Appendix A: Design Guidelines

Appendix Contents:

OVERVIEW

The sections that follow serve as an inventory of pedestrian and bicycle design treatments and provide guidelines for their development. These treatments and design guidelines are important because they represent the tools for creating a walk- and bicycle-friendly, safe, and accessible community. The guidelines are not, however, a substitute for a more thorough evaluation by a landscape architect or engineer upon implementation of facility improvements. Some improvements may also require cooperation with the NCDOT for specific design solutions. The following standards and guidelines are referred to in this guide.

- The Federal Highway Administration's *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) is the primary source for guidance on lane striping requirements, signal warrants, and recommended signage and pavement markings.
- 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 National Association of City Transportation Officials' (NACTO) 2012 *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* is the newest publication of nationally recognized bikeway design standards, and offers guidance on the current state of the practice designs. All of the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide treatments are in use internationally and in many cities around the US. The FHWA endorsed the NACTO Guide in 2013.
- Meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is an important part of any bicycle facility project. The United States Access Board's proposed *Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (*PROWAG) and the 2010 *ADA Standards for Accessible Design* (2010 Standards) contain standards and guidance for the construction of accessible facilities.
- The North Carolina Department of Transportation *Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines,* released in 2012, provide NCDOT and municipality staff with a guide to planning and designing streets that meet the needs of all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles. The guidelines include detailed information on the processes, street types, and recommendations for creating complete streets in North Carolina.

Should these standards be revised in the future and result in discrepancies with this appendix, the standards should prevail for all design decisions. A qualified engineer or landscape architect should be consulted for the most up to date and accurate cost estimates.

DESIGN NEEDS OF PEDESTRIANS

Types of Pedestrians

Pedestrians have a variety of characteristics and the transportation network should accommodate a variety of needs, abilities, and possible impairments. Age is one major factor that affects pedestrians' physical characteristics, walking speed, and environmental perception. Children have low eye height and walk at slower speeds than adults. They also perceive the environment differently at various stages of their cognitive development. Older adults walk more slowly and may require assistive devices for walking stability, sight, and hearing. Table A-1 to the right summarizes common pedestrian characteristics for various age groups.

The MUTCD recommends a normal walking speed of three and a half feet per second when calculating the pedestrian clearance interval at traffic signals. The walking speed can drop to three feet per second for areas with older populations and persons with mobility impairments. While the type and degree of mobility impairment varies greatly across the population, the transportation system should accommodate these users to the greatest reasonable extent.

Table A-1: Pedestrian Characteristics by Age

Age	Characteristics
0-4	Learning to walk Requires constant adult supervision Developing peripheral vision and depth perception
5-8	Increasing independence, but still requires supervision Poor depth perception
9-13	Susceptible to "dart out" intersection dash Poor judgment Sense of invulnerability
14-18	Improved awareness of traffic environment Poor judgment
19-40	Active, fully aware of traffic environment
41-65	Slowing of reflexes
65+	Difficulty crossing street Vision loss Difficulty hearing vehicles approaching from behind Could become disoriented or have limited cognitive abilities

SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks are the most fundamental element of the walking network, as they provide an area for pedestrian travel that is separated from vehicle traffic. Sidewalks are typically constructed out of concrete and are separated from the roadway by a curb or gutter and sometimes a landscaped planting strip area. Sidewalks are a common application in both urban and suburban environments.

Attributes of well-designed sidewalks include the following:

Accessibility: A network of sidewalks should be accessible to all users.

Adequate width: Two people should be able to walk side-by-side and pass a third comfortably. Different walking speeds should be possible. In areas of intense pedestrian use, sidewalks should accommodate a high volume of walkers.

Safety: Design features of the sidewalk should allow pedestrians to have a sense of security and predictability. Sidewalk users should not feel they are at risk due to the presence of adjacent traffic.

Continuity: Walking routes should be obvious and should not require pedestrians to travel out of their way unnecessarily.

Landscaping: Plantings and street trees should contribute to the overall psychological and visual comfort of sidewalk users, and be designed in a manner that contributes to the safety of people.

Drainage: Sidewalks should be well graded to minimize standing water.

Social space: There should be places for standing, visiting, and sitting. The sidewalk area should be a place where adults and children can safely participate in public life.

Quality of place: Sidewalks should contribute to the character of neighborhoods and business districts.


Sidewalk Widths


Sidewalk Obstructions and Driveway Ramps


Pedestrian Amenities

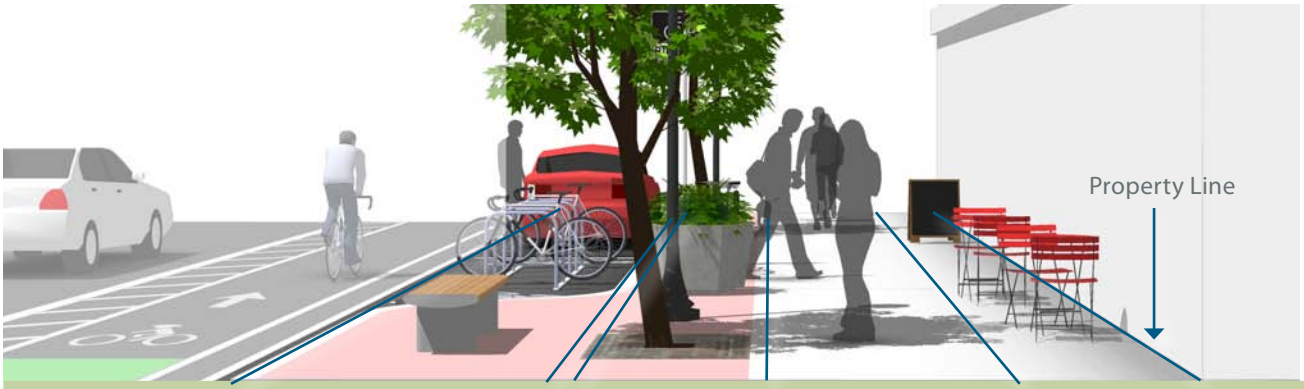
Sidewalk Widths

Description

The width and design of sidewalks will vary depending on street context, functional classification, and pedestrian demand. Below are preferred widths of each sidewalk zone according to general street type. Standardizing sidewalk guidelines for different areas of the city, dependent on the above listed factors, ensures a minimum level of quality for all sidewalks.

Discussion

It is important to provide adequate width along a sidewalk corridor. Two people should be able to walk side-by-side and pass a third comfortably. In areas of high demand, sidewalks should contain adequate width to accommodate the high volumes and different walking speeds of pedestrians. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires a 4 foot clear width in the pedestrian zone plus 5 foot passing areas every 200 feet.



Street Classification	Parking Lane/ Enhancement Zone	Furnishing/ Green Zone	Pedestrian Through Zone	Frontage Zone	Total Sidewalk Area
Local Streets	7 feet	4 - 8 feet	5 - 6 feet	N/A	9 - 12 feet
Commercial Areas	8 - 10 feet	6 - 8 feet	6 - 12 feet	2 - 8 feet	14- 28 feet
Arterials and Collectors	8 - 10 feet	6 - 8 feet	4 - 12 feet	2 - 4 feet	12 -24 feet

Areas that have significant accumulations of snow during the winter may prefer a wider furnishing zone for snow storage.

Six feet enables two pedestrians (including wheelchair users) to walk side-by-side, or to pass each other comfortably

Total sidewalk area excludes parking dimensions

Recommended dimensions shown here are based on the NCDOT Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines. Exact dimensions should be selected in response to local context and expected/desired pedestrian volumes.

Additional References and Guidelines

USDOJ. (2010). ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
United States Access Board. (2007). Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).
NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

Materials and Maintenance

Sidewalks are typically constructed out of concrete and are separated from the roadway by a curb or gutter and sometimes a landscaped boulevard. Surfaces must be firm, stable, and slip resistant.

Sidewalk Obstructions and Driveway Ramps

Description

Obstructions to pedestrian travel in the sidewalk corridor typically include driveway ramps, curb ramps, sign posts, utility and signal poles, mailboxes, fire hydrants and street furniture.

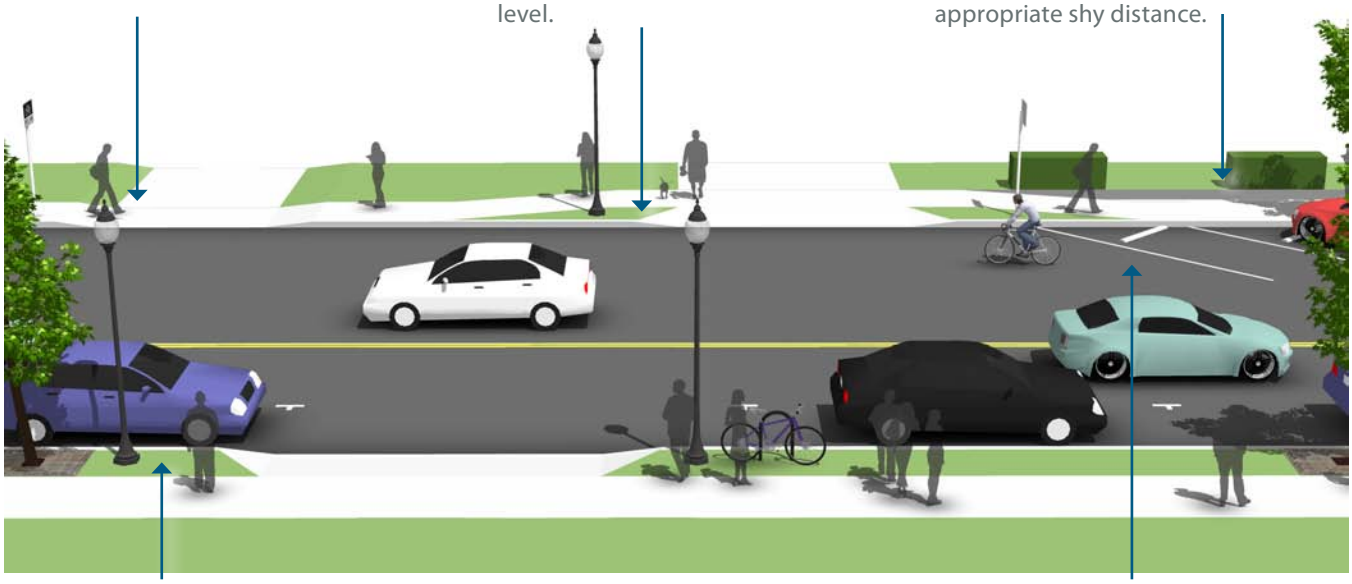
Guidance

- Reducing the number of accesses reduces the need for special provisions. This strategy should be pursued first.
- Obstructions should be placed between the sidewalk and the roadway to create a buffer for increased pedestrian comfort.

Dipping the entire sidewalk at the driveway approaches keeps the cross-slope at a constant grade. This is the least-preferred driveway option.

Where constraints preclude a planter strip, wrapping the sidewalk around the driveway allows the sidewalk to still remain level.

When sidewalks abut hedges, fences, or buildings, an additional two feet of lateral clearance should be added to provide appropriate shy distance.



Planter strips allow sidewalks to remain level, with the driveway grade change occurring within the planter strip.

When sidewalks abut angled on-street parking, wheel stops should be used to prevent vehicles from overhanging in the sidewalk.

Discussion

Driveways are a common sidewalk obstruction, especially for wheelchair users. When constraints only allow curb-tight sidewalks, dipping the entire sidewalk at the driveway approaches keeps the cross-slope at a constant grade. However, this may be uncomfortable for pedestrians and could create drainage problems behind the sidewalk.

Additional References and Guidelines

USDOJ. (2010). ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
United States Access Board. (2007). Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).
AASHTO. (2004). Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.

Materials and Maintenance

Excessive cracks, gaps, pits, settling, and lifting of the sidewalk creates a pedestrian tripping hazard and reduces ADA accessibility; damages sidewalks should be repaired.

Pedestrian Amenities

Description

A variety of streetscape elements can define the pedestrian realm, offer protection from moving vehicles, and enhance the walking experience. Pedestrian amenities should be placed in the furnishing zone on a sidewalk corridor. Signs, meters, and tree wells should go between parking spaces. Key features are presented below.

Street Trees

In addition to their aesthetic and environmental value, street trees can slow traffic and improve safety for pedestrians. Trees add visual interest to streets and narrow the street's visual corridor, which may cause drivers to slow down. It is important that trees do not block light or the vision triangle.

Street Furniture

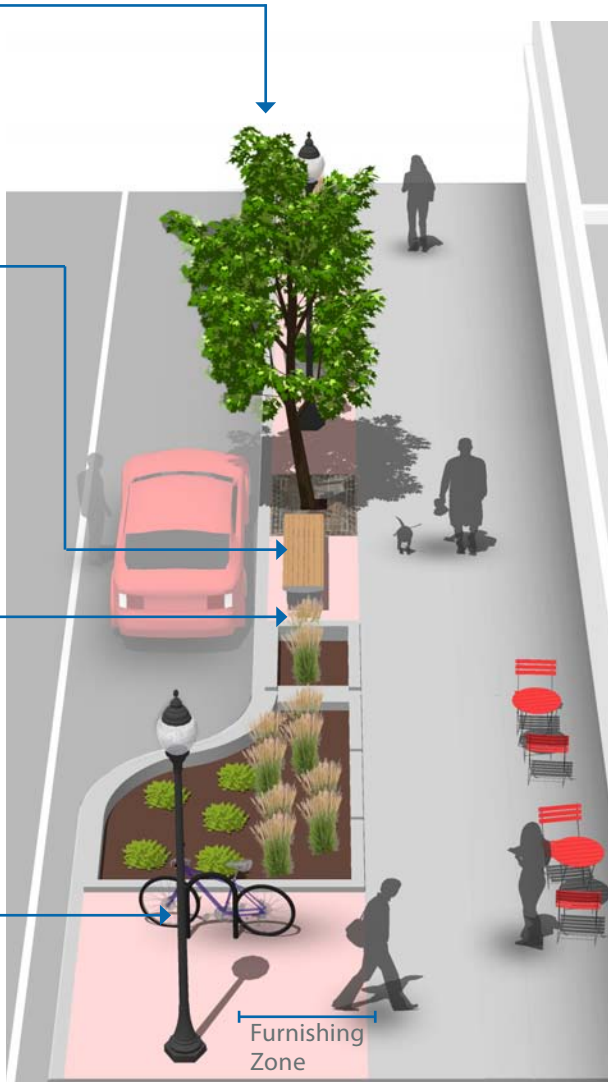
Providing benches at key rest areas and viewpoints encourages people of all ages to use the walkways by ensuring that they have a place to rest along the way. Benches should be 20" tall to accommodate elderly pedestrians comfortably. Benches can be simple (e.g., wood slats) or more ornate (e.g., stone, wrought iron, concrete). If alongside a parking zone, street furniture must be 3 feet from the curbface.

Green Features

Green stormwater strategies may include bioretention swales, rain gardens, tree box filters, and pervious pavements (pervious concrete, asphalt and pavers). Bioswales are natural landscape elements that manage water runoff from a paved surface. Plants in the swale trap pollutants and silt from entering a river system.

Lighting

Pedestrian scale lighting improves visibility for both pedestrians and motorists - particularly at intersections. Pedestrian scale lighting can provide a vertical buffer between the sidewalk and the street, defining pedestrian areas.



Additional References and Guidelines

United States Access Board. (2007). Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

Materials and Maintenance

Establishing and caring for your young street trees is essential to their health. Green features may require routine maintenance, including sediment and trash removal, and clearing curb openings and overflow drains.

PEDESTRIANS AT INTERSECTIONS

Attributes of pedestrian-friendly intersection design include:

Clear Space: Corners should be clear of obstructions. They should also have enough room for curb ramps, for transit stops where appropriate, and for street conversations where pedestrians might congregate.

Visibility: It is critical that pedestrians on the corner have a good view of vehicle travel lanes and that motorists in the travel lanes can easily see waiting pedestrians.

Legibility: Symbols, markings, and signs used at corners should clearly indicate what actions the pedestrian should take.

Accessibility: All corner features, such as curb ramps, landings, call buttons, signs, symbols, markings, and textures, should meet accessibility standards and follow universal design principles.

Separation from Traffic: Corner design and construction should be effective in discouraging turning vehicles from driving over the pedestrian area. Crossing distances should be minimized.

Lighting: Adequate lighting is an important aspect of visibility, legibility, and accessibility.

These attributes will vary with context but should be considered in all design processes. For example, suburban and rural intersections may have limited or no signing. However, legibility regarding appropriate pedestrian movements should still be taken into account during design.


Marked/Raised Crosswalks


Median Refuge Islands


Minimizing Curb Radii


Curb Extensions


ADA Compliant Curb Ramps

Marked Crosswalks

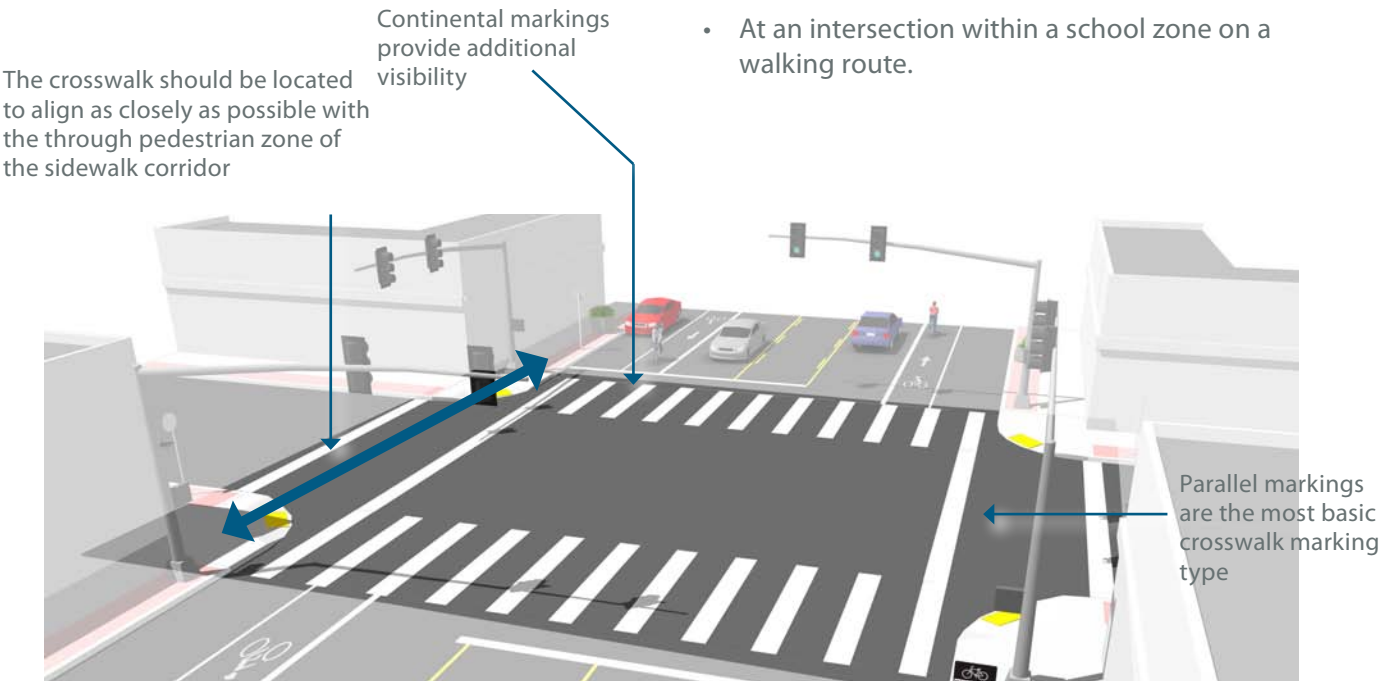
Description

A marked crosswalk signals to motorists that they must stop for pedestrians and encourages pedestrians to cross at designated locations. Installing crosswalks alone will not necessarily make crossings safer especially on multi-lane roadways.

At mid-block locations, crosswalks can be marked where there is a demand for crossing and there are no nearby marked crosswalks.

Guidance

- At signalized intersections, all crosswalks should be marked. At unsignalized intersections, crosswalks may be marked under the following conditions:
- At a complex intersection, to orient pedestrians in finding their way across.
- At an offset intersection, to show pedestrians the shortest route across traffic with the least exposure to vehicular traffic and traffic conflicts.
- At an intersection with visibility constraints, to position pedestrians where they can best be seen by oncoming traffic.
- At an intersection within a school zone on a walking route.



Discussion

Continental crosswalk markings should be used at crossings with high pedestrian use or where vulnerable pedestrians are expected, including: school crossings, across arterial streets for pedestrian-only signals, at mid-block crosswalks, and at intersections where there is expected high pedestrian use and the crossing is not controlled by signals or stop signs.

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. (3B.18) AASHTO. (2004). Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities. FHWA. (2005). Safety Effects of Marked vs. Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations. FHWA. (2010). Crosswalk Marking Field

Materials and Maintenance

Because the effectiveness of marked crossings depends entirely on their visibility, maintaining marked crossings should be a high priority. Thermoplastic markings offer increased durability compared to conventional paint.

