B Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Design Guidelines

PEDESTRIANS

Sidewalks

Pedestrians at Intersections

BICYCLISTS

Shared Roadways

Separated Bikeways

Separated Bikeways at Intersections

Bikeway Signing

Retrofitting Existing Streets to add Bikeways

Bikeway Support and Maintenance

Signalized Crossings for Bicyclists and Pedestrians

SHARED USE PATHS

Shared Use Paths

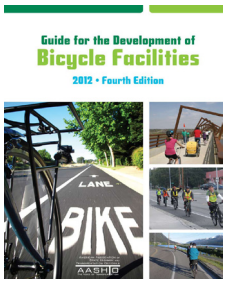
Shared Use Path/Roadway Crossings

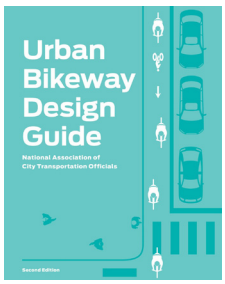
OVERVIEW

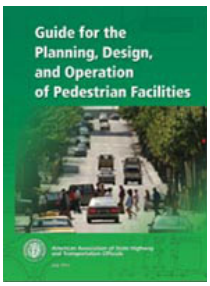
The sections that follow serve as an inventory of pedestrian and bicycle design treatments and provide guidelines for their development. These treatments and design guidelines are important because they represent the tools for creating a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly, safe, accessible community. The 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 Colorado DOT for specific design solutions. The following standards and guidlines 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.
- Offering similar guidance for pedestrian design, the 2004 AASHTO **Guide for the Planning, Design and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities** provides comprehensive guidance on planning and designing for people on foot.
- 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.
- 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.

Should the national standards be revised in the future and result in discrepancies with this chapter, the national standards should prevail for all design decisions.







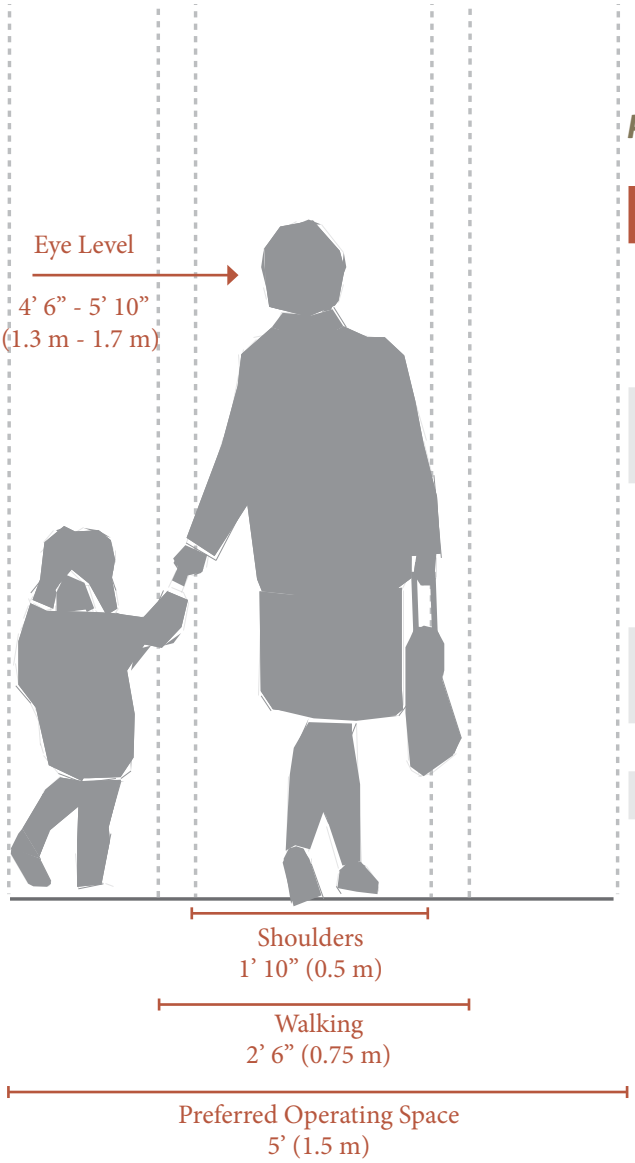
The Pedestrian and Bicyle Information Center, NACTO, AASHTO, the MUTCD, nationally recognized bikeway standards, and other sources have all informed the content of this appendix.

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. The table below summarizes common pedestrian characteristics for various age groups.

The MUTCD recommends a normal walking speed of 3.5 feet per second when calculating the pedestrian clearance interval at traffic signals. The walking speed can drop to 3 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.



