings

Description

Bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings provide critical non-motorized system links by joining areas separated by barriers such as deep canyons, waterways or major transportation corridors. In most cases, these structures are built in response to user demand for safe crossings where they previously did not exist.

There are no minimum roadway characteristics for considering grade separation. Depending on the type of facility or the desired user group grade separation may be considered in many types of projects.

Overcrossings require a minimum of 17 feet of vertical clearance to the roadway below versus a minimum elevation differential of around 12 feet for an undercrossing. This results in potentially greater elevation differences and much longer ramps for bicycles and pedestrians to negotiate.

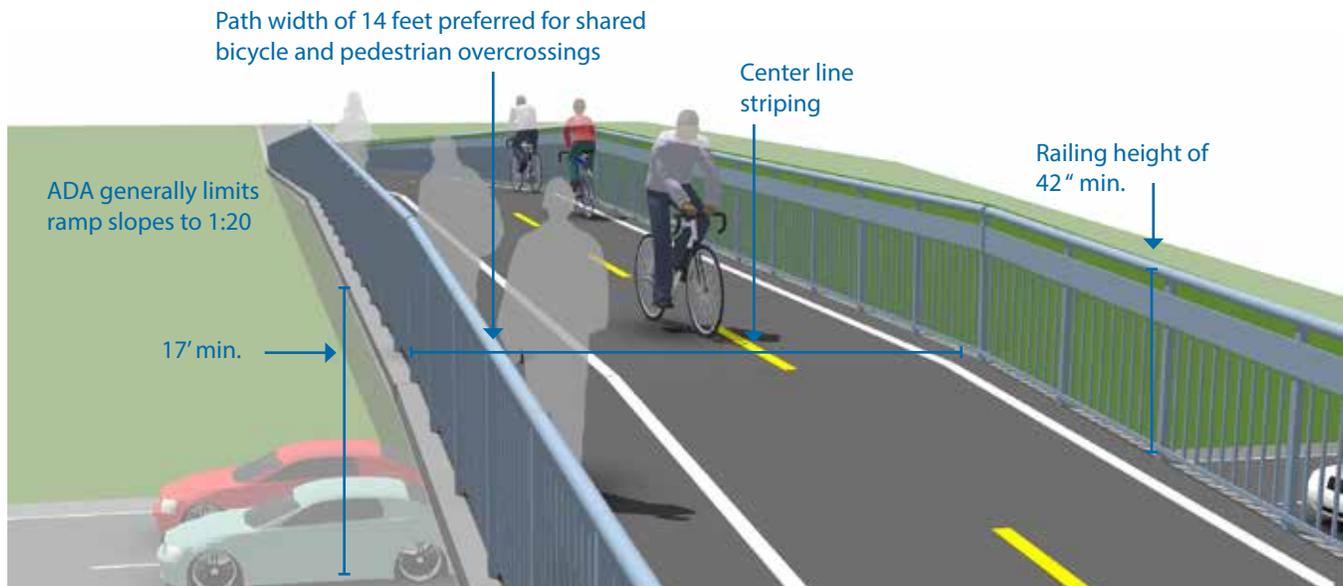
Guidance

8 foot minimum width, 14 feet preferred. If overcrossing has any scenic vistas additional width should be provided to allow for stopping. A separate 5 foot pedestrian area may be provided for facilities with high bicycle and pedestrian use.

10 foot headroom on overcrossing; clearance below will vary depending on feature being crossed.

- Roadway: 17 feet
- Freeway: 18.5 feet
- Heavy Rail Line: 23 feet

The overcrossing should have a centerline stripe even if the rest of the path does not have one.



Discussion

Overcrossings for bicycles and pedestrians typically fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which strictly limits ramp slopes to 5% (1:20) with landings at 400 foot intervals, or 8.33% (1:12) with landings every 30 feet.