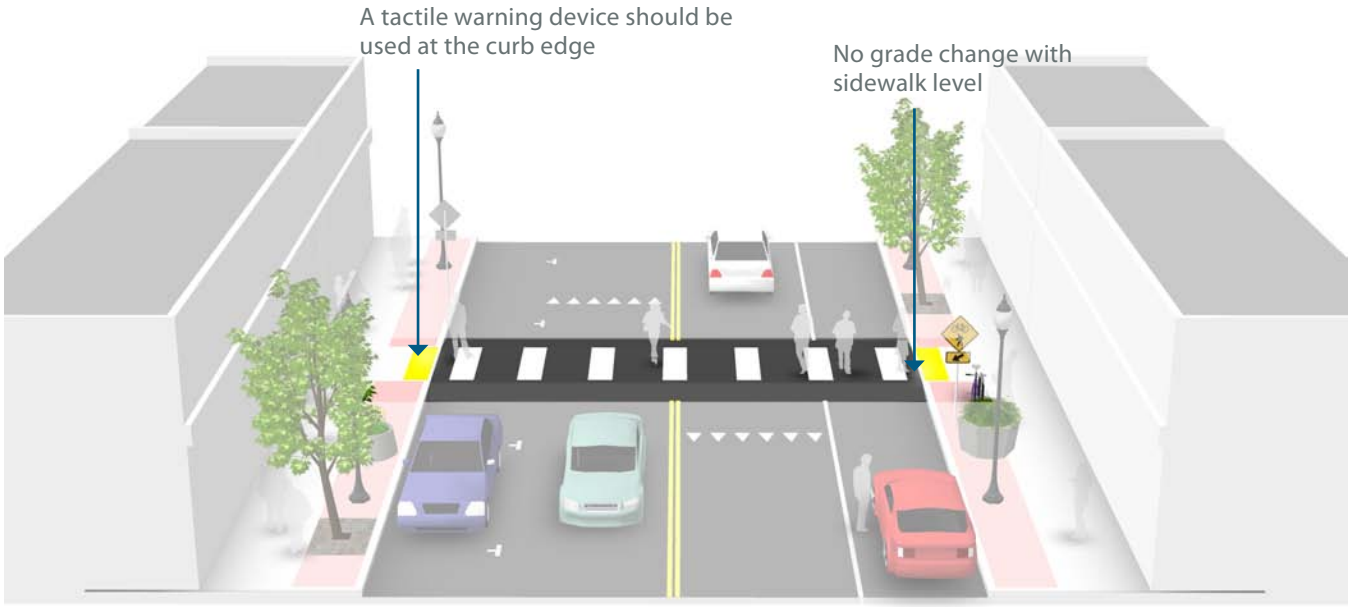
Raised Crosswalks

Description

A raised crosswalk or intersection can eliminate grade changes from the pedestrian path and give pedestrians greater prominence as they cross the street. Raised crosswalks should be used only in very limited cases where a special emphasis on pedestrians is desired, and application should be reviewed on case-by-case basis.

Guidance

- Use detectable warnings at the curb edges to alert vision-impaired pedestrians that they are entering the roadway.
- Approaches to the raised crosswalk may be designed to be similar to speed humps.
- Raised crosswalks can also be used as a traffic calming treatment.



Discussion

Like a speed hump, raised crosswalks have a traffic slowing effect which may be unsuitable on emergency response routes.

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. (3B.18) AASHTO. (2004). Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.
USDOJ. (2010). ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

Materials and Maintenance

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

Median Refuge Islands

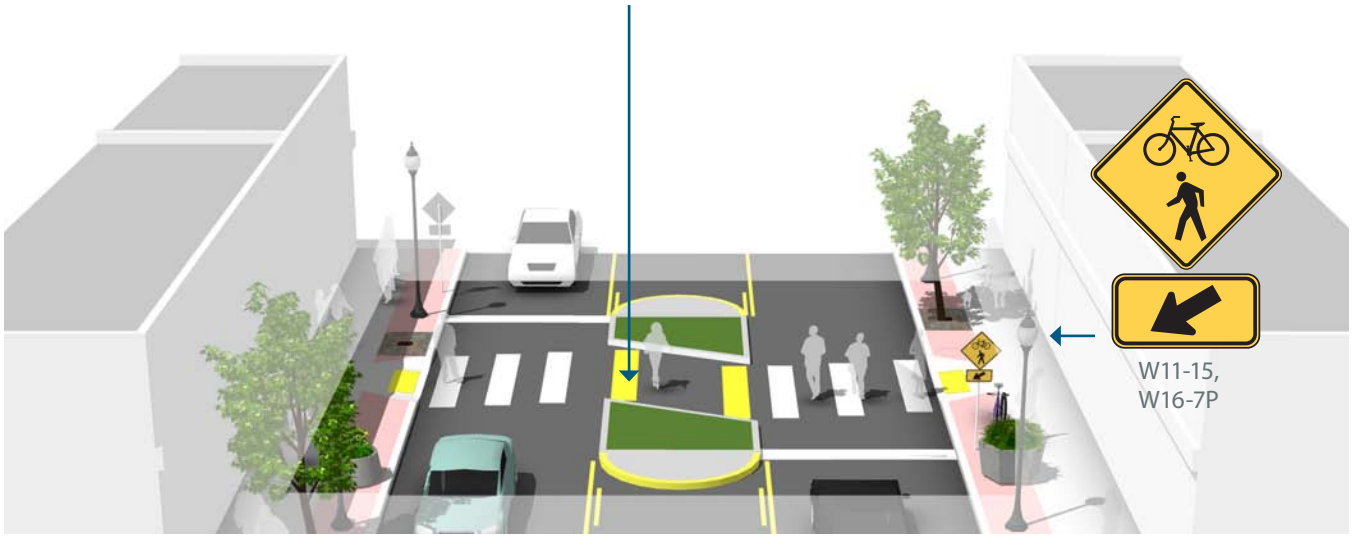
Description

Median refuge islands are located at the mid-point of a marked crossing and help improve pedestrian safety by allowing pedestrians to cross one direction of traffic at a time. Refuge islands minimize pedestrian exposure by shortening crossing distance and increasing the number of available gaps for crossing.

Guidance

- Can be applied on any roadway with a left turn center lane or median that is at least 6' wide.
- Appropriate at signalized or unsignalized crosswalks
- The refuge island must be accessible, preferably with an at-grade passage through the island rather than ramps and landings.
- The island should be at least 6' wide between travel lanes (to accommodate bikes with trailers and wheelchair users) and at least 20' long.
- On streets with speeds higher than 25 mph there should also be double centerline marking, reflectors, and "KEEP RIGHT" signage.

Cut through median islands are preferred over curb ramps, to better accommodate bicyclists.



Discussion

If a refuge island is landscaped, the landscaping should not compromise the visibility of pedestrians crossing in the crosswalk. Shrubs and ground plantings should be no higher than 1 ft 6 in. On multi-lane roadways, consider configuration with **active warning beacons** for improved yielding compliance.

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. AASHTO. (2004). Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities. NACTO. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide. NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

Materials and Maintenance

Refuge islands may collect road debris and may require somewhat frequent maintenance. Refuge islands should be visible to snow plow crews and should be kept free of snow berms that block access.

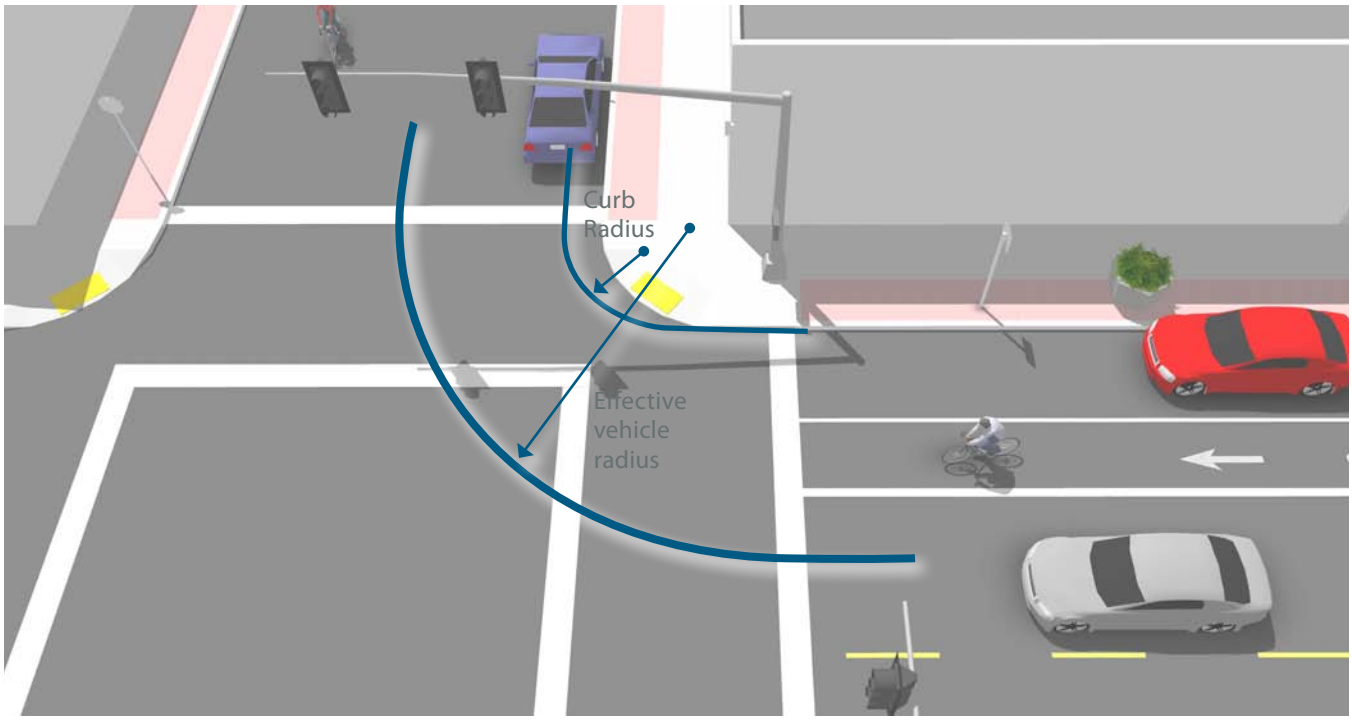
Minimizing Curb Radii

Description

The size of a curb's radius can have a significant impact on pedestrian comfort and safety. A smaller curb radius provides more pedestrian area at the corner, allows more flexibility in the placement of curb ramps, results in a shorter crossing distance and requires vehicles to slow more on the intersection approach. During the design phase, the chosen radius should be the smallest possible for the circumstances.

Guidance

- The radius may be as small as 3 ft where there are no turning movements, or 5 ft where there are turning movements, adequate street width, and a larger effective curb radius created by parking or bike lanes.



Discussion

Several factors govern the choice of curb radius in any given location. These include the desired pedestrian area of the corner, traffic turning movements, street classifications, design vehicle turning radius, intersection geometry, and whether there is parking or a bike lane (or both) between the travel lane and the curb.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. (2004). Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities. AASHTO. (2004). A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets. NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

Materials and Maintenance

Improperly designed curb radii at corners may be subject to damage by large trucks.

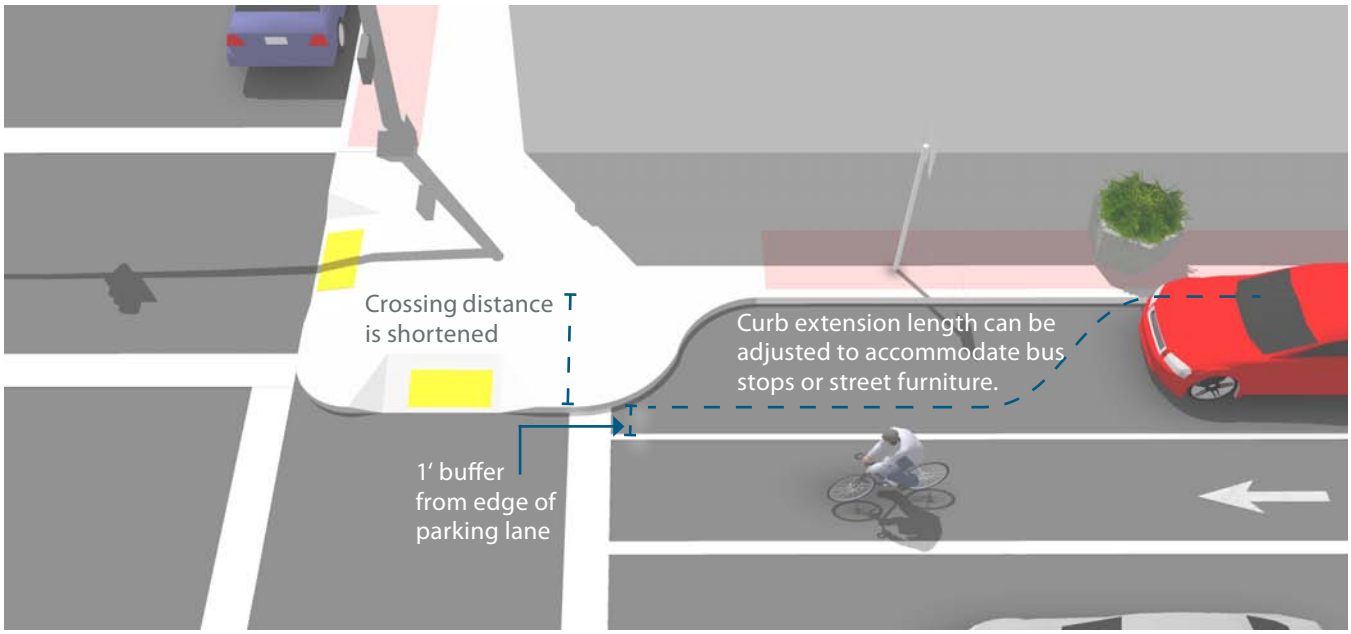
Curb Extensions

Description

Curb extensions minimize pedestrian exposure during crossing by shortening crossing distance and giving pedestrians a better chance to see and be seen before committing to crossing. They are appropriate for any crosswalk where it is desirable to shorten the crossing distance and there is a parking lane adjacent to the curb.

Guidance

- In most cases, the curb extensions should be designed to transition between the extended curb and the running curb in the shortest practicable distance.
- For purposes of efficient street sweeping, the minimum radius for the reverse curves of the transition is 10 ft and the two radii should be balanced to be nearly equal.
- Curb extensions should terminate one foot short of the parking lane to maximize bicyclist safety.



Discussion

If there is no parking lane, adding curb extensions may be a problem for bicycle travel and truck or bus turning movements.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. (2004). Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities. AASHTO. (2004). A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets. NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

Materials and Maintenance

Planted curb extensions may be designed as a bioswale, a vegetated system for stormwater management.

ADA Compliant Curb Ramps

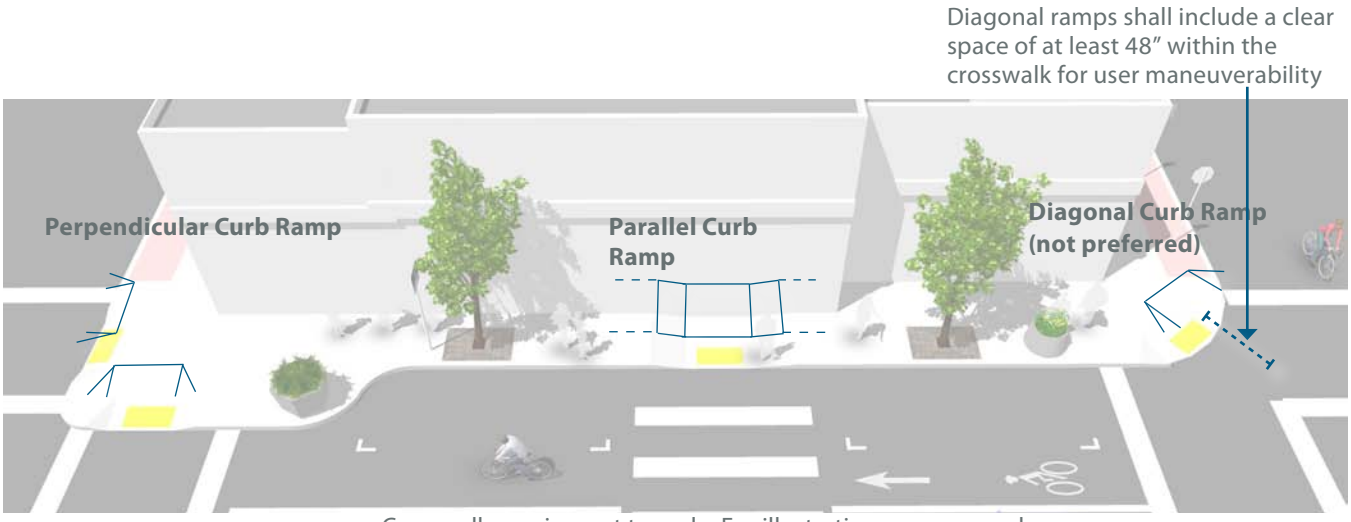
Description

Curb ramps are the design elements that allow all users to make the transition from the street to the sidewalk. There are a number of factors to be considered in the design and placement of curb ramps at corners. Properly designed curb ramps ensure that the sidewalk is accessible from the roadway. A sidewalk without a curb ramp can be useless to someone in a wheelchair, forcing them back to a driveway and out into the street for access.

Although diagonal curb ramps might save money, they create potential safety and mobility problems for pedestrians,including reduced maneuverability and increased interaction with turning vehicles, particularly in areas with high traffic volumes. Diagonal curb ramp configurations are the least preferred of all options.

Guidance

- The landing at the top of a ramp shall be at least 4 feet long and at least the same width as the ramp itself.
- The ramp shall slope no more than 1:50 (2.0%) in any direction.
- If the ramp runs directly into a crosswalk, the landing at the bottom will be in the roadway.
- If the ramp lands on a dropped landing within the sidewalk or corner area where someone in a wheelchair may have to change direction, the landing must be a minimum of 5'-0" long and at least as wide as the ramp, although a width of 5'-0" is preferred.



Crosswalk spacing not to scale. For illustration purposes only.

Discussion

The edge of an ADA compliant curb ramp will be marked with a tactile warning device (also known as truncated domes) to alert people with visual impairments to changes in the pedestrian environment. Contrast between the raised tactile device and the surrounding infrastructure is important so that the change is readily evident. These devices are most effective when adjacent to smooth pavement so the difference is easily detected. The devices must provide color contrast so partially sighted people can see them.

Additional References and Guidelines

United States Access Board. (2002). Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities. United States Access Board. (2007). Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). USDOJ. (2010). ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Materials and Maintenance

It is critical that the interface between a curb ramp and the street be maintained adequately. Asphalt street sections can develop potholes at the foot of the ramp, which can catch the front wheels of a wheelchair.

Signalization

Crossing beacons and signals facilitate crossings of roadways for pedestrians and bicyclists. Beacons make crossing intersections safer by clarifying when to enter an intersection and by alerting motorists to the presence of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Flashing amber warning beacons can be utilized at unsignalized intersection crossings. Push buttons, signage, and pavement markings may be used to highlight these facilities for pedestrians, 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, traffic volumes, and the anticipated levels of pedestrian and bicycle crossing traffic.

An intersection with crossing beacons may reduce stress and delays for crossing users, and discourage illegal and unsafe crossing maneuvers.

Pedestrians at Signalized Crossings


Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

Additional References and Guidelines

United States Access Board. (2007). Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).
AASHTO. (2004). Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.
NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

Materials and Maintenance

It is important to repair or replace traffic control equipment before it fails. Consider semi-annual inspections of controller and signal equipment, intersection hardware, and loop detectors.

Pedestrians at Signalized Crossings

Description

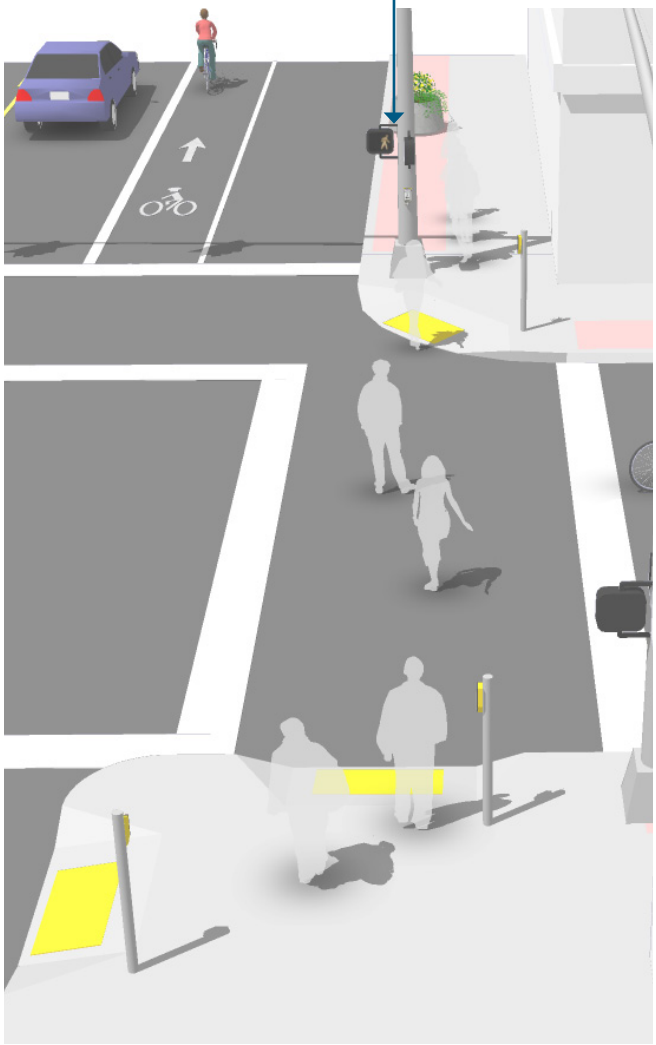
Pedestrian Signal Head

- All traffic signals should be equipped with pedestrian signal indications except where pedestrian crossing is prohibited by signage.
- Countdown signals should be used at all signalized intersections to indicate whether a pedestrian has time to cross the street before the signal phase ends.