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 "darting out" in roadways
	Insufficient judgment
	Sense of invulnerability
14-18	Improved awareness of traffic environment
	Insufficient judgment
19-40	Active, aware of traffic environment
41-65	Slowing of reflexes
65+	Difficulty crossing street
	Vision loss
	Difficulty hearing vehicles approaching from behind

Source: AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*, Exhibit 2-1. 2004.

The table below summarizes common physical and cognitive impairments, how they affect personal mobility, and recommendations for improved pedestrian-friendly design.

Disabled Pedestrian Design Considerations

Impairment	Effect on Mobility	Design Solution
Wheelchair and Scooter Users	Difficulty propelling over uneven or soft surfaces.	Firm, stable surfaces and structures, including ramps or beveled edges.
	Cross-slopes cause wheelchairs to veer downhill.	Cross-slopes of less than two percent.
	Require wider path of travel.	Sufficient width and maneuvering space.
Walking Aid Users	Difficulty negotiating steep grades and cross slopes; decreased stability.	Smooth, non-slipperly travel surface.
	Slower walking speed and reduced endurance; reduced ability to react.	Longer pedestrian signal cycles, shorter crossing distances, median refuges, and street furniture.
Hearing Impairment	Less able to detect oncoming hazards at locations with limited sight lines (e.g. driveways, angled intersections, channelized right turn lanes) and complex intersections.	Longer pedestrian signal cycles, clear sight distances, highly visible pedestrian signals and markings.
Vision Impairment	Limited perception of path ahead and obstacles; reliance on memory; reliance on non-visual indicators (e.g. sound and texture).	Accessible text (larger print and raised text), accessible pedestrian signals (APS), guide strips and detectable warning surfaces, safety barriers, and lighting.
Cognitive Impairment	Varies greatly. Can affect ability to perceive, recognize, understand, interpret, and respond to information.	Signs with pictures, universal symbols, and colors, rather than text.

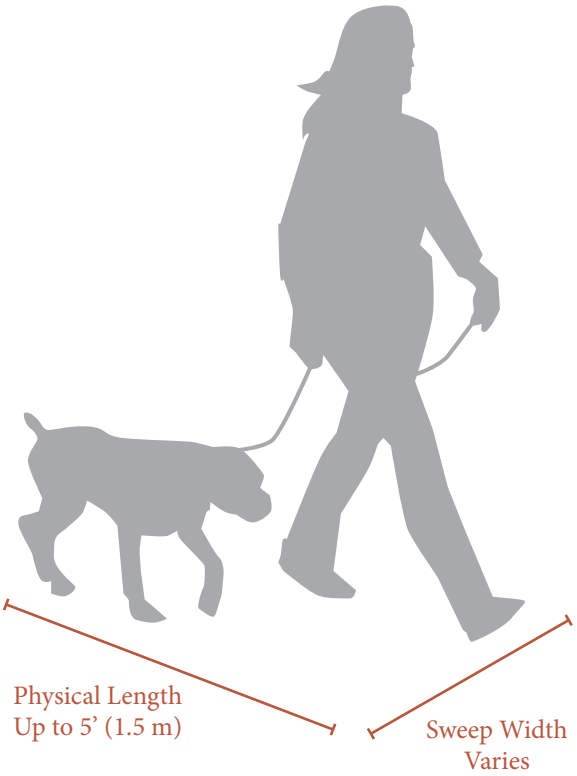
Design Needs of Dog Walkers

Dog walking is a common and anticipated use on shared use paths. Dog sizes vary largely, as does leash length and walking style, leading to wide variation in possible design dimensions.

Shared use paths designed to accommodate wheelchair users are likely to provide the necessary dimensions for the average dog walker. Amenities such as dog waste stations may enhance conditions for dog walkers.