Overcrossings pose potential concerns about visual impact and functional appeal, as well as space requirements necessary to meet ADA guidelines for slope.

Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*. 2004.

Materials and Maintenance

Potential issues with vandalism.

Overcrossings can be more difficult to clear of snow than undercrossings.

Bicycle Support Facilities

Bicycle Parking

Bicyclists expect a safe, convenient place to secure their bicycle when they reach their destination. This may be short-term parking of 2 hours or less, or long-term parking for employees, students, residents, and commuters.

Access to Transit

Safe and easy access to bicycle parking facilities is necessary to encourage commuters to access transit via bicycle. Providing bicycle access to transit and space for bicycles on buses and rail vehicles can increase the feasibility of transit in lower-density areas, where transit stops are beyond walking distance of many residences. People are often willing to walk only a quarter- to half-mile to a bus stop, while they might bike as much as two or more miles to reach a transit station.

Roadway Construction and Repair

Safety of all roadway users should be considered during road construction and repair. Wherever bicycles are allowed, measures should be taken to provide for the continuity of a bicyclist's trip through a work zone area.

Only in rare cases should pedestrians and bicyclists be detoured to another street when travel vehicle lanes remain open. Contractors performing work should be made aware of the needs of bicyclists and be properly trained in how to safely route bicyclists through or around work zones.



Bicycle Parking



Bicycle Access to Transit



Access through Construction Areas

Bicycle Racks

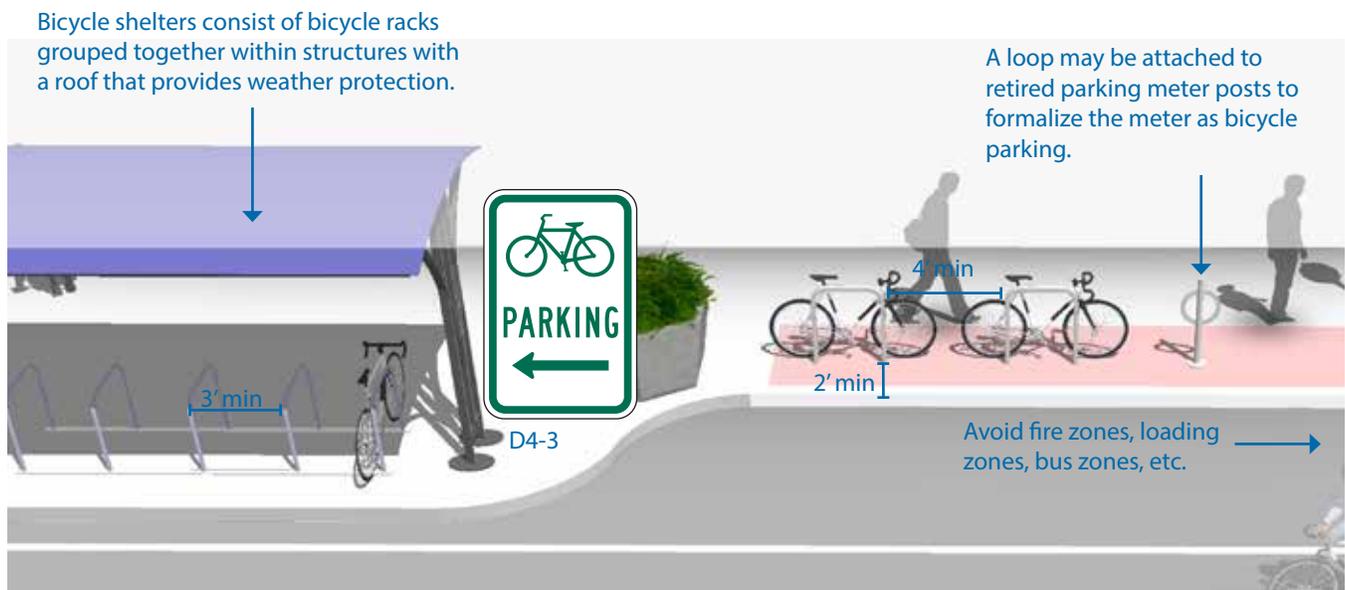
Description

Short-term bicycle parking is meant to accommodate visitors, customers, and others expected to depart within two hours. It should have an approved standard rack, appropriate location and placement, and weather protection. The Association for Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) recommends selecting a bicycle rack that:

- Supports the bicycle in at least two places, preventing it from falling over.
- Allows locking of the frame and one or both wheels with a U-lock.
- Is securely anchored to ground.
- Resists cutting, rusting and bending or deformation.

Guidance

- 2' minimum from the curb face to avoid 'dooring.'
- Close to destinations; 50' maximum distance from main building entrance.
- Minimum clear distance of 6' should be provided between the bicycle rack and the property line.
- Should be highly visible from adjacent bicycle routes and pedestrian traffic.
- Locate racks in areas that cyclists are most likely to travel.



Discussion

Where the placement of racks on sidewalks is not possible (due to narrow sidewalk width, sidewalk obstructions, street trees, etc.), bicycle parking can be provided in the street where on-street vehicle parking is allowed in the form of on-street bicycle corrals.

Some types of bicycle racks may meet design criteria, but are discouraged except in limited situations. This includes undulating “wave” racks, schoolyard “wheel bender” racks, and spiral racks.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 APBP. *Bicycle Parking Guide 2nd Edition*. 2010.

Materials and Maintenance

Use of proper anchors will prevent vandalism and theft. Racks and anchors should be regularly inspected for damage. Educate snow removal crews to avoid burying racks during winter months.

On-Street Bicycle Corral

Description

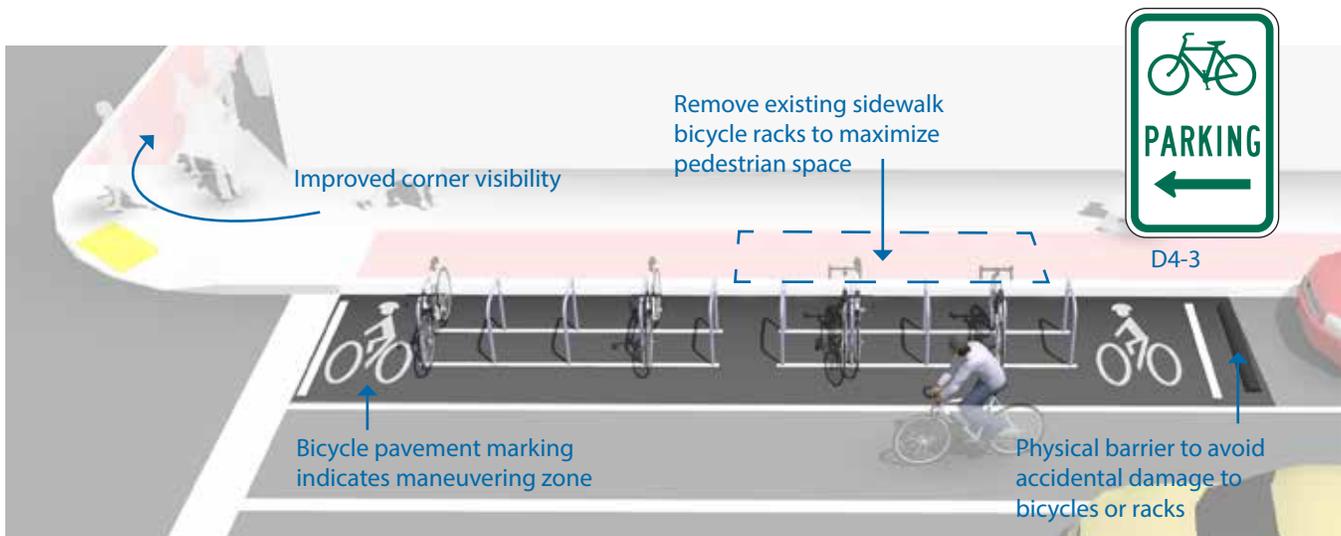
Bicycle corrals (also known as on-street bicycle parking) consist of bicycle racks grouped together in a common area within the street traditionally used for automobile parking. Bicycle corrals are reserved exclusively for bicycle parking and provide a relatively inexpensive solution to providing high-volume bicycle parking. Bicycle corrals can be implemented by converting one or two on-street motor vehicle parking spaces into on-street bicycle parking. Each motor vehicle parking space can be replaced with approximately 6-10 bicycle parking spaces.