Signal Timing

- Providing adequate pedestrian crossing time is a critical element of the walking environment at signalized intersections. The MUTCD recommends traffic signal timing to assume a pedestrian walking speed of 3.5' per second, meaning that the length of a signal phase with parallel pedestrian movements should provide sufficient time for a pedestrian to safely cross the adjacent street.
- At crossings where older pedestrians or pedestrians with disabilities are expected, crossing speeds as low as 3' per second may be assumed.
- In busy pedestrian areas such as downtowns, the pedestrian signal indication should be built into each signal phase, eliminating the requirement for a pedestrian to actuate the signal by pushing a button.

Audible pedestrian traffic signals provide crossing assistance to pedestrians with vision impairment at signalized intersections



Consider the use of a Leading Pedestrian Indication (LPI) to provide additional traffic protected crossing time to pedestrians

Discussion

When push buttons are used, they should be located so that someone in a wheelchair can reach the button from a level area of the sidewalk without deviating significantly from the natural line of travel into the crosswalk, and marked (for example, with arrows) so that it is clear which signal is affected. In areas with very heavy pedestrian traffic, consider an all-pedestrian signal phase to give pedestrians free passage in the intersection when all motor vehicle traffic movements are stopped.

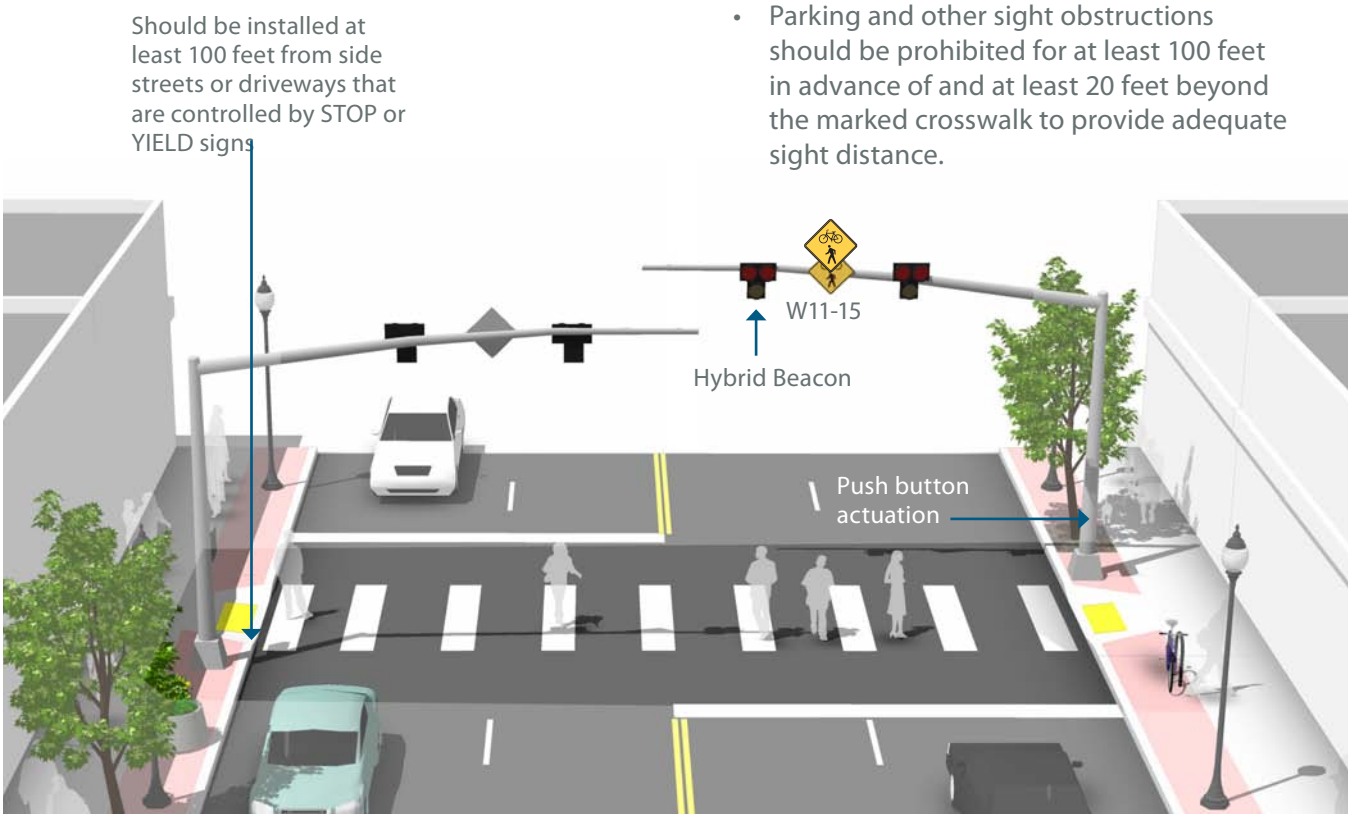
Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

Description

Hybrid beacons are used to improve non-motorized crossings of major streets. A hybrid beacon consists of a signal-head with two red lenses over a single yellow lens on the major street, and a pedestrian signal head for the crosswalk

Guidance

- Hybrid beacons may be installed without meeting traffic signal control warrants if roadway speed and volumes are excessive for comfortable pedestrian crossings.
- If installed within a signal system, signal engineers should evaluate the need for the hybrid signal to be coordinated with other signals.
- Parking and other sight obstructions should be prohibited for at least 100 feet in advance of and at least 20 feet beyond the marked crosswalk to provide adequate sight distance.



Discussion

Hybrid beacon signals are normally activated by push buttons, but may also be triggered by 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. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. NACTO. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide. NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

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.

Active Warning Beacons

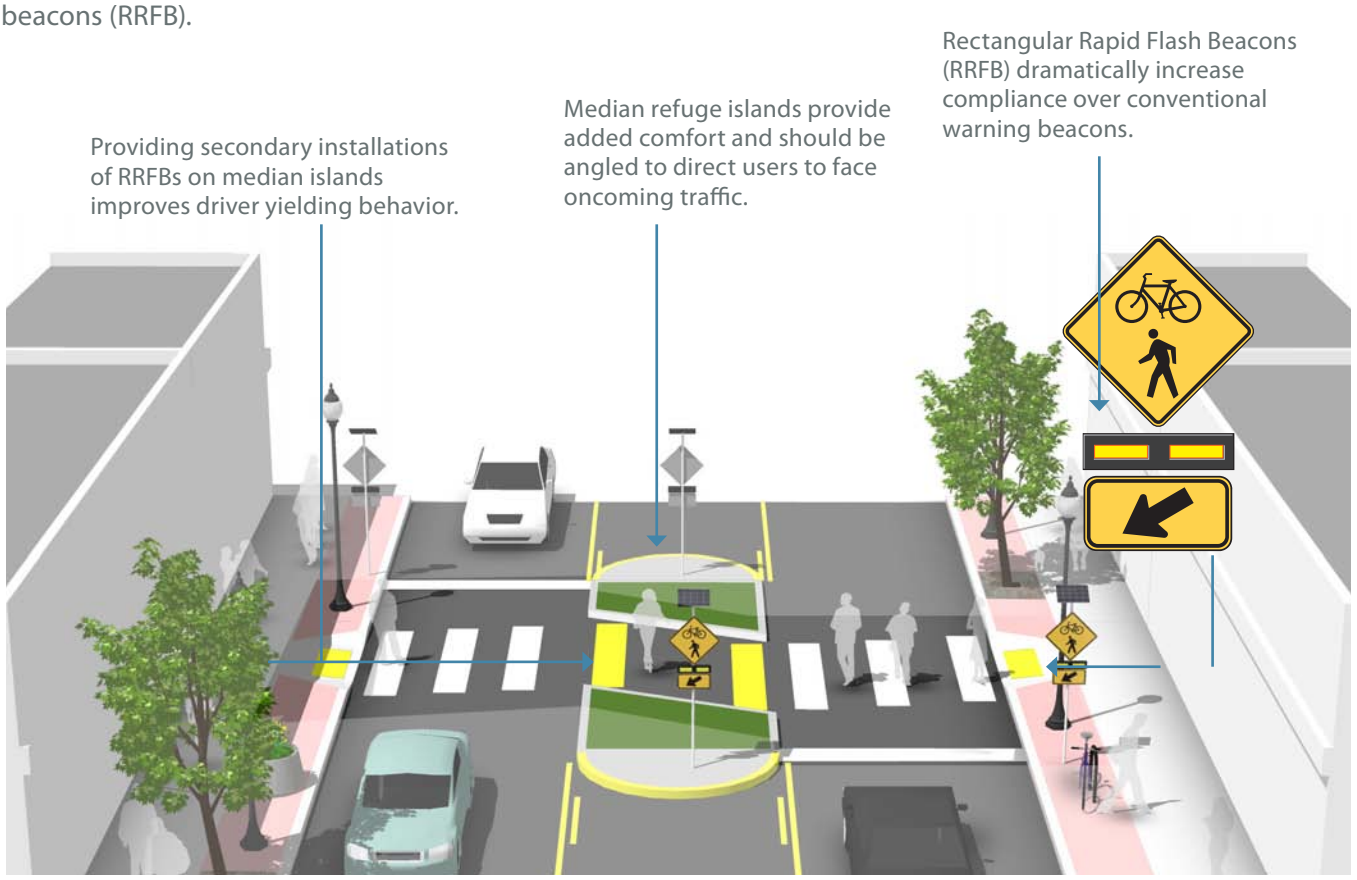
Description

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

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.

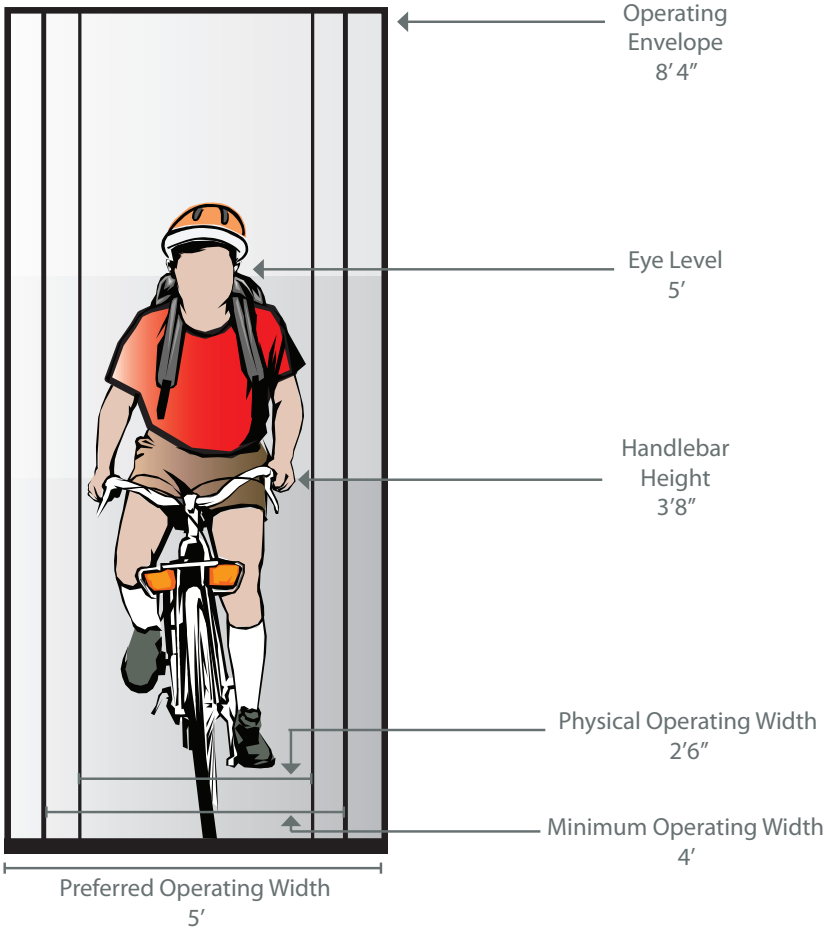
Bicycle as a Design Vehicle

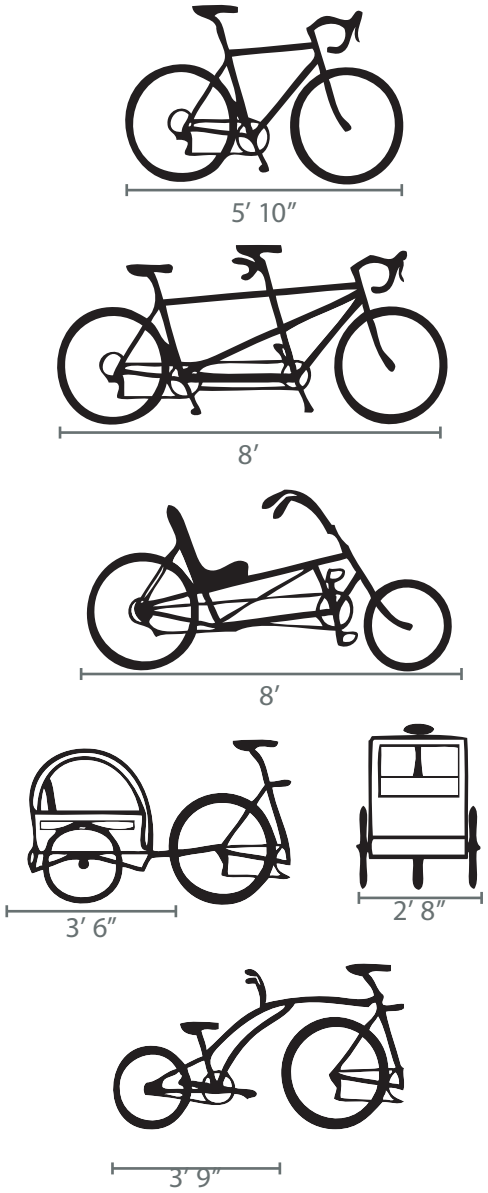
Similar to motor vehicles, bicyclists and their bicycles exist in a variety of sizes and configurations. These variations occur in the types of vehicle (such as a conventional bicycle, a recumbent bicycle or a tricycle), and behavioral characteristics (such as the comfort level of the bicyclist). The 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.

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.

Standard Bicycle Rider Dimensions
Source: AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 3rd Edition





Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Typical Dimensions
Source: AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 3rd 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 multi-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
	Approximate center of gravity	2 ft 9 in - 3 ft 4 in
Recumbent Bicyclist	Physical length	8 ft
	Eye height	3 ft 10 in
Tandem Bicyclist	Physical length	8 ft
Bicyclist with child trailer	Physical length	10 ft
	Physical width	2 ft 8 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.

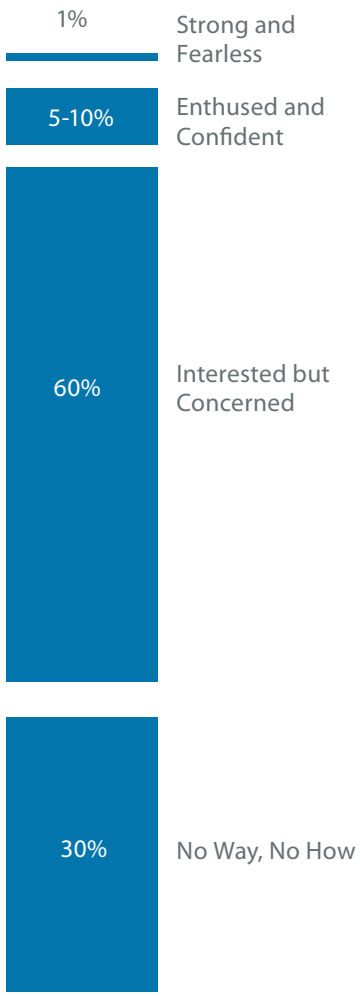
TYPES OF BICYCLISTS

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 most conventional framework classifies the "design cyclist" as Advanced, Basic, or Child[1]. A more detailed understanding of the US population as a whole is illustrated in the figure below. Developed by planners in Portland, OR[2] and supported by data collected nationally since 2005, 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 multi-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 multi-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 multi-use trails 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 never ride a bicycle other than on rare occasions or under special circumstances (e.g., in a park, with a child).

Typical Distribution of Bicyclist Types



1 Selecting Roadway Design Treatments to Accommodate Bicycles. (1994). Publication No. FHWA-RD-92-073

2 Four Types of Cyclists. (2009). Roger Geller, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation.

http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?&a=237507

BICYCLE FACILITY SELECTION GUIDELINES

This section summarizes the bicycle facility selection typology developed for the City of Goldsboro. The specific facility type that should be provided depends on the surrounding environment (e.g. auto speed and volume, topography, and adjacent land use) and expected bicyclist needs (e.g. bicyclists commuting on a highway versus students riding to school on residential streets).


Facility Classification


Facility Continua

Facility Selection Guidelines

There are no 'hard and fast' rules for determining the most appropriate type of bicycle facility for a particular location – roadway speeds, volumes, right-of-way width, presence of parking, adjacent land uses, and expected bicycle user types are all critical elements of this decision. Studies find that the most significant factors influencing bicycle use are motor vehicle traffic volumes and speeds. Additionally, most bicyclists prefer facilities separated from motor vehicle traffic or located on local roads with low motor vehicle traffic speeds and volumes. Because off-street pathways are physically separated from the roadway, they are perceived as safe and attractive routes for bicyclists who prefer to avoid motor vehicle traffic. Consistent use of treatments and application of bikeway facilities allow users to anticipate whether they would feel comfortable riding on a particular facility, and plan their trips accordingly. This section provides guidance on various factors that affect the type of facilities that should be provided.

This section includes:

- Facility Classification
- Facility Continua

FACILITY CLASSIFICATION

Description

Consistent with bicycle facility classifications throughout the nation, these Bicycle Facility Design Guidelines identify the following classes of facilities by degree of separation from motor vehicle traffic.

Shared Roadways are bikeways where bicyclists and cars operate within the same travel lane, either side by side or in single file depending on roadway configuration. The most basic type of bikeway is a signed shared roadway. This facility provides continuity with other bicycle facilities (usually bike lanes), or designates preferred routes through high-demand corridors.

Shared Roadways may also be designated by pavement markings, signage and other treatments including directional signage, traffic diverters, chicanes, chokers and /or other traffic calming devices to reduce vehicle speeds or volumes. Shared-lane markings are included in this class of treatments.

Separated Bikeways, such as bike lanes, use signage and striping to delineate the right-of-way assigned to bicyclists and motorists. Bike lanes encourage predictable movements by both bicyclists and motorists. Paved Shoulders are also included in this classification.

Cycle Tracks are exclusive bike facilities that combine the user experience of a separated path with the on-street infrastructure of conventional bike lanes.

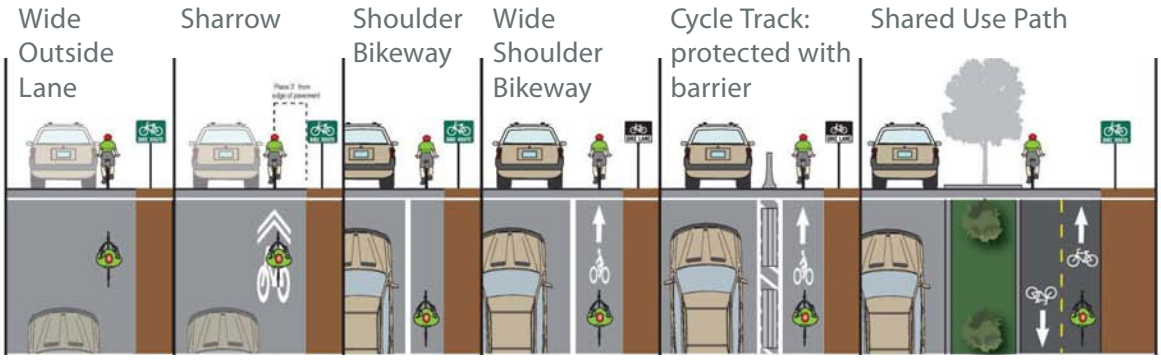
Multi-use Paths are facilities separated from roadways for use by bicyclists and pedestrians. Greenways and side paths are included in this classification.