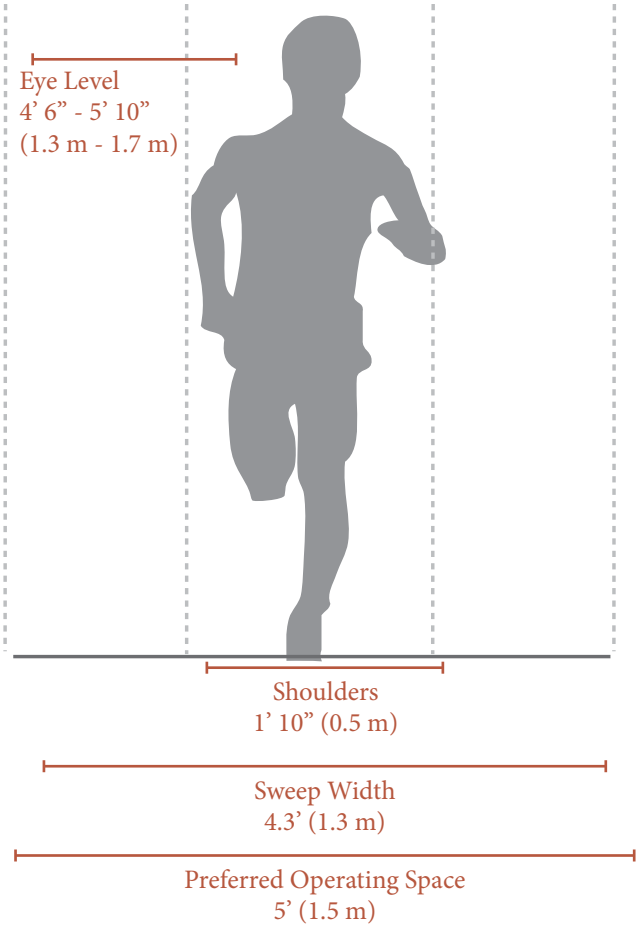
Design Needs of Runners

Running is an important recreation and fitness activity commonly performed on shared use paths. Many runners prefer softer surfaces (such as rubber, bare earth or crushed rock) to reduce impact. Runners can change their speed and direction frequently. If high volumes are expected, controlled interaction or separation of different types of users should be considered.



Typical Speed

User	Typical Speed
Runner	6.2 mph



Source: FHWA. *Characteristics of Emerging Road and Trail Users and Their Safety.* (2004).

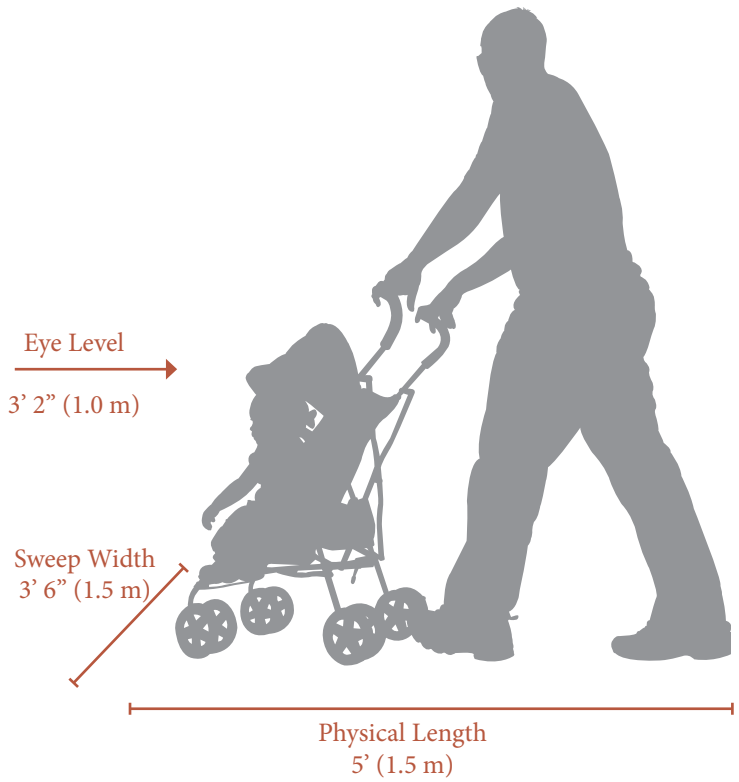
Design Needs of Strollers

Strollers are wheeled devices pushed by pedestrians to transport babies or small children. Stroller models vary greatly in their design and capacity. Some strollers are designed to accommodate a single child, others can carry 3 or more. Design needs of strollers depend on the wheel size, geometry and ability of the adult who is pushing the stroller.

Strollers commonly have small pivoting front wheels for easy maneuverability, but these wheels may limit their use on unpaved surfaces or rough pavement. Curb ramps are valuable to these users. Lateral overturning is one main safety concern for stroller users.

Typical Speed

User	Typical Speed
Stroller	3.7 mph



Source: FHWA. *Characteristics of Emerging Road and Trail Users and Their Safety.* (2004).

Design Needs of Wheelchair Users

As the American population ages, the number of people using mobility assistive devices (such as manual wheelchairs, powered wheelchairs) increases.

Manual wheelchairs are self-propelled devices. Users propel themselves using push rims attached to the rear wheels. Braking is done through resisting wheel movement with the hands or arm. Alternatively, a second individual can control the wheelchair using handles attached to the back of the chair.