Bicycle corrals move bicycles off the sidewalks, leaving more space for pedestrians, sidewalk café tables, etc. Because bicycle parking does not block sightlines (as large motor vehicles would do), it may be possible to locate bicycle parking in 'no-parking' zones near intersections and crosswalks.

Guidance

See guidelines for sidewalk bicycle rack placement and clear zones.

- Bicyclists should have an entrance width from the roadway of 5' – 6'.
- Can be used with parallel or angled parking.
- Parking stalls adjacent to curb extensions are good candidates for bicycle corrals since the concrete extension serves as delimitation on one side.



Discussion

In many communities, the installation of bicycle corrals is driven by requests from adjacent businesses, and is not a city-driven initiative. In such cases, the city does not remove motor vehicle parking unless it is explicitly requested. In other areas, the city provides the facility and business associations take responsibility for the maintenance of the facility. Communities can establish maintenance agreements with the requesting business. Bicycle corrals can be especially effective in areas with high bicycle parking demand or along street frontages with narrow sidewalks where parked bicycles would be detrimental to the pedestrian environment.

Additional References and Guidelines

APBP. *Bicycle Parking Guide 2nd Edition*. 2010.

Materials and Maintenance

Physical barriers may obstruct drainage and collect debris. Establish a maintenance agreement with neighboring businesses. In snowy climates the bicycle corral may need to be removed during the winter months.

Bicycle Access Through Construction Areas

Description

Wherever bicycles are allowed, measures should be taken to provide for the continuity of a bicyclist's trip through a work zone area. Bicyclists should not be led into conflicts with work site vehicles, equipment, moving vehicles, open trenches, or temporary construction signage.

Efforts should be made to re-create a bike lane (if one exists) to the left of the construction zone. If this is impossible, then consider the closure of a standard-width travel lane to accommodate bicycle travel.