FACILITY CONTINUA

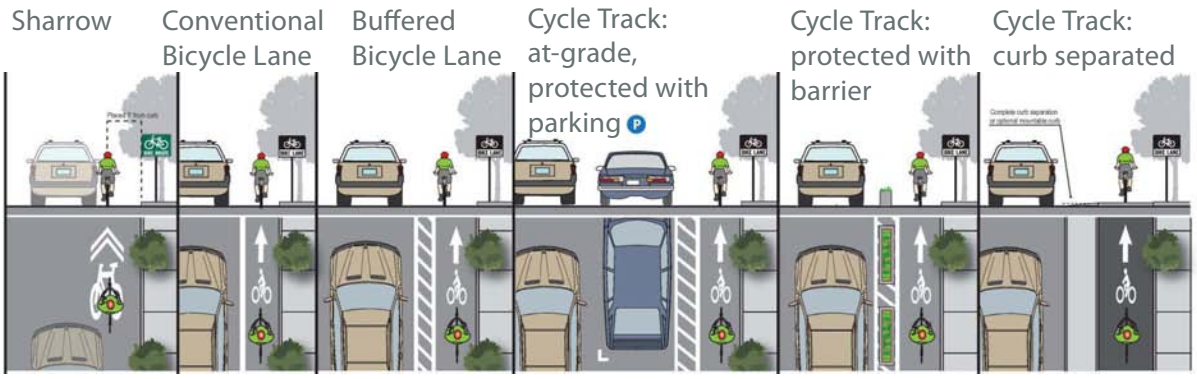
The following continua illustrate the range of bicycle facilities applicable to various roadway environments, based on the roadway type and desired degree of separation. Engineering judgment, traffic studies, previous municipal planning efforts, community input, and local context should be used to refine criteria when developing bicycle facility recommendations for a particular street. In some corridors, it may be desirable to construct facilities to a higher level of treatment than those recommended in relevant planning documents in order to enhance user safety and comfort. In other cases, existing and/or future motor vehicle speeds and volumes may not justify the recommended level of separation, and a less intensive treatment may be acceptable.

Least Protected → Most Protected

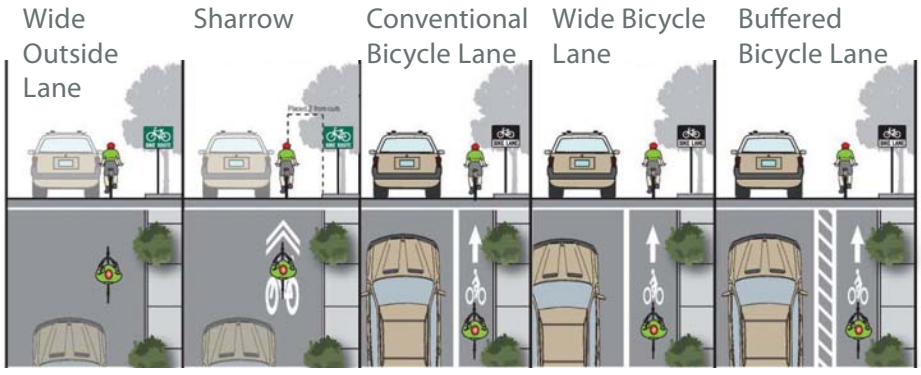
Arterial/Highway Bikeway Continuum (without curb and gutter)



Arterial/Highway Bikeway Continuum (with curb and gutter)



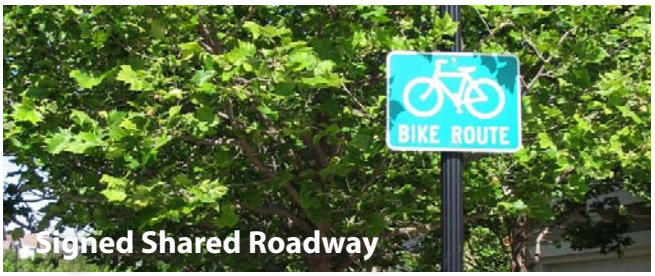
Collector Bikeway Continuum



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.



Signed Shared Roadway


Marked Shared Roadway


Bicycle Boulevard

This section includes:

- Signed Shared Roadway
- Marked Shared Roadway
- Bicycle Boulevard

Signed Shared Roadways

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.

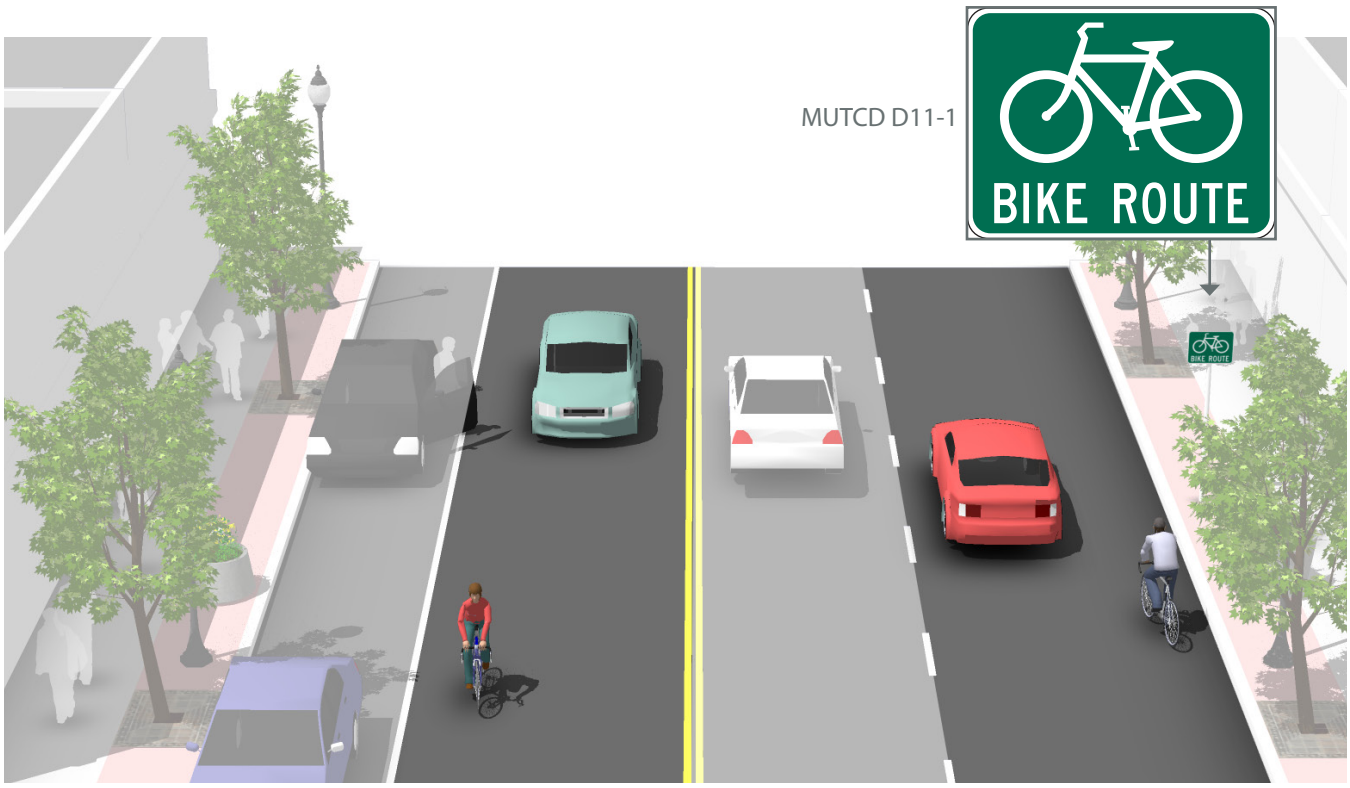
Guidance

Lane width varies depending on roadway configuration.

Bicycle 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.

MUTCD D11-1



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

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

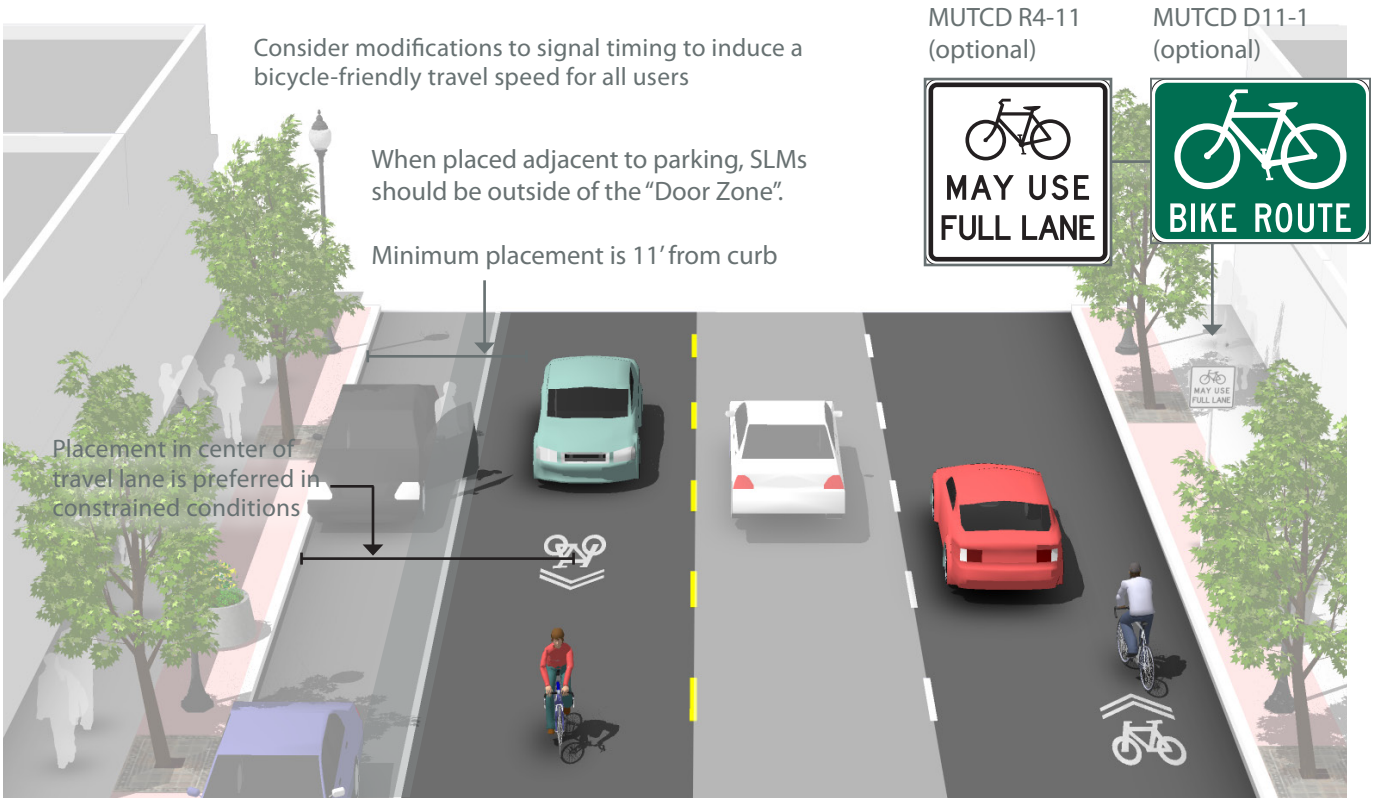
A marked shared roadway is a general purpose travel lane marked with shared lane markings (SLM) used to encourage bicycle travel and proper positioning within the lane.

In constrained conditions, the SLMs are placed in the middle of the lane to discourage unsafe passing by motor vehicles. 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

- 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

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)

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

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.
FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
NACTO. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide. NCDOT. (2000). Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Guidelines.

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.

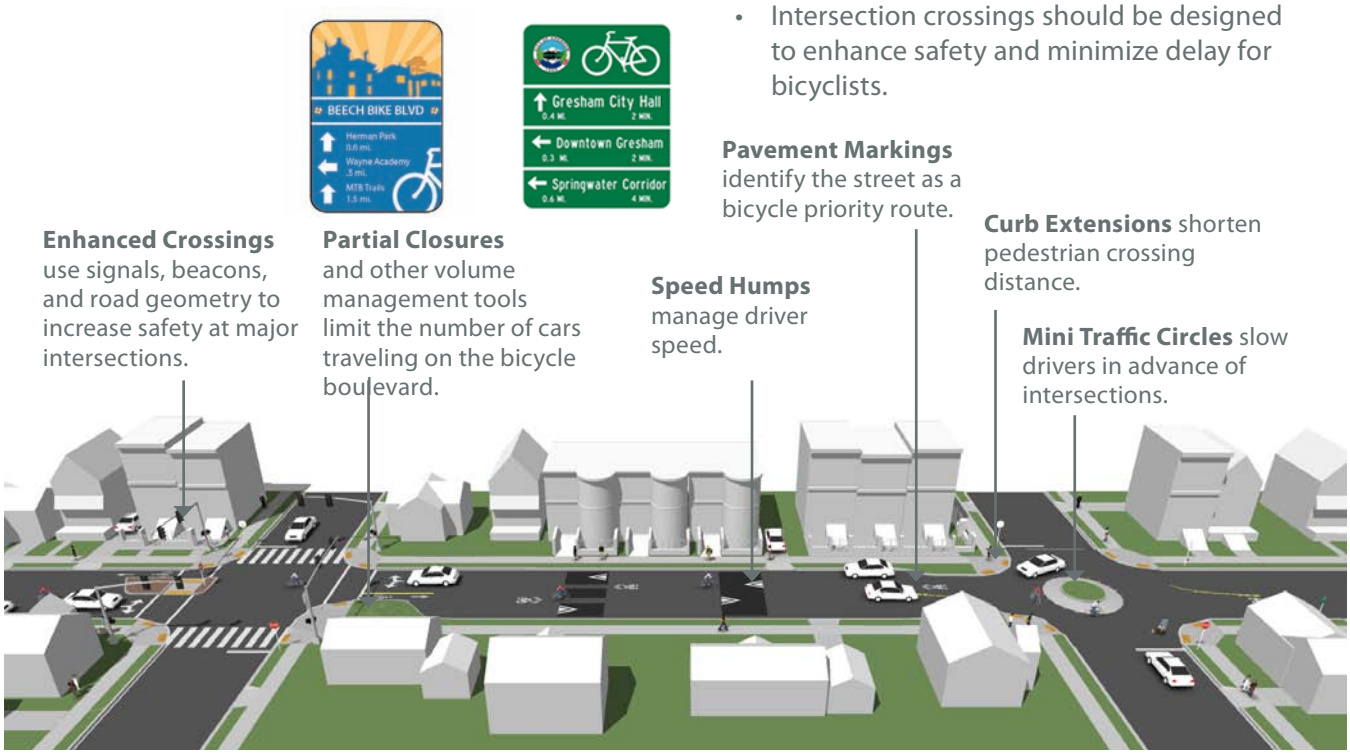
Bicycle Boulevard

Description

Bicycle boulevards are a special class of shared roadways designed for a broad spectrum of bicyclists. They are low-volume, low-speed local streets modified to enhance bicyclist comfort 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.

Guidance

- Signs and pavement markings are the minimum treatments necessary to designate a street as a bicycle boulevard.
- Bicycle boulevards should have a maximum posted speed of 25 mph. Use traffic calming to maintain an 85th percentile speed below 22 mph.
- Implement volume control treatments based on the context of the bicycle boulevard, using engineering judgment. Target motor vehicle volumes range from 1,000 to 3,000 vehicles per day.
- Intersection crossings should be designed to enhance safety and minimize delay for bicyclists.



Discussion

Bicycle 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 bicycle boulevard and compromise safety.

Traffic calming can deter motorists from driving on a street. Anticipate and 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

Alta Planning + Design and IBPI. (2009). Bicycle Boulevard Planning and Design Handbook. BikeSafe. (No Date). Bicycle countermeasure selection system. Ewing, Reid. (1999). Traffic Calming: State of the Practice. Ewing, Reid and Brown, Steven. (2009). U.S. Traffic Calming Manual.

Materials and Maintenance

Vegetation should be regularly trimmed to maintain visibility and attractiveness.

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.

This section includes:

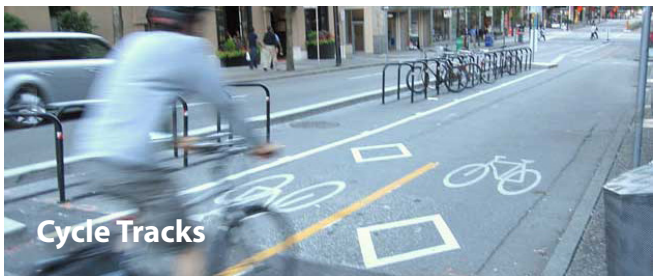
- Shoulder Bikeways
- Bicycle Lanes
- Buffered Bike Lanes
- Uphill Bicycle Climbing Lane
- Cycle Tracks


Shoulder Bikeways


Bicycle Lanes


Buffered Bike Lanes


Uphill Bicycle Climbing Lane


Cycle Tracks

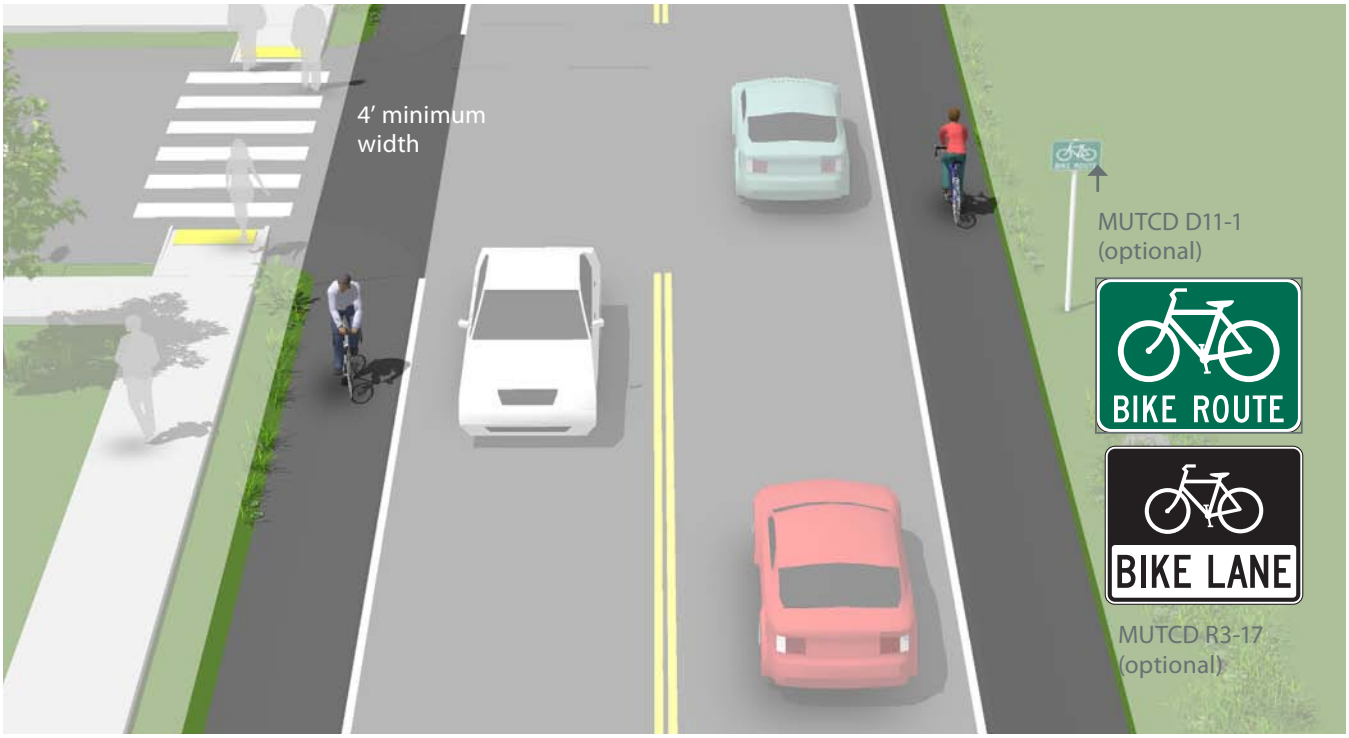
Shoulder Bikeways

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

- 4 foot minimum width. Greater widths preferred.
- 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.



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.

Where feasible, roadway widening should be performed with pavement resurfacing jobs.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. NCDOT. (1994). Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Guidelines.

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.