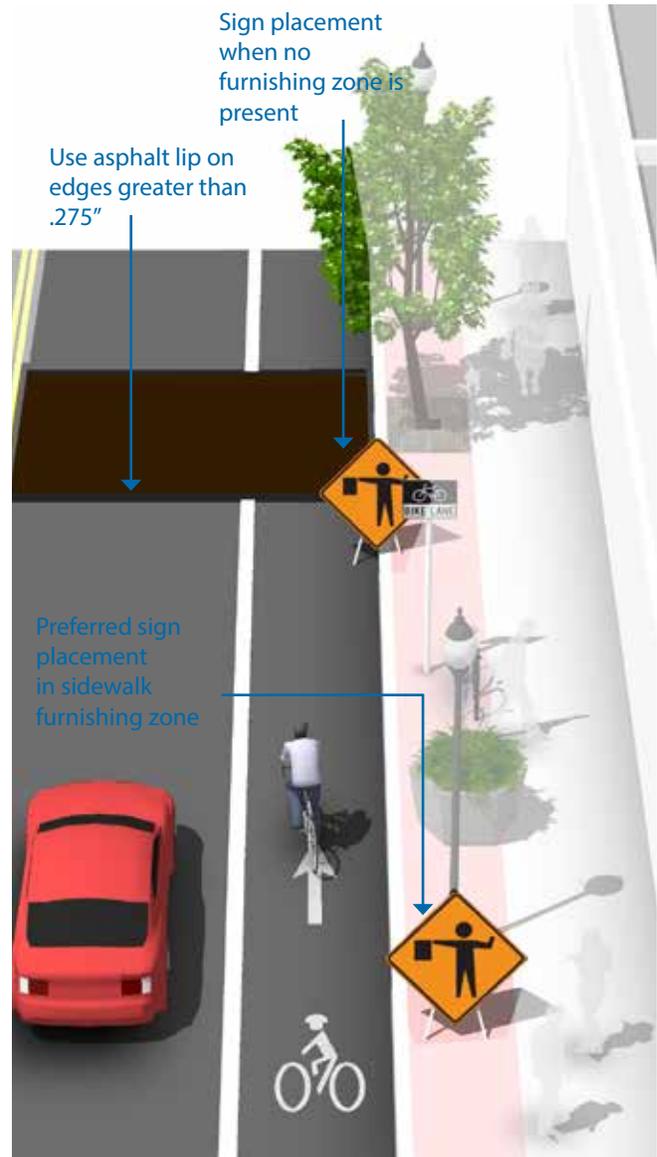
Guidance

Construction Signage

- Place in a location that does not obstruct the path of bicyclists or pedestrians.
- Detour and closure signs related to bicycle travel may be included on all bikeways where construction activities occur. Signage should also be provided on all other roadways.

Bicycle Travel around Steel Grates

- Require temporary asphalt (cold mix) around plates to create a smooth transition.
- Use steel plates only as a temporary measure during construction, not for extended periods.
- Use warning signs where steel plates are in use.
- Require both temporary and final repaving to provide a smooth surface without abrupt edges.



Discussion

Plates used to cover trenches tend to not be flush with pavement and have a 1"-2" vertical transition on the edges. This can puncture a hole in a bicycle tire and cause a bicyclist to lose control. Although it is common to use steel plates during non-construction hours, these plates can be dangerously slippery, particularly when wet.

Contractors performing work should be made aware of the needs of bicyclists and be properly trained in how to safely route bicyclists through or around work zones.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. 2009.
 FHWA. *Federal Highway Administration University Course on Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Lesson 21: Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation in Work Zones*. 2006.

Materials and Maintenance

Debris should be swept to maintain a reasonably clean riding surface in the outer 5 - 6 ft of roadway.

Bicycle Access to Transit

Description

Safe and easy access to transit stations and secure bicycle parking facilities is necessary to encourage commuters to access transit via bicycle. Bicycling to transit reduces the need to provide expensive and space consuming car parking spaces.

Many people who ride to a transit stop will want to bring their bicycle with them on the transit portion of their trip, so buses and other transit vehicles should be equipped accordingly.