Bicycle Lanes

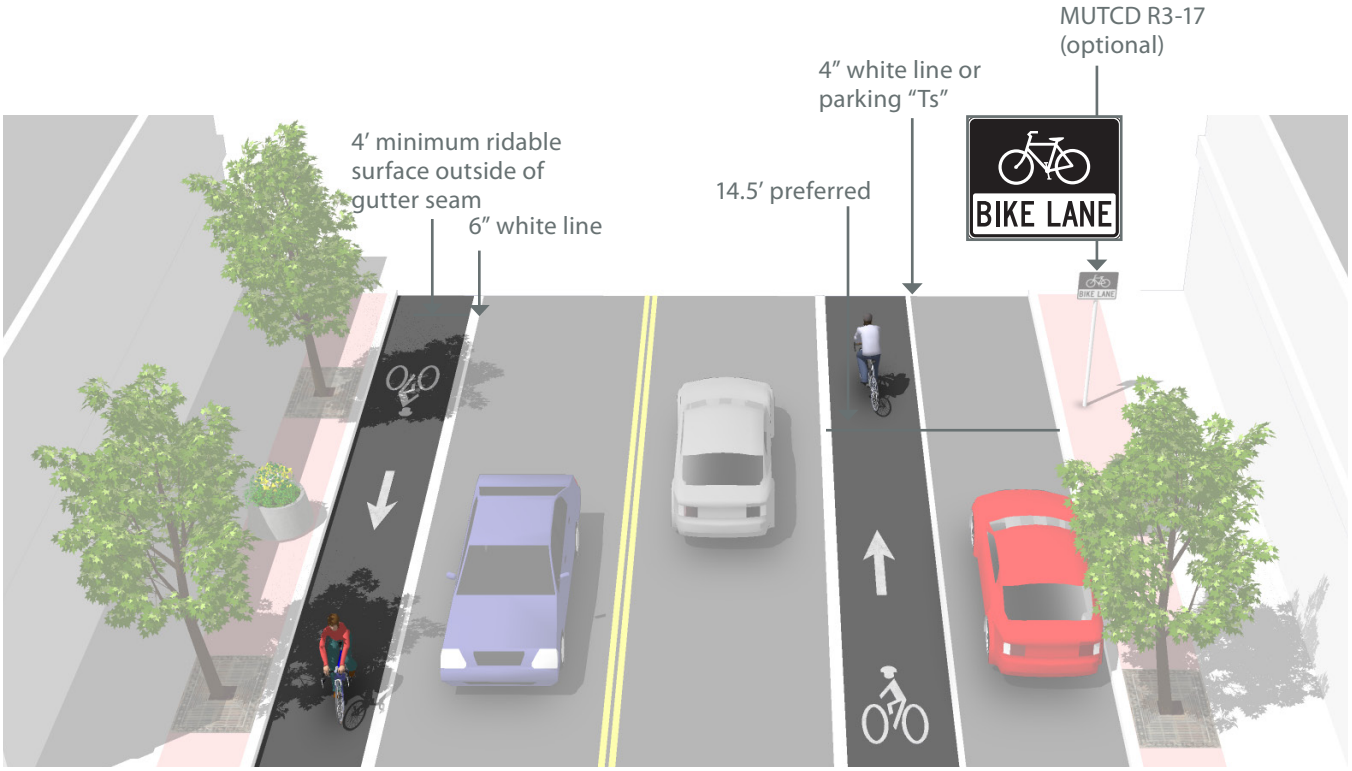
Description

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

- 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.
- 14.5 foot preferred from curb face to edge of bike lane. (12 foot minimum).
- 7 foot maximum width for use adjacent to arterials with high travel speeds. Greater widths may encourage motor vehicle use of bike lane.



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. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. NACTO. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide. NCDOT. (2000). Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) Guidelines. NCDOT. (1994). Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Guidelines.

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 Lanes

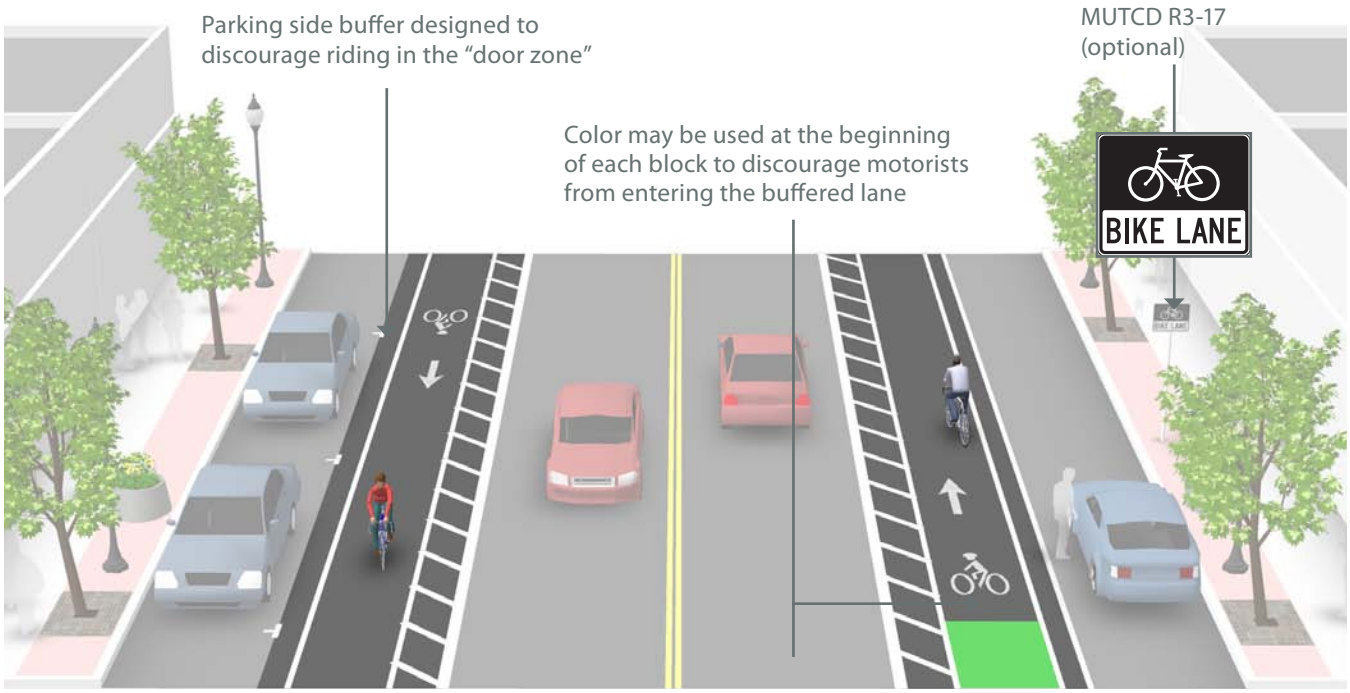
Description

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 are allowed as per MUTCD guidelines for buffered preferential lanes (section 3D-01).

Buffered bike lanes are designed to increase the space between the bike lane and the travel lane 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

- Where bicyclist volumes are high or where bicyclist speed differentials are significant, the desired bicycle travel area width is 7 feet.
- 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 or colored pavement for the inside buffer boundary where cars are expected to cross.



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

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.

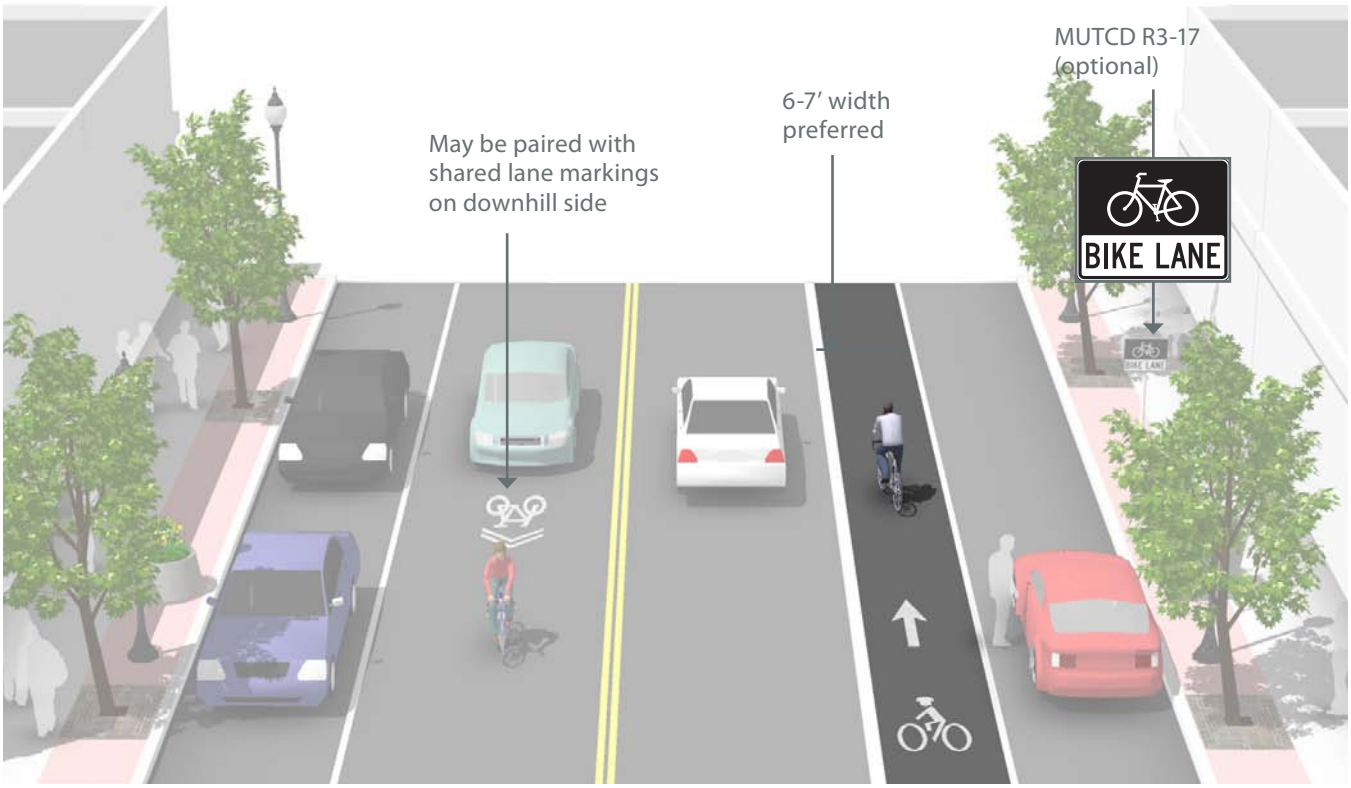
Uphill Bicycle Climbing Lane

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

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

Description

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.

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

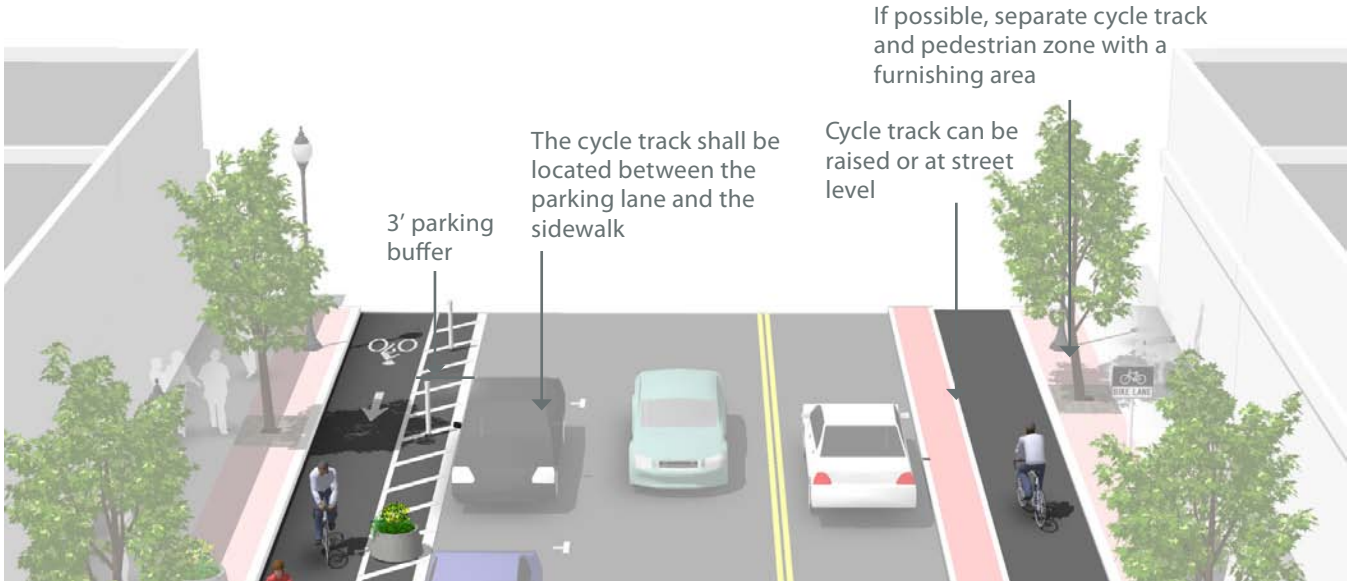
Cycle tracks should ideally be placed along streets with long blocks and few driveways or mid-block access points for motor vehicles.

One-Way Cycle Tracks

- 7 foot recommended minimum to allow passing. 5 foot minimum width in constrained locations.

Two-Way Cycle Tracks

- Cycle tracks located on one-way streets have fewer potential conflict areas than those on two-way streets.
- 12 foot recommended minimum for two-way facility. 8 foot minimum in constrained locations



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. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide.

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.

This section includes:

- Bike Lanes at Right Turn Only Lanes
- Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas
- Combined Bike Lane/Turn Lane
- Intersection Crossing Markings
- Bicycles at Single Lane Roundabouts

Bike Lanes at Right Turn Only Lanes


Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas

Combined Bike Lane/Turn Lane


Intersection Crossing Markings


Bicyclists at Single Lane Roundabouts

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.

Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

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

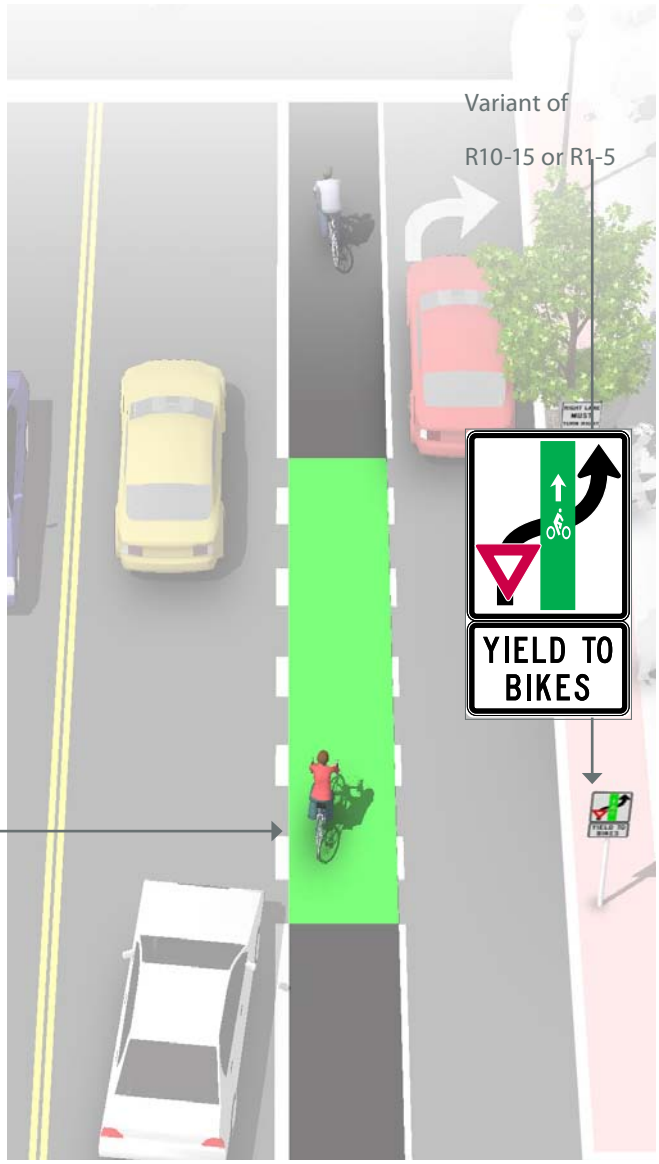
Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas

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 color 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.



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. (2011). 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. NACTO. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide.

Materials and Maintenance

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

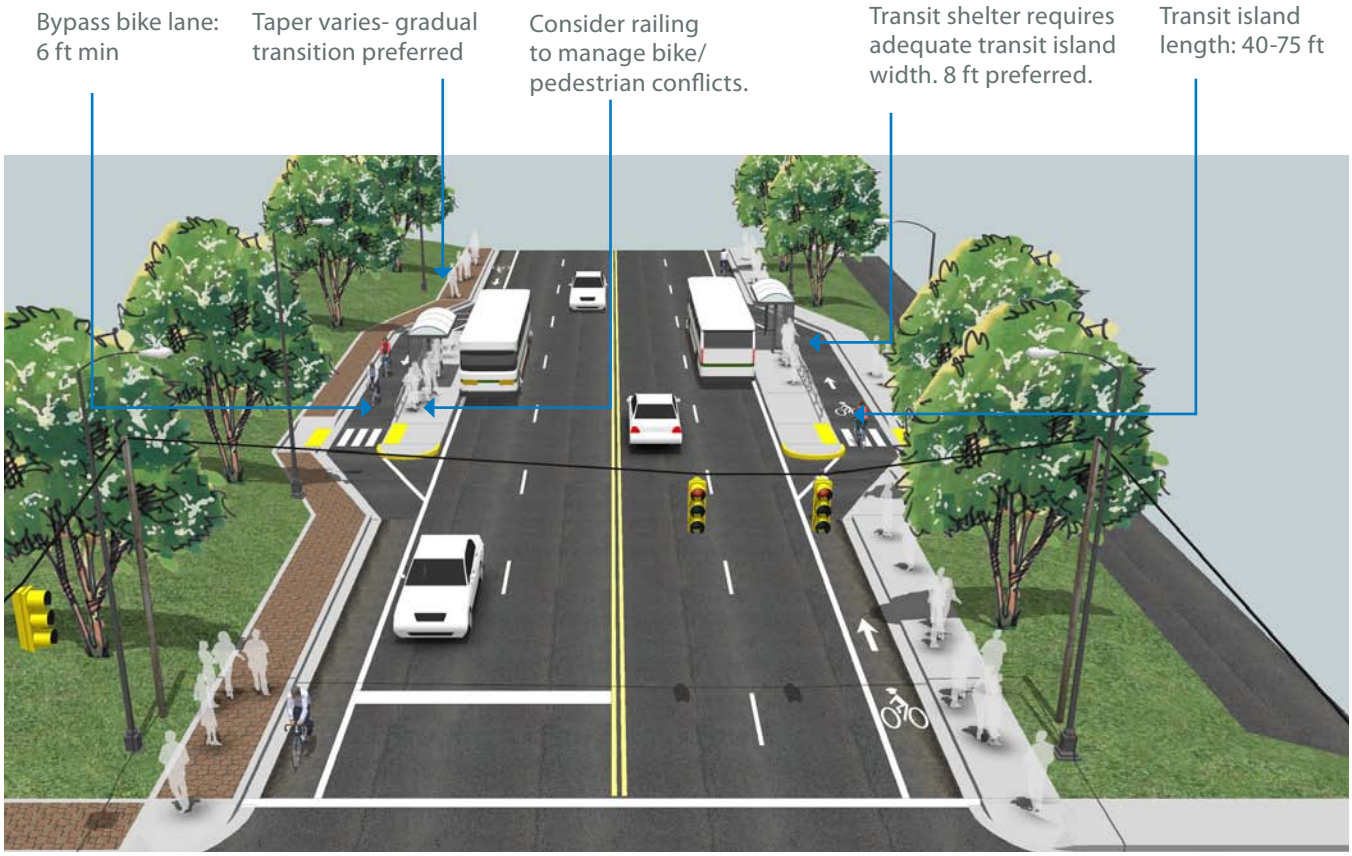
Bicycle Lane Transit Bypass

Description

Transit bypass bike lane is a channelized lane for bicycles designed to allow bicyclists to pass stopped busses, and prevent conflicts with busses pulling to the curb. This is particularly helpful on corridors with high volumes of transit vehicles and bicyclists, where "leapfrogging" may occur.

Guidance

- Appropriate in areas with high volumes of busses and bicyclists.
- 6 foot minimum width bypass lane.
- Transit island should be wide enough to hold all waiting transit riders.



Discussion

Ensure an adequate width bicycle lane where the bypass lane rejoins the roadway so that bicyclists do not encroach into adjacent lanes.

Conflicts with pedestrians may be increased over conventional bus stop designs. Consider railings to direct pedestrians to a single location where they may cross to the sidewalk.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide.

Materials and Maintenance

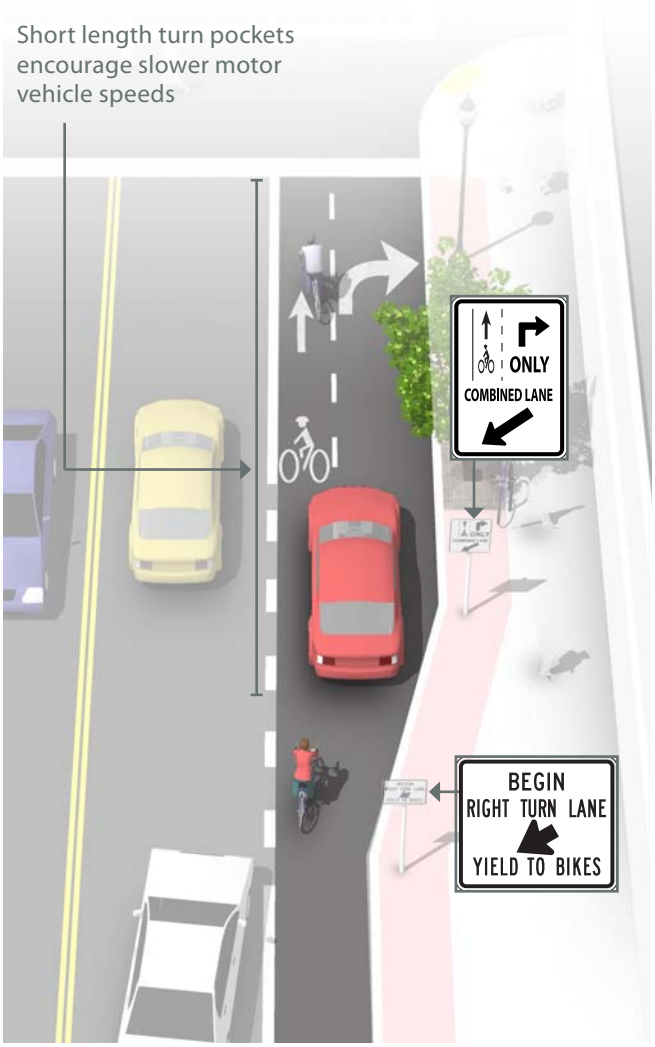
The channelized bicycle lane may require additional sweeping to maintain free of debris.

Combined Bike Lane / Turn Lane

Description

The combined bicycle/right turn lane places a standard-width bike lane on the left side of a dedicated right turn lane. A dotted line delineates the space for bicyclists and motorists within the shared lane. This treatment includes signage advising motorists and bicyclists of proper positioning within the 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.
- Bike Lane pocket should have a minimum width of 4 feet with 5 feet preferred.
- A dotted 4 inch line and bicycle lane marking should be used to clarify bicyclist positioning within the combined lane, without excluding cars from the suggested bicycle area.
- A "Right Turn Only" sign with an "Except Bicycles" plaque may be needed to make it legal for through bicyclists to use a right turn lane.

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. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide.
This treatment is currently slated for inclusion in the next edition of the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

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.

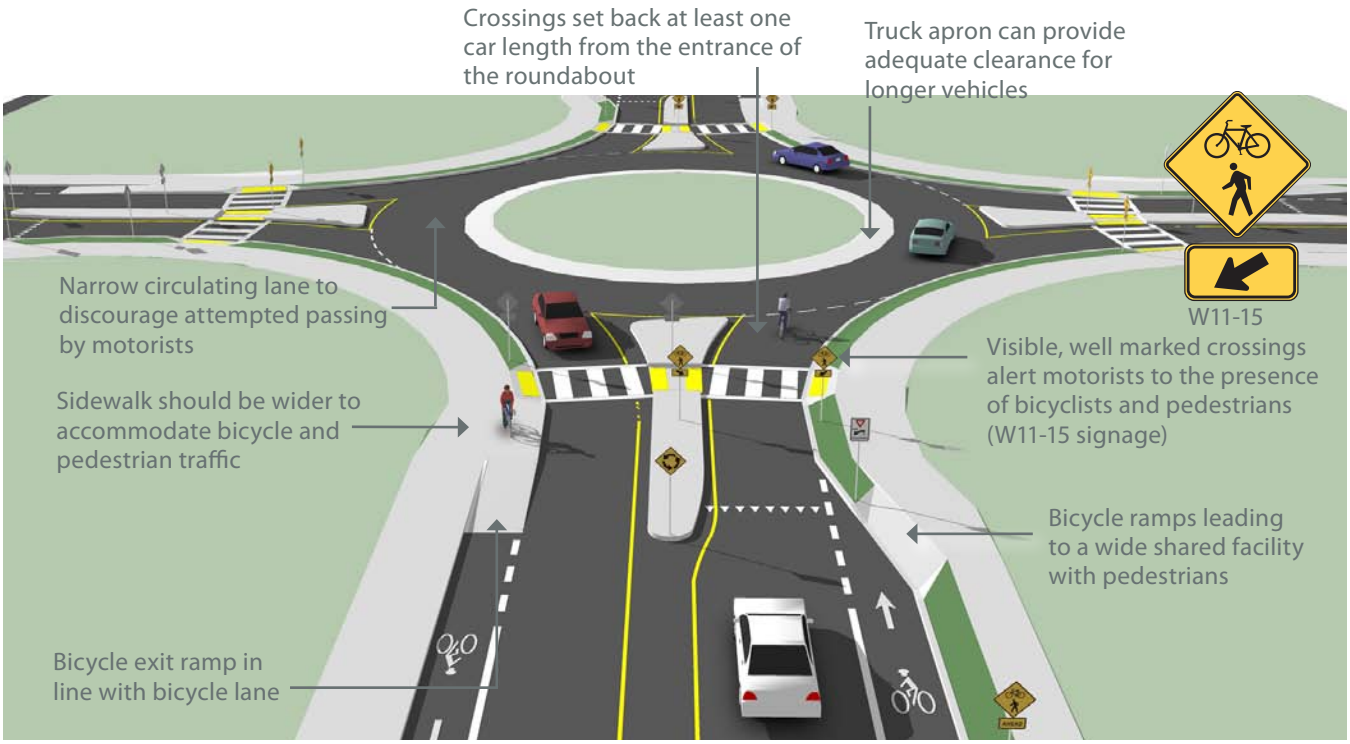
Bicyclists at Single Lane Roundabouts

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. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. FHWA. (2000). Roundabouts: An Informational Guide. FHWA. (2010). Roundabouts: An Informational Guide, Second Edition. NCHRP 672

Materials and Maintenance

Signage and striping require routine maintenance.

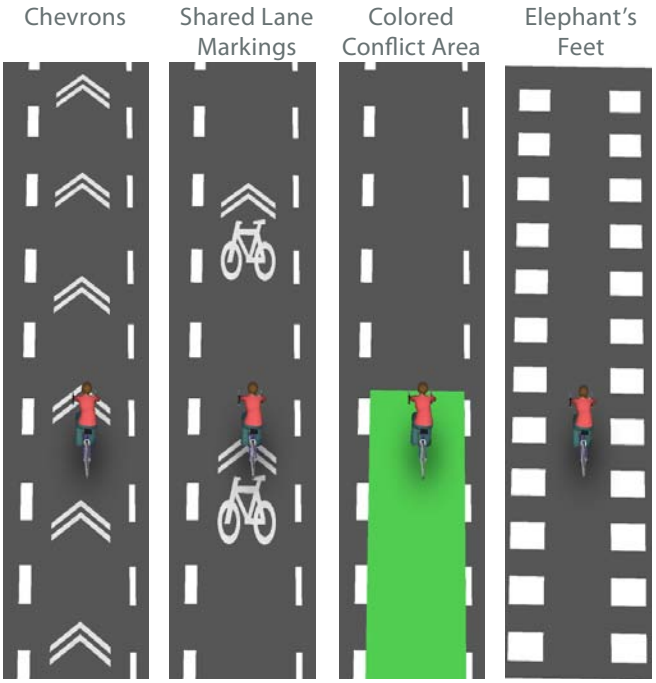
Intersection Crossing Markings

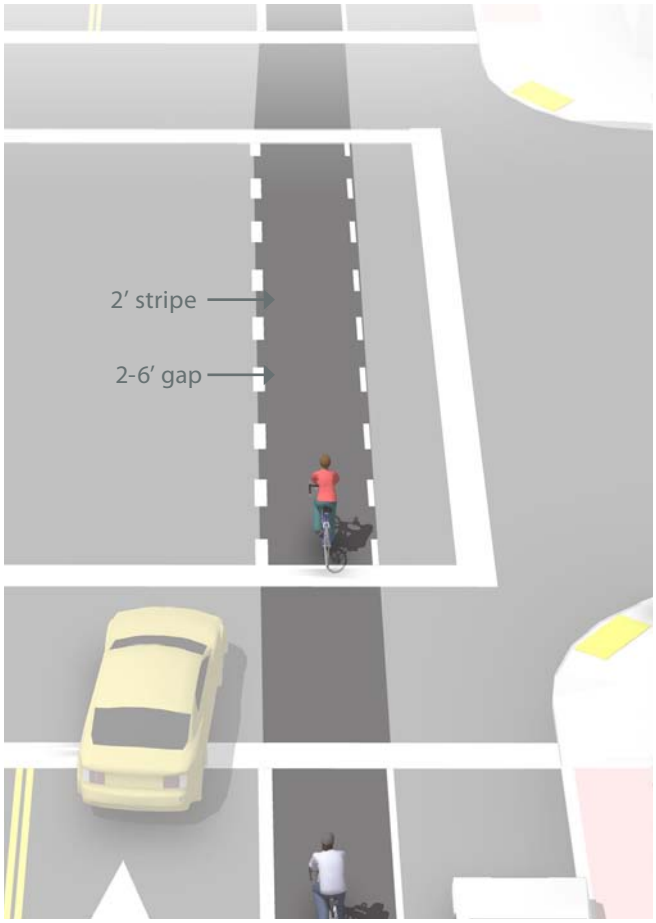
Description

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 Canada, and in use in Chicago, IL.





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

Materials and Maintenance

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

SIGNAGE PROGRAMS

A comprehensive system of signage ensures that information is provided regarding the safe and appropriate use of all facilities, both on-road and on multi-use paths. The bicycle network should be signed seamlessly with other alternative transportation routes, such as bicycle routes from neighboring jurisdictions, trails, historic and/or cultural walking tours, and wherever possible, local transit systems.

Signage includes post- or pole-mounted signs and pavement striping. Signage is further divided into information signs, directional/wayfinding signs, regulatory signs and warning signs. Trail signage should conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Official Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. Bicycle signage should also be coordinated with local colleges and universities.

Share the Road signs remind motorists that bicyclists have the right to ride on the roadway.

The "Bikes Allowed Use of Full Lane" sign is currently used on an experimental basis in several cities.

Directional Signs

Implementing a well-planned and attractive system of signing can greatly enhance bikeway facilities by signaling their presence and location to both motorists and existing or potential bicycle users. Effective signage can encourage more bicycling by leading people to bikeways, and by creating a safe and efficient transportation option for local residents and visitors.

The signage examples to on page B-27 show a number of different signs and markings, both on poles and on the roadway. Wayfinding signs such as these improve the clarity of travel direction while illustrating that destinations are only a short ride away. The signs shown are provided only as a point of reference for the purposes of these guidelines and are not being adopted by Goldsboro.

Regulatory/Warning Signs

Regulatory and warning bicycle signage like the examples shown on page B-25 should conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The signage on page B-25 are examples of regulatory signs for bicycle (their labels are sign reference numbers for the MUTCD).

Special Purpose Signage

The "Share the Road" sign (to the left), is designed to advise motorists that bicyclists are allowed to share and have the right to cycle on narrow roadways with motor vehicles. For more on the "Share the Road Initiative" go to: http://ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/safety/programs_initiatives/share.html

Innovative signage is often developed to increase bicycle awareness and improve visibility (such as 'Bikes Allowed Use of Full Lane', bottom left). Special purpose signs to be installed on public roadways in North Carolina must be approved by NCDOT's Traffic Control Devices Committee and/or the City of Goldsboro. New designs can be utilized on an experimental basis with NCDOT approval.

R1-1

R1-2

R3-17

R3-17a

R3-17b

R4-1

R4-2

R4-3

R4-4


R4-7

R5-1b

R9-3c

R5-3


R5-6

R7-9

R7-9a


R9-3a

R9-5

R9-6

R9-7

R10-3

R10-22

R15-1

Bikeway Signing

The ability to navigate through a town is informed by landmarks, natural features and other visual cues. Signs throughout the town 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.

Sign Types


Sign Placement

This section includes:

- Sign Types
- Sign Placement

Sign Types

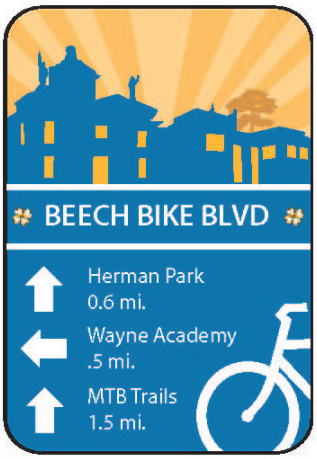
Description
A bicycle wayfinding system consists of comprehensive signing and/or pavement markings to guide bicyclists to their destinations along preferred bicycle routes. There are three general types of wayfinding signs:

Confirmation Signs
Indicate to bicyclists that they are on a designated bikeway. Make motorists aware of the bicycle route. This signage can include destinations and distance/time, but does not include arrows.

Turn Signs
Indicate where a bikeway turns from one street onto another street. This signage can be used with pavement markings, and does include destinations and arrows.

Decisions Signs
Mark the junction of two bikeways and informs bicyclists of the designated bike route to access key destinations. Destinations and arrows, distances and travel times are optional but recommended.

Alternative Designs
A customized alternative design may be used to include pedestrian-oriented travel times, local town logos, and sponsorship branding.



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.

Concept wayfinding signage package for Goldsboro, NC

Sign Placement

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.

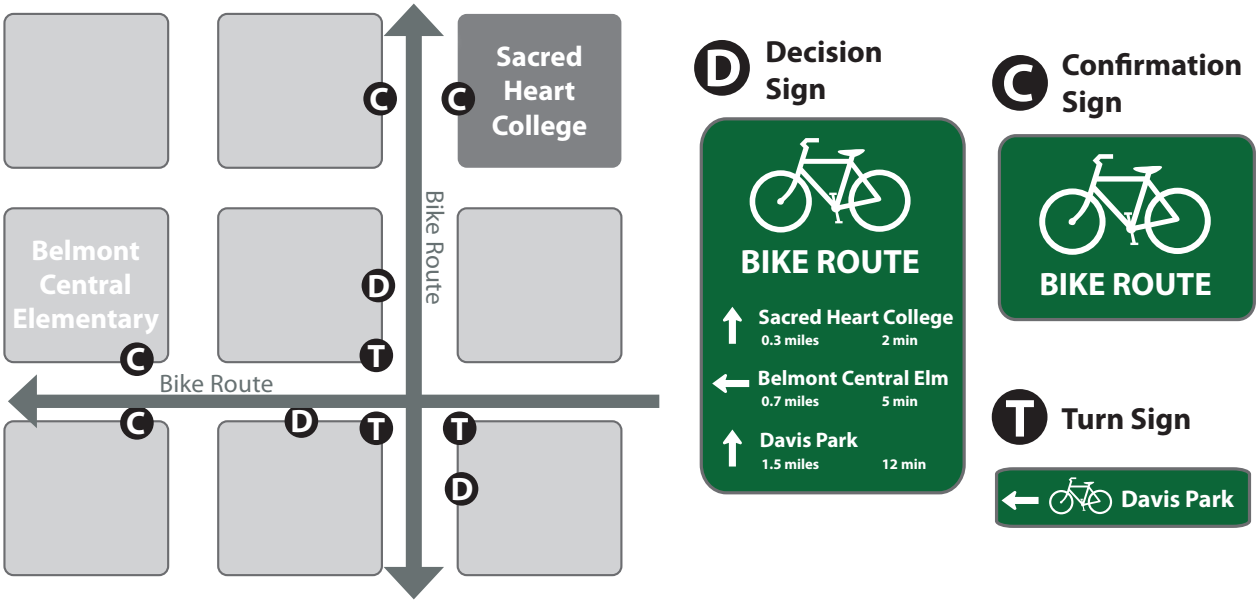
Along a route to indicate a nearby destination.

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.



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

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.

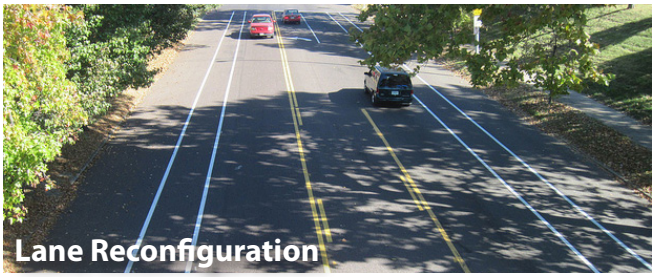
Although largely intended for major streets, these measures may be appropriate for any roadway where bike lanes would be the best accommodation for bicyclists.

This section includes:

- Roadway Widening
- Lane Narrowing
- Lane Reconfiguration
- Parking Reduction


Roadway Widening


Lane Narrowing


Lane Reconfiguration


Parking Reduction

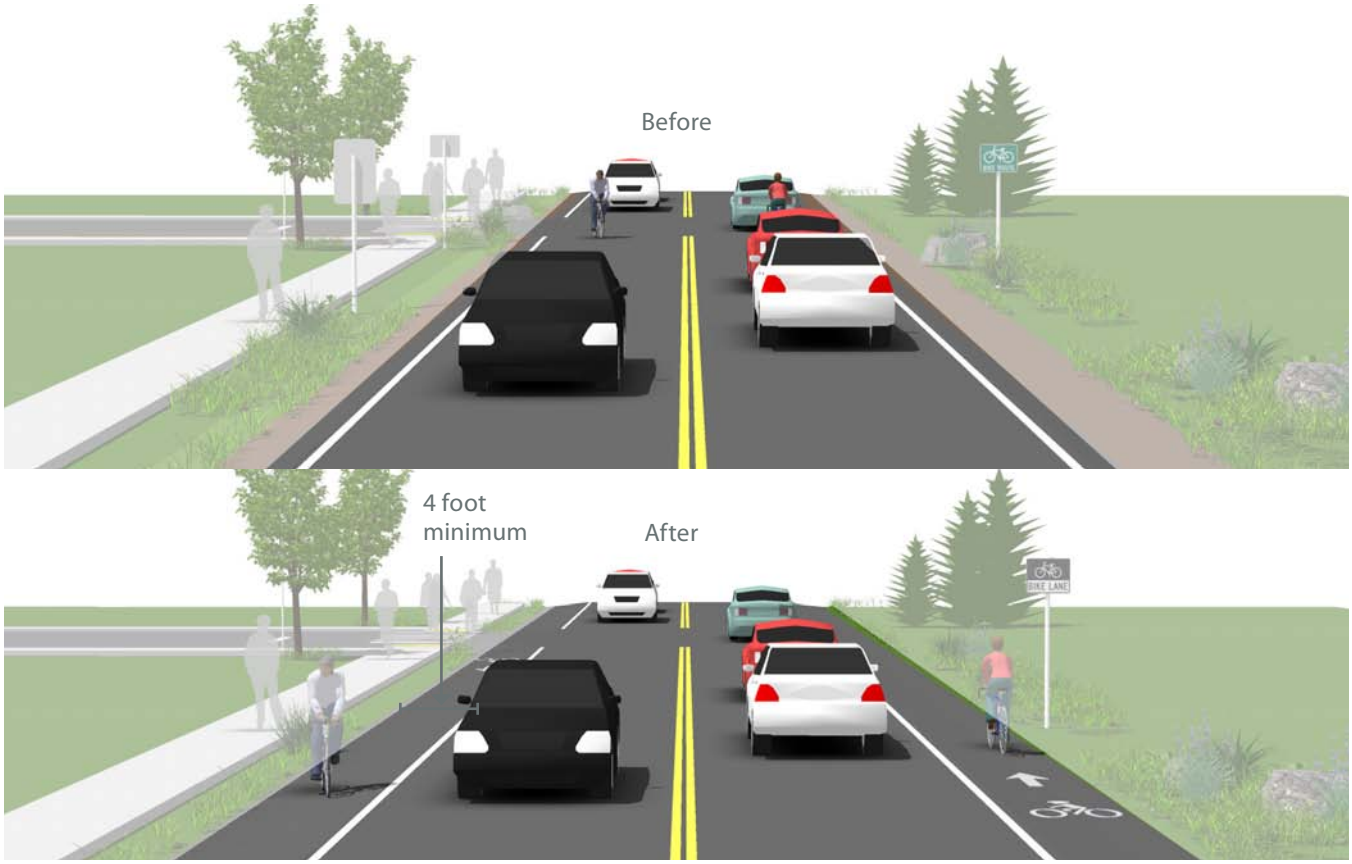
Roadway Widening

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. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.

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.