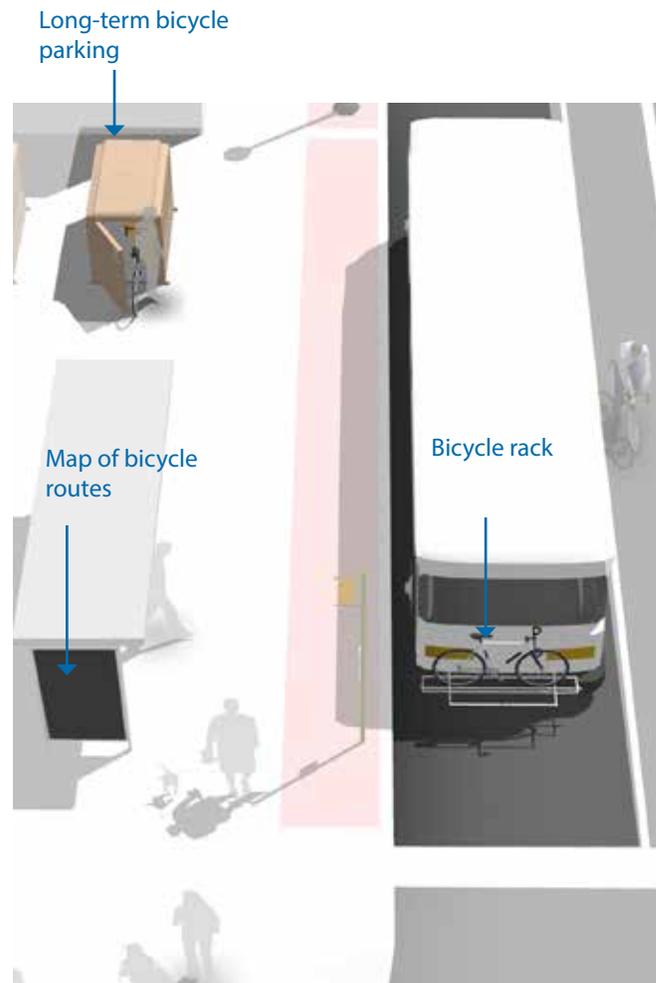
Guidance

Access

- Provide direct and convenient access to transit stations and stops from the bicycle and pedestrian networks.
- Provide maps at major stops and stations showing nearby bicycle routes.
- Provide wayfinding signage and pavement markings from the bicycle network to transit stations.
- Ensure that connecting bikeways offer proper bicycle actuation and detection.

Bicycle Parking

- The route from bicycle parking locations to station/stop platforms should be well-lit and visible.
- Signage should note the location of bicycle parking, rules for use, and instructions as needed.
- Provide safe and secure long-term parking such as bicycle lockers at transit hubs. Parking should be easy to use and well maintained.



Discussion

Providing bicycle routes to transit helps combine the long-distance coverage of bus and rail travel with the door-to-door service of bicycle riding. Transit use can overcome large obstacles to bicycling, including distance, hills, riding on busy streets, night riding, inclement weather, and breakdowns. High-visibility crosswalks and mid-block crossings are often appropriate treatments to provide safer bicycle and pedestrian access to bus stops, particularly at high-usage transit stops. If a bus stop is located mid-block, adequate crossing treatments should be provided, based on the level of traffic on the roadway. All transit riders will need to cross the street to access or leave the bus stop.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
 APBP. *Bicycle Parking Guide 2nd Edition*. 2010.
 FHWA. *Federal Highway Administration University Course on Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Lesson 18: Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections to Transit*. 2006.

Materials and Maintenance

Regularly inspect the functioning of long-term parking moving parts and enclosures. Change keys and access codes periodically to prevent access to unapproved users.

Bikeway Maintenance

Regular bicycle facility maintenance includes sweeping, maintaining a smooth roadway, ensuring that the gutter-to-pavement transition remains relatively flush, and installing bicycle-friendly drainage grates. Pavement overlays are a good opportunity to improve bicycle facilities. The following recommendations provide a menu of options to consider to enhance a maintenance regimen.

Recommended Walkway and Bikeway Maintenance Activities

Maintenance Activity	Frequency
Inspections	Seasonal – at beginning and end of Summer
Pavement sweeping/blowing	As needed, with higher frequency in the early Spring and Fall
Pavement sealing	5 - 15 years
Pothole repair	1 week – 1 month after report
Culvert and drainage grate inspection	Before Winter and after major storms
Pavement markings replacement	As needed
Signage replacement	As needed
Shoulder plant trimming (weeds, trees, brambles)	Twice a year; middle of growing season and early Fall
Tree and shrub plantings, trimming	1 – 3 years
Major damage response (washouts, fallen trees, flooding)	As soon as possible

This Section Includes:

- Sweeping
- Signage
- Roadway Surface
- Pavement Overlays
- Drainage Grates
- Gutter to Pavement Transition
- Landscaping
- Maintenance Management Plan