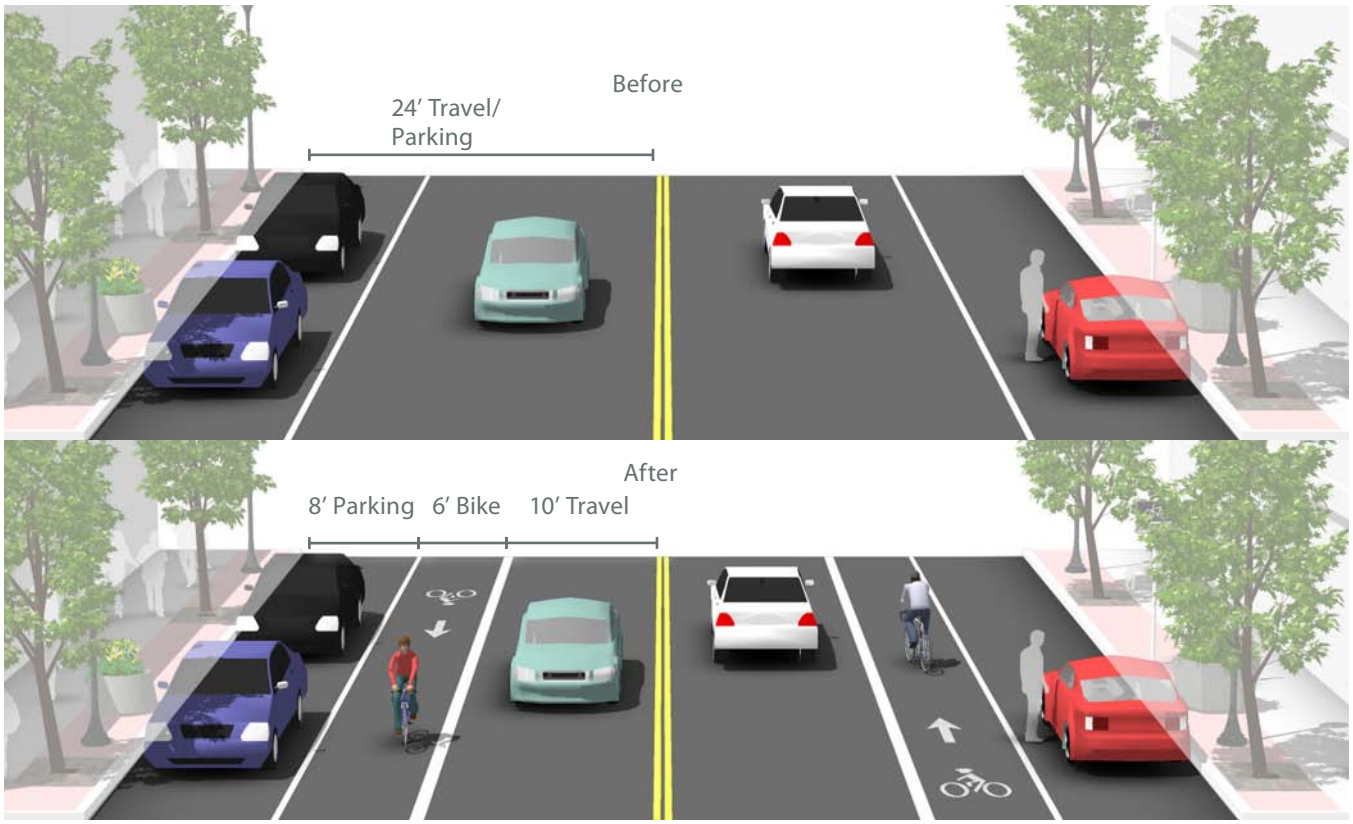
Guidance

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

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.

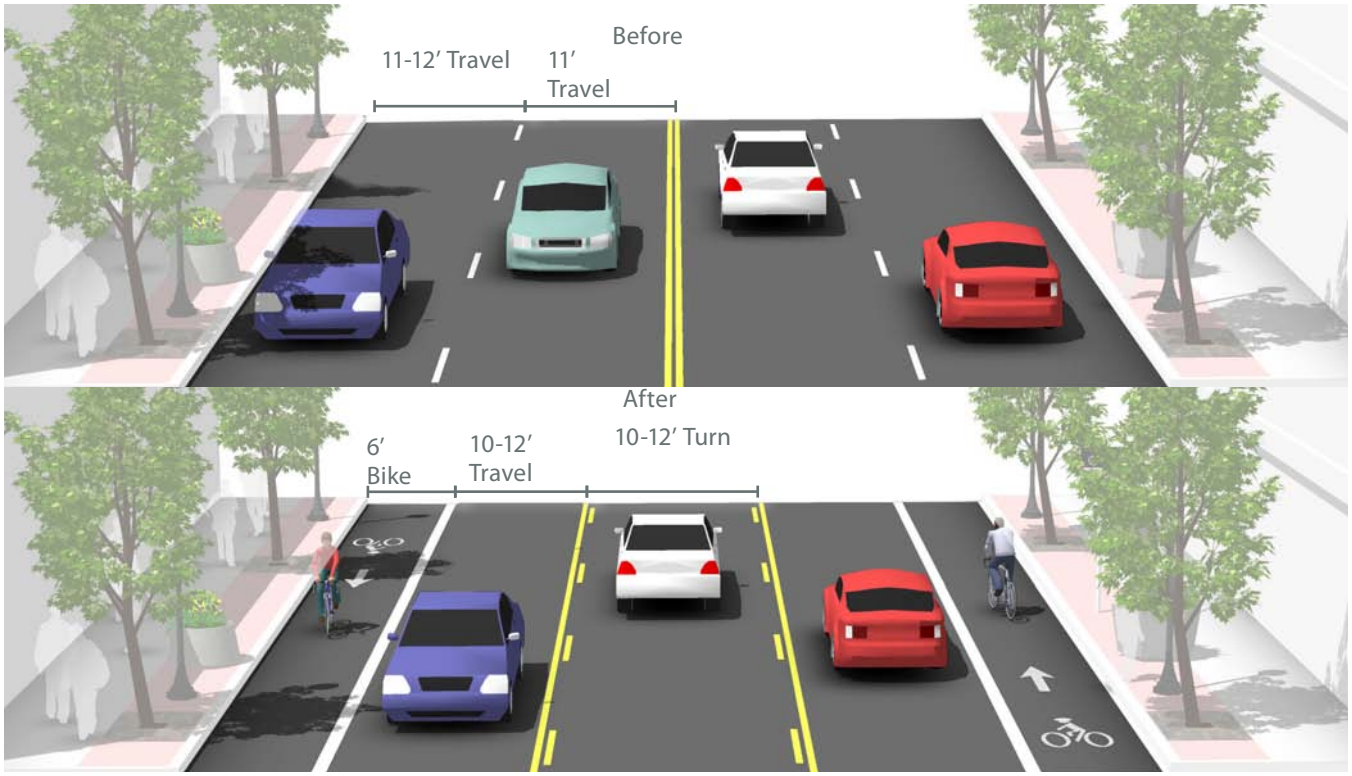
Guidance

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. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. FHWA. (2010). Evaluation of Lane Reduction "Road Diet" Measures on Crashes. Publication Number: FHWA-HRT-10-053

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.

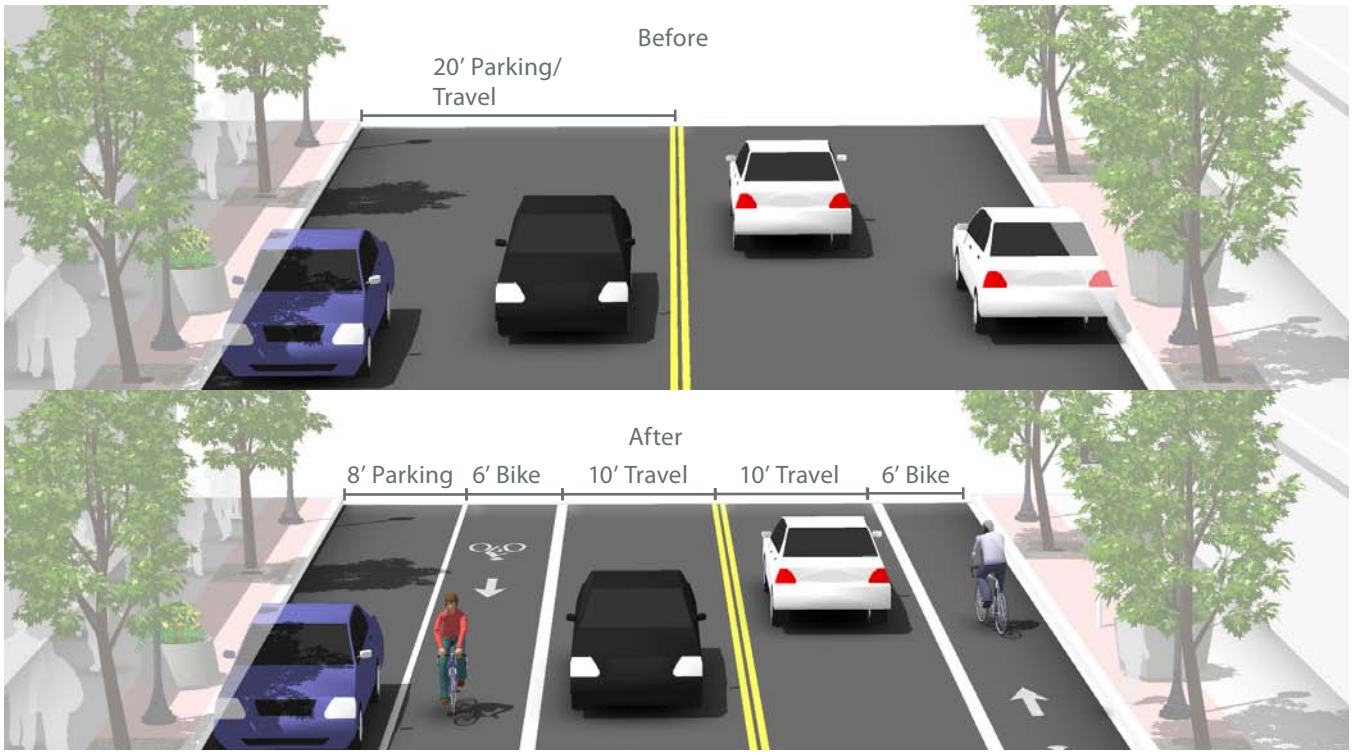
Guidance

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. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.

AASHTO. (2004). A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets.

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.

MULTI-USE PATHS AND OFF-STREET FACILITIES

A multi-use path (also known as a greenway) 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).

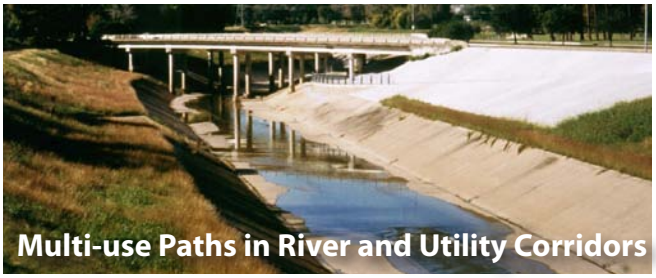
Key features of multi-use paths include:

- 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.

This Section Includes:

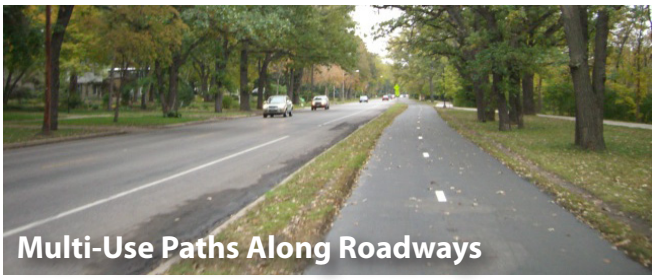
- General Design Practices
- Multi-use Paths in River and Utility Corridors
- Multi-Use Paths in Abandoned Rail Corridors
- Multi-use Paths in Active Rail Corridors
- Neighborhood Greenways
- Local Neighborhood Accessways
- Natural Surface Greenways
- Multi-Use Paths along Roadways


General Design Practices


Multi-use Paths in River and Utility Corridors


Multi-use Paths in Abandoned Rail Corridors


Local Neighborhood Accessways


Multi-Use Paths Along Roadways

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.

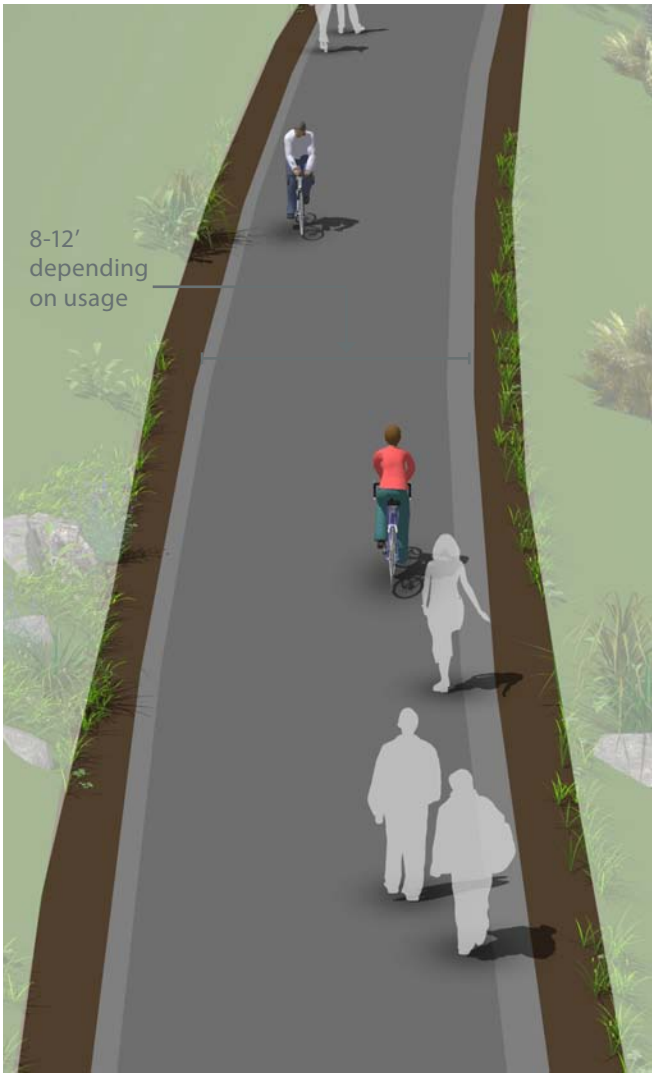
Overhead Clearance

- 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.

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.



Discussion

The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities generally recommends against the development of shared use paths along roadways. Also known as "sidepaths", these facilities create a situation where a portion of the bicycle traffic rides against the normal flow of motor vehicle traffic and can result in wrong-way riding when either entering or exiting the path.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

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.

Multi-use Paths in River and Utility Corridors

Description

Utility and waterway corridors often offer excellent greenway 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

Multi-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 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 is undesirable by all parties. Hazardous materials, deep water or swift current, steep, slippery slopes, and debris all constitute risks for public access. Appropriate fencing may be required 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. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Flink, C. (1993). Greenways: A Guide To Planning Design And Development.

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.

Multi-use Paths in Abandoned Rail Corridors

Description

Commonly referred to as Rails-to-Trails or Rail-Trails, these projects convert vacated rail corridors into off-street paths. Rail corridors offer several advantages, including relatively direct routes between major destinations and generally flat terrain.

In some cases, rail owners may rail-bank their corridors as an alternative to a complete abandonment of the line, thus preserving the rail corridor for possible future use.

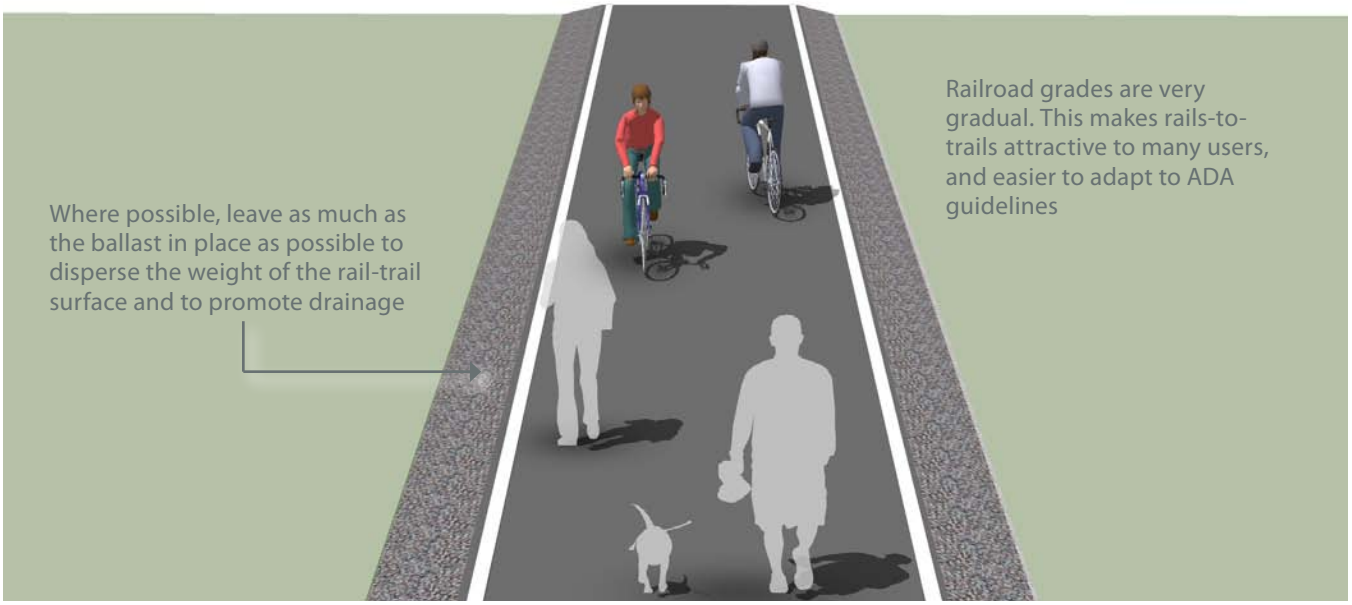
The railroad may form an agreement with any person, public or private, who would like to use the banked rail line as a trail or linear park until it is again needed for rail use. Municipalities should acquire abandoned rail rights-of-way whenever possible to preserve the opportunity for trail development.

Guidance

Multi-use paths in abandoned rail corridors should meet or exceed general design practices. If additional width allows, wider paths, and landscaping are desirable.

In full conversions of abandoned rail corridors, the sub-base, superstructure, drainage, bridges, and crossings are already established. Design becomes a matter of working with the existing infrastructure to meet the needs of a rail-trail.

If converting a rail bed adjacent to an active rail line, see Multi-use Paths in Active Rail Corridors.



Discussion

It is often impractical and costly to add material to existing railroad bed fill slopes. This results in trails that meet minimum path widths, but often lack preferred shoulder and lateral clearance widths.

Rail-to-trails can involve many challenges including the acquisition of the right of way, cleanup and removal of toxic substances, and rehabilitation of tunnels, trestles and culverts. A structural engineer should evaluate existing railroad bridges for structural integrity to ensure they are capable of carrying the appropriate design loads.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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Local Neighborhood Accessways

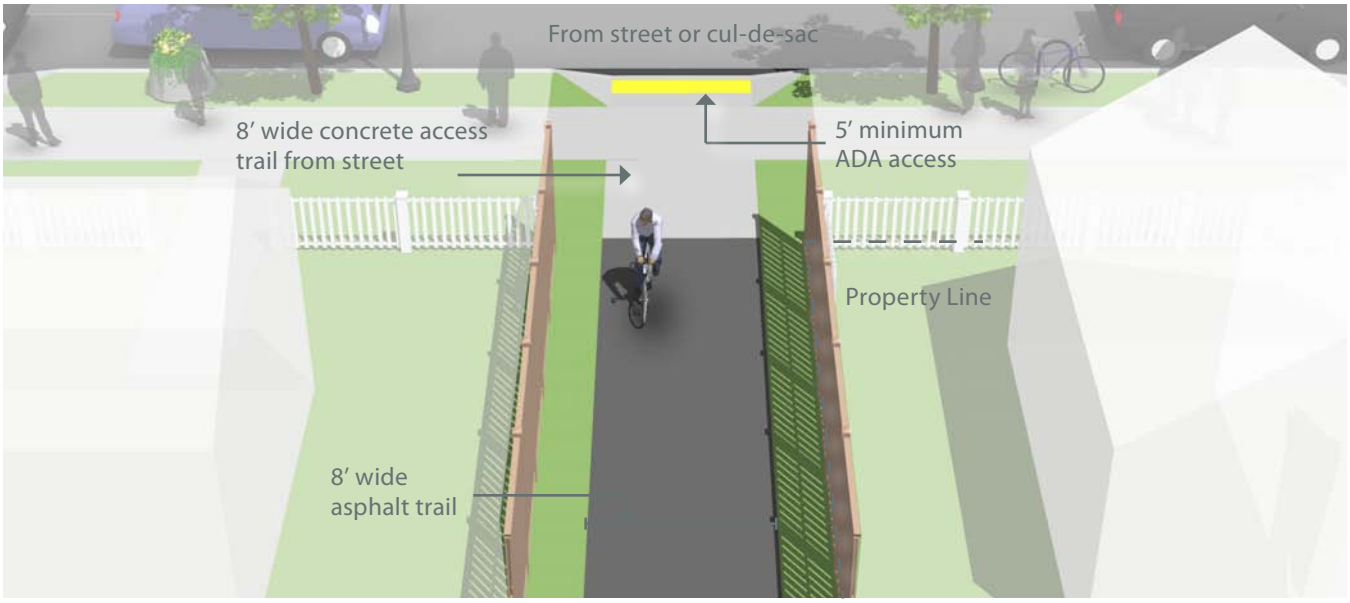
Description

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 town/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. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. FHWA. (2006). Federal Highway Administration University Course on Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Lesson 19: Greenways and Shared Use Paths.

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.

Natural Surface Greenways

Description

Sometimes referred to as footpaths or hiking trails, the natural surface trail is used along corridors that are environmentally-sensitive but can support bare earth, wood chip, or boardwalk trails. Natural surface trails are a low-impact solution and found in areas with limited development or where a more primitive experience is desired.

Guidance presented in this section does not include considerations for bicycle users. Natural surface trails designed for bicycle users are typically known as single track trails.