Sweeping



Roadway Surface



Gutter to Pavement Transition



Drainage Grates



Landscaping



Maintenance Management Plan

Sweeping

Description

Bicyclists often avoid shoulders and bike lanes filled with gravel, broken glass and other debris; they will ride in the roadway to avoid these hazards, potentially causing conflicts with motorists. Debris from the roadway should not be swept onto sidewalks (pedestrians need a clean walking surface), nor should debris be swept from the sidewalk onto the roadway. A regularly scheduled inspection and maintenance program helps ensure that roadway debris is regularly picked up or swept.



Guidance

- Establish a seasonal sweeping schedule that prioritizes roadways with major bicycle routes.
- Sweep walkways and bikeways whenever there is an accumulation of debris on the facility.
- In curbed sections, sweepers should pick up debris; on open shoulders, debris can be swept onto gravel shoulders.
- Pave gravel driveway approaches to minimize loose gravel on paved roadway shoulders.
- Perform additional sweeping in the Spring to remove debris from the Winter.
- Perform additional sweeping in the Fall in areas where leaves accumulate .

Signage

Description

Bike lanes, shared shoulders, Bicycle Boulevards and paths all have different signage types for wayfinding and regulations. Such signage is vulnerable to vandalism or wear, and requires periodic maintenance and replacement as needed.



Guidance

- Check regulatory and wayfinding signage along bikeways for signs of vandalism, graffiti, or normal wear.
- Replace signage along the bikeway network as-needed.
- Perform a regularly-scheduled check on the status of signage with follow-up as necessary.
- Create a Maintenance Management Plan.

Roadway Surface

Description

Bicycles are much more sensitive to subtle changes in roadway surface than are motor vehicles. Various materials are used to pave roadways, and some are smoother than others. Compaction is also an important issue after trenches and other construction holes are filled. Uneven settlement after trenching can affect the roadway surface nearest the curb where bicycles travel. Sometimes compaction is not achieved to a satisfactory level, and an uneven pavement surface can result due to settling over the course of days or weeks. When resurfacing streets, use the smallest chip size and ensure that the surface is as smooth as possible to improve safety and comfort for bicyclists.



Guidance

- Maintain a smooth pothole-free surface.
- Ensure that on new roadway construction, the finished surface on bikeways does not vary more than 1/4".
- Maintain pavement so ridge buildup does not occur at the gutter-to-pavement transition or adjacent to railway crossings.
- Inspect the pavement 2 to 4 months after trenching construction activities are completed to ensure that excessive settlement has not occurred.
- If chip sealing is to be performed, use the smallest possible chip on bike lanes and shoulders. Sweep loose chips regularly following application.
- During chip seal maintenance projects, if the pavement condition of the bike lane is satisfactory, it may be appropriate to chip seal the travel lanes only. However, use caution when doing this so as not to create an unacceptable ridge between the bike lane and travel lane.

Pavement Overlays

Description

Pavement overlays represent good opportunities to improve conditions for bicyclists if done carefully. A ridge should not be left in the area where bicyclists ride (this occurs where an overlay extends part-way into a shoulder bikeway or bike lane). Overlay projects also offer opportunities to widen a roadway, or to re-stripe a roadway with bike lanes.



Guidance

- Extend the overlay over the entire roadway surface to avoid leaving an abrupt edge.
- If the shoulder or bike lane pavement is of good quality, it may be appropriate to end the overlay at the shoulder or bike lane stripe provided no abrupt ridge remains.
- Ensure that inlet grates, manhole and valve covers are within 1/4 inch of the finished pavement surface and are made or treated with slip resistant materials.
- Pave gravel driveways to property lines to prevent gravel from being tracked onto shoulders or bike lanes.