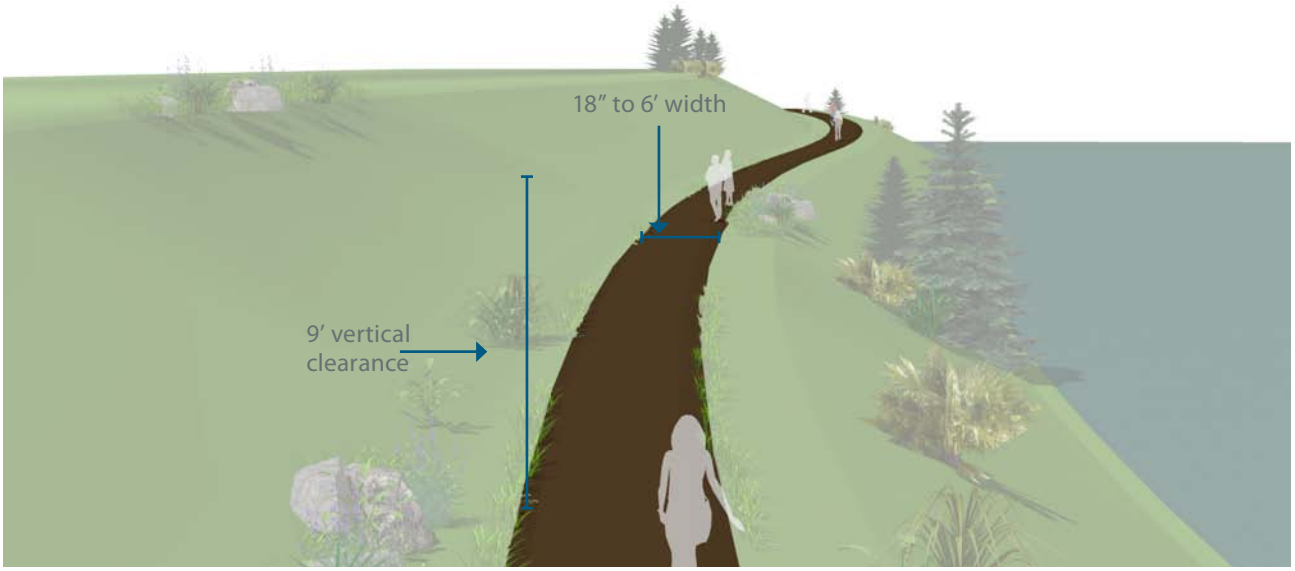
Guidance

Trails can vary in width from 18 inches to 6 feet or greater; vertical clearance should be maintained at nine-feet above grade.

Base preparation varies from machine-worked surfaces to those worn only by usage.

Trail surface can be made of dirt, rock, soil, forest litter, or other native materials. Some trails use crushed stone (a.k.a. "crush and run") that contains about 4% fines by weight, and compacts with use.

Provide positive drainage for trail tread without extensive removal of existing vegetation; maximum slope is five percent (typical).



Discussion

Trail erosion control measures include edging along the low side of the trail, steps and terraces to contain surface material, and water bars to direct surface water off the trail; use bedrock surface where possible to reduce erosion.

Additional References and Guidelines

Flink, C. (1993). Greenways: A Guide To Planning Design And Development.

Materials and Maintenance

Consider implications for accessibility when weighing options for surface treatments.

Multi-Use Paths Along Roadways

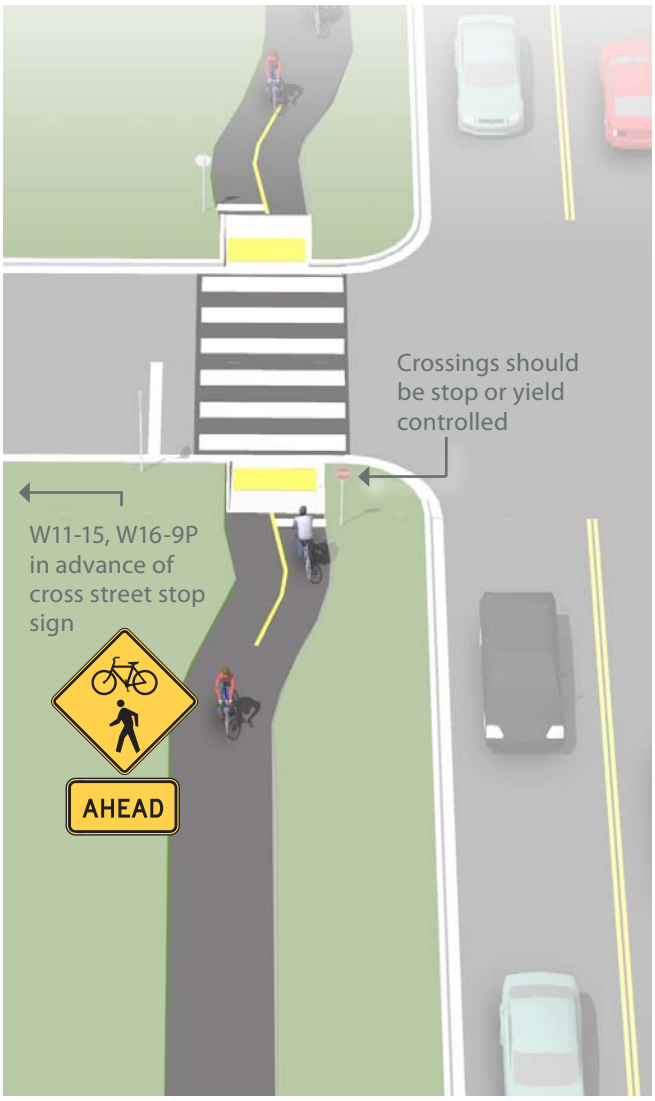
Description

A multi-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.

Along roadways, these facilities create a situation where a portion of the bicycle traffic rides against the normal flow of motor vehicle traffic and can result in wrong-way riding where bicyclists enter or leave the path.

The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities generally recommends against the development of multi-use paths directly adjacent to roadways.

Pay special attention to the entrance/exit of the path as bicyclists may continue to travel on the wrong side of the street.



Guidance

- 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 such as joggers, bicyclists, rollerbladers and pedestrians. A separate track (5' minimum) can be provided for pedestrian use.
- Bicycle lanes should be provided as an alternate (more transportation-oriented) facility whenever possible.

Discussion

When designing a bikeway network, the presence of a nearby or parallel path should not be used as a reason to not provide adequate shoulder or bicycle lane width on the roadway, as the on-street bicycle facility will generally be superior to the "sidepath" for experienced bicyclists and those who are cycling for transportation purposes.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. NACTO. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide. See entry on Raised Cycle Tracks. NCDOT. (1994). Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Guidelines.

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.

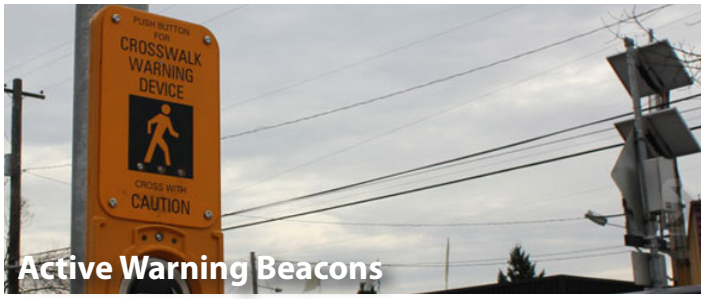
MULTI-USE PATH CROSSINGS

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

Unsignalized Marked Crossings

Description

An unsignalized marked 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.

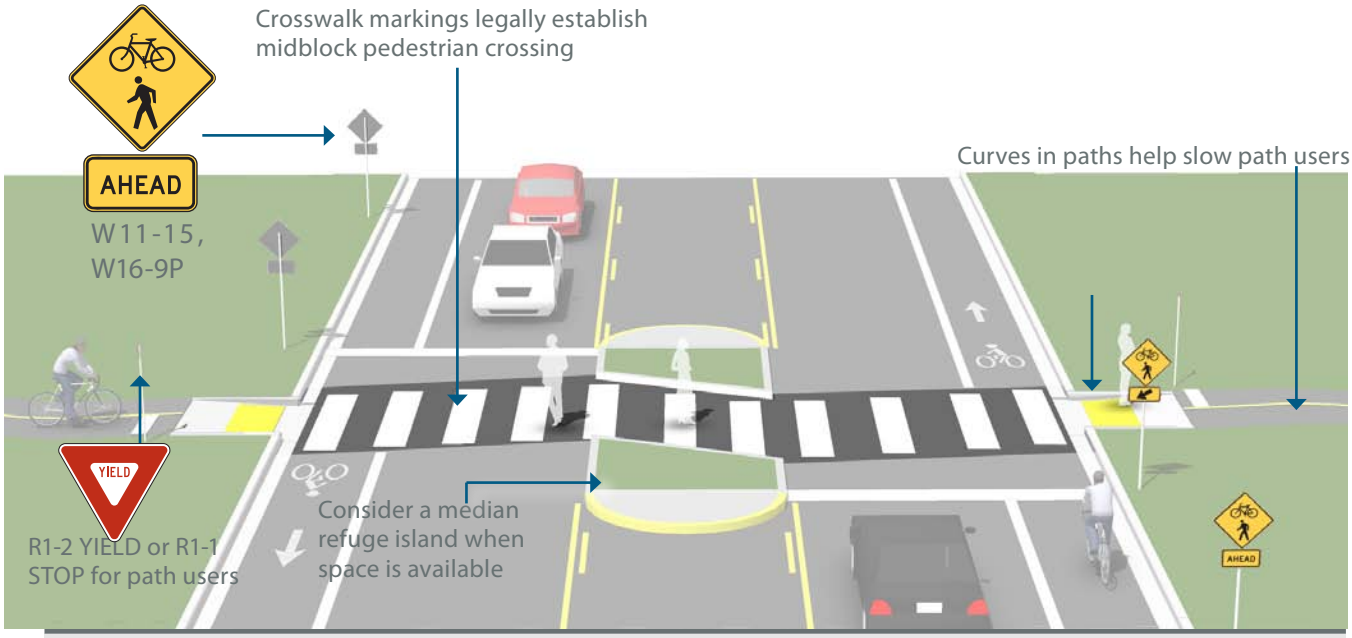
When space is available, using a median refuge island can improve user safety by providing pedestrians and bicyclists space to perform the safe crossing of one side of the street at a time.

Guidance

Refer to the FHWA report, "Safety Effects of Marked vs. Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations" for specific volume and speed ranges where a marked crosswalk alone may be sufficient.

Where the speed limit exceeds 40 miles per hour, marked crosswalks alone should not be used at unsignalized locations.

Crosswalks should not be installed at locations that could present an increased risk to pedestrians, such as where there is poor sight distance, complex or confusing designs, a substantial volume of heavy trucks, or other dangers, without first providing adequate design features and/or traffic control devices.



Discussion

Marked crosswalks alone will not make crossings safer, nor will marked crosswalks necessarily result in more vehicles stopping for pedestrians. Whether or not marked crosswalks are installed, it is important to consider other pedestrian facility enhancements (e.g. raised median, traffic signal, roadway narrowing, enhanced overhead lighting, traffic-calming measures, curb extensions, etc.) as needed to improve the safety of the crossing. These are general recommendations; good engineering judgment should be used in individual cases for deciding which treatment to use.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. (2012). Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

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.

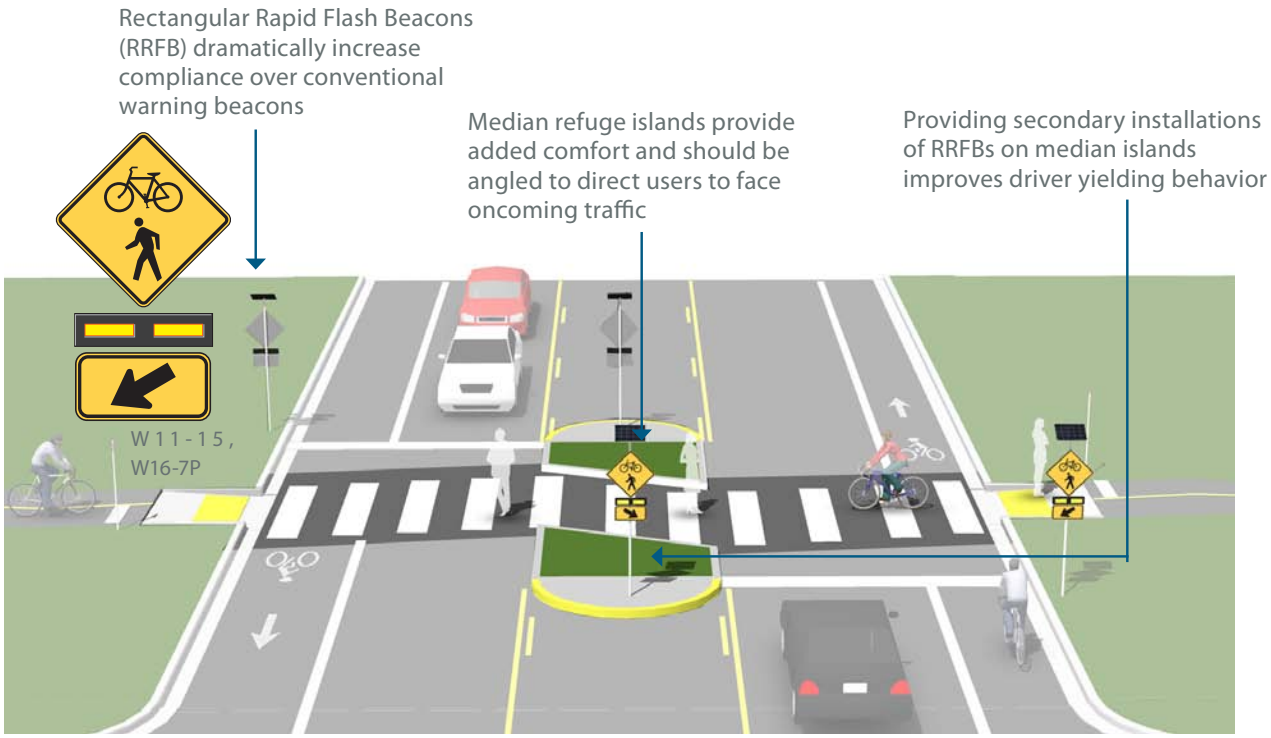
These enhancements include pathway user or sensor actuated warning beacons, Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB) shown below, or in-roadway warning lights.

Guidance

Guidance for Unsignalized Marked 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. (2012). Urban Bikeway Design Guide. FHWA. (2009). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. FHWA. (2008). MUTCD - Interim Approval for Optional Use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (IA-11) NCDOT. (2012). Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines.

Materials and Maintenance

Depending on power supply, maintenance of active warning beacons can be minimal. If solar power is used, signals should run for years without issue.

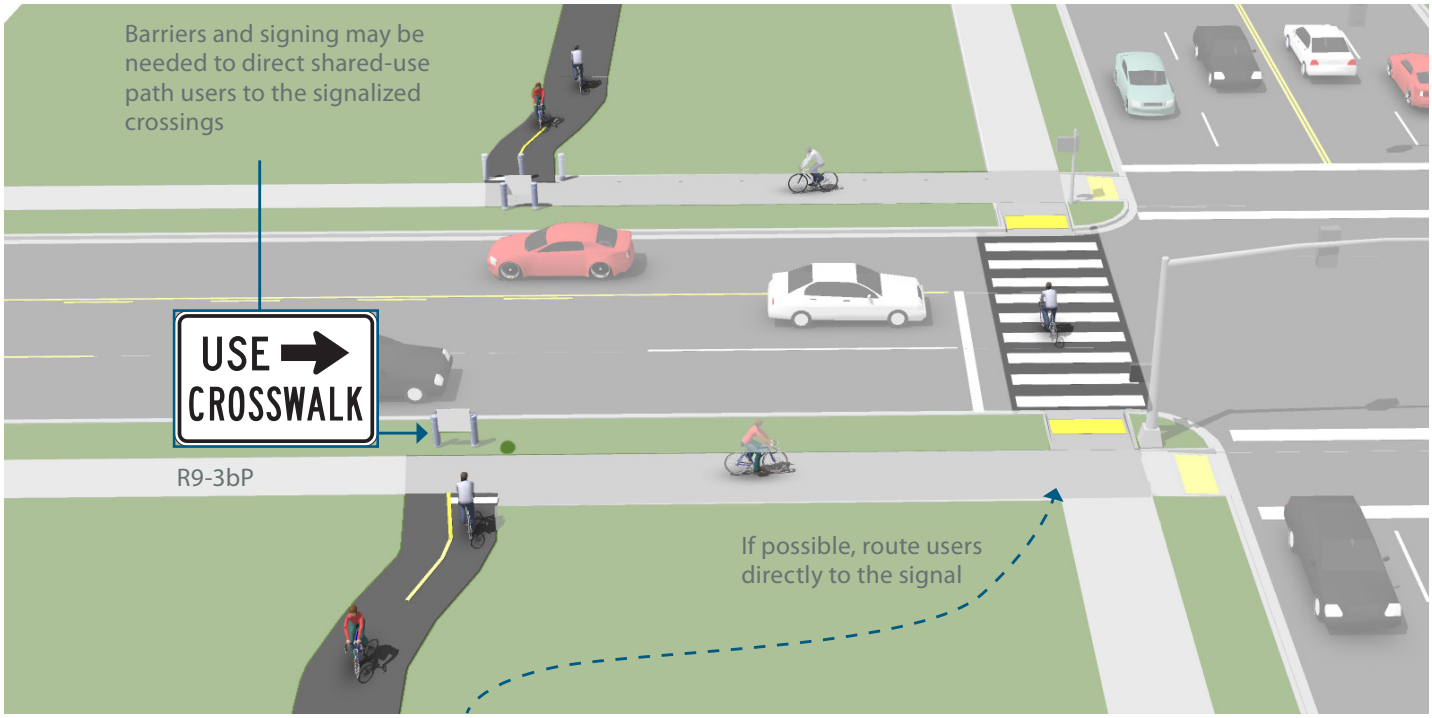
Route Users to Signalized Crossings

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 jaywalking may become prevalent if the distance is too great.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

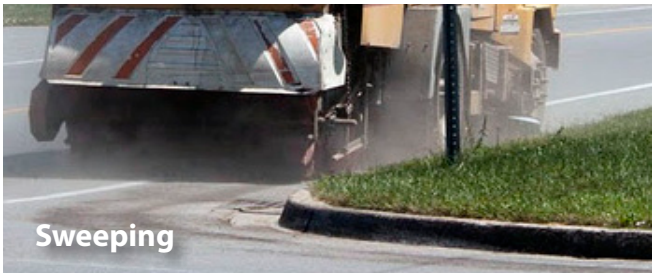
Municipalities should maintain comprehensive inventories of the location and age of bicycle wayfinding signs to allow incorporation of bicycle wayfinding signs into any asset management activities.

BIKEWAY SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

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.

Bicycle Racks


Sweeping

Maintenance

Regular bicycle facility maintenance includes sweeping, maintaining a smooth roadway, ensuring that the gutter-to-pavement transition remains relatively flat, and installing bicycle-friendly drainage grates. Pavement overlays are a good opportunity to improve bicycle facilities.

Recommended 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:

- Bicycle Racks
- Sweeping

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. Racks should:

- Support the bicycle in at least two places, preventing it from falling over.
- Allow 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.

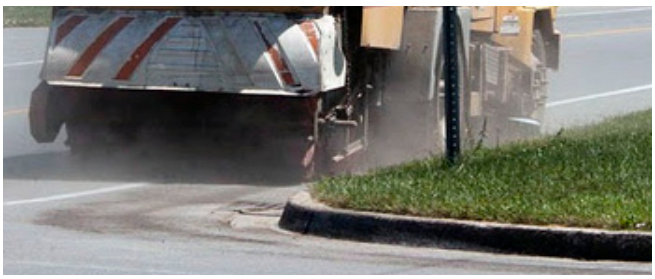
Guidance

- 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.
- Locate racks in areas that cyclists are most likely to travel.

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.

STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

Some of these treatments covered by these guidelines 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. An "X" marking in the following table identifies the inclusion of a particular treatment within the national and state design guides. A "-" marking indicates a treatment may not be specifically mentioned, but is compliant assuming MUTCD compliant signs and markings are used.

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.

	Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (2009)	Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (2012)	Urban Bikeway Design Guide (2012)	NCDOT Bicycle Facilities & Planning Design Guidelines
Signed Shared Roadway	X	X		X
Marked Shared Roadway	X	X	X	
Bicycle Boulevard		X	X	
Shoulder Bikeway	X	X		X
Bicycle Lane	X	X	X	X
Buffered Bike Lane	-	X	X	
Uphill Bicycle Climbing Lane	-	X	X	
Cycle Tracks	-	Called "one-way sidepath"	X	
Bike Lanes at Right Turn Only Lanes	X	X	X	X
Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas	Interim Approval Granted	X	X	
Combined Bike Lane/Turn Lane	-		X	
Intersection Crossing Markings	X	X	X	
Bicyclists at Single Lane Roundabouts	-	X		
Wayfinding Sign Types	X	X	X	X
Wayfinding Sign Placement	X	X	X	X
Multi-use Paths/Greenways	X	X		X
Shared Use Paths along Roadways	X	Discouraged		Discouraged