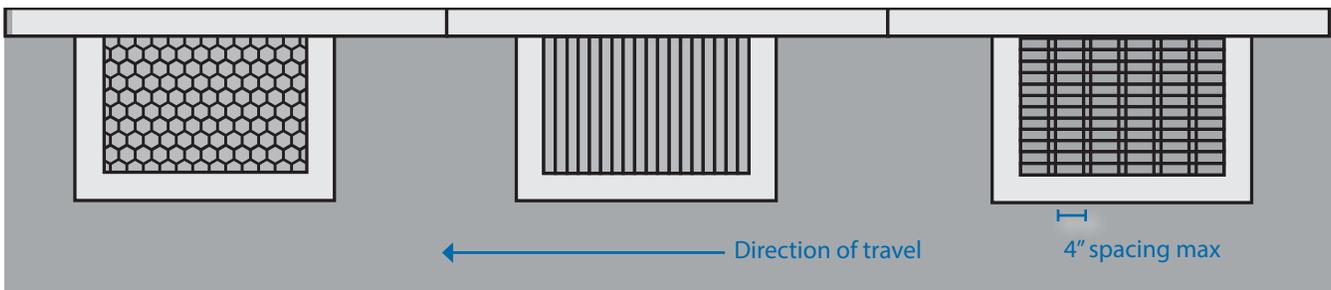
Drainage Grates

Description

Drainage grates are typically located in the gutter area near the curb of a roadway. Drainage grates typically have slots through which water drains into the municipal storm sewer system. Many older grates were designed with linear parallel bars spread wide enough for a tire to become caught so that if a bicyclist were to ride on them, the front tire could become caught in the slot. This would cause the bicyclist to tumble over the handlebars and sustain potentially serious injuries.

Guidance

- Require all new drainage grates be bicycle-friendly, including grates that have horizontal slats on them so that bicycle tires and assistive devices do not fall through the vertical slats.
- Create a program to inventory all existing drainage grates, and replace hazardous grates as necessary – temporary modifications such as installing rebar horizontally across the grate should not be an acceptable alternative to replacement.



Gutter to Pavement Transition

Description

On streets with concrete curbs and gutters, 1 to 2 feet of the curbside area is typically devoted to the gutter pan, where water collects and drains into catch basins. On many streets, the bikeway is situated near the transition between the gutter pan and the pavement edge. This transition can be susceptible to erosion, creating potholes and a rough surface for travel.

The pavement on many streets is not flush with the gutter, creating a vertical transition between these segments. This area can buckle over time, creating a hazardous condition for bicyclists.



Guidance

- Ensure that gutter-to-pavement transitions have no more than a ¼" vertical transition.
- Examine pavement transitions during every roadway project for new construction, maintenance activities, and construction project activities that occur in streets.
- Inspect the pavement 2 to 4 months after trenching construction activities are completed to ensure that excessive settlement has not occurred.
- Provide at least 3 feet of pavement outside of the gutter seam.

Landscaping

Description

Bikeways can become inaccessible due to overgrown vegetation. All landscaping needs to be designed and maintained to ensure compatibility with the use of the bikeways. After a flood or major storm, bikeways should be checked along with other roads, and fallen trees or other debris should be removed promptly.

Guidance

- Ensure that shoulder plants do not hang into or impede passage along bikeways
- After major damage incidents, remove fallen trees or other debris from bikeways as quickly as possible



Maintenance Management Plan

Description

Bikeway users need accommodation during construction and maintenance activities when bikeways may be closed or unavailable. Users must be warned of bikeway closures and given adequate detour information to bypass the closed section. Users should be warned through the use of standard signing approaching each affected section (e.g., “Bike Lane Closed,” “Trail Closed”), including information on alternate routes and dates of closure. Alternate routes should provide reasonable directness, equivalent traffic characteristics, and be signed.

Guidance

- Provide fire and police departments with map of system, along with access points to gates/bollards
- Enforce speed limits and other rules of the road
- Enforce all trespassing laws for people attempting to enter adjacent private properties