Power wheelchairs user battery power to move the wheelchair. The size and weight of power wheelchairs limit their ability to negotiate obstacles without a ramp. Various control units are available that enable users to control the wheelchair movement, based on their ability (e.g., joystick control, breath controlled, etc).

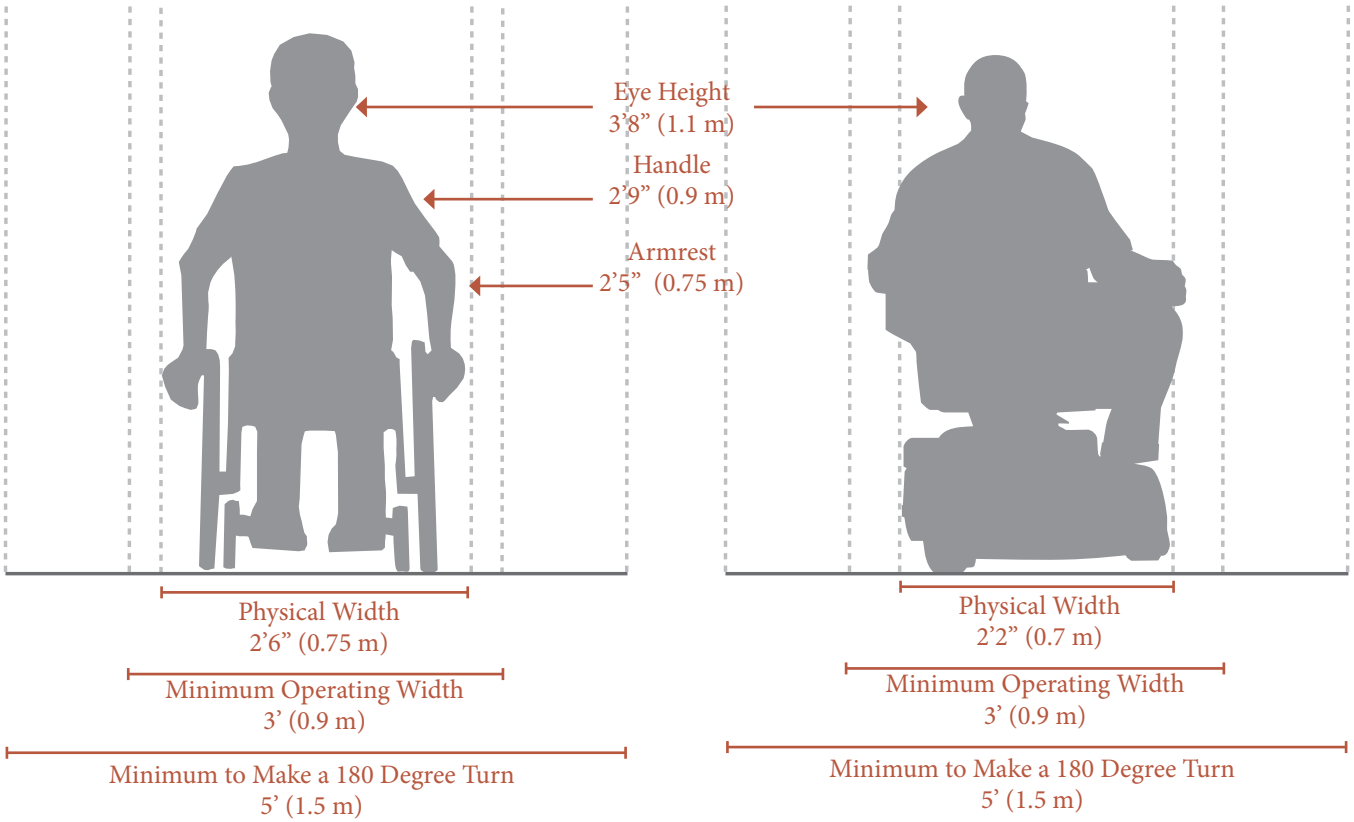
Maneuvering around a turn requires additional space for wheelchair devices. Providing adequate space for 180 degree turns at appropriate locations is an important element for accessible design.

Wheelchair User Typical Speed

User	Typical Speed
Manual Wheelchair	3.6 mph
Power Wheelchair	6.8 mph

Wheelchair User Design Considerations

Effect on Mobility	Design Solution
Difficulty propelling over uneven or soft surfaces.	Firm, stable surfaces and structures, including ramps or beveled edges.
Cross-slopes cause wheelchairs to veer downhill.	Cross-slopes of less than two percent.
Require wider path of travel.	Sufficient width and maneuvering space.



Source: FHWA. *Characteristics of Emerging Road and Trail Users and Their Safety.* 2004.
USDOJ. *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.* 2010.

Design Needs of Skaters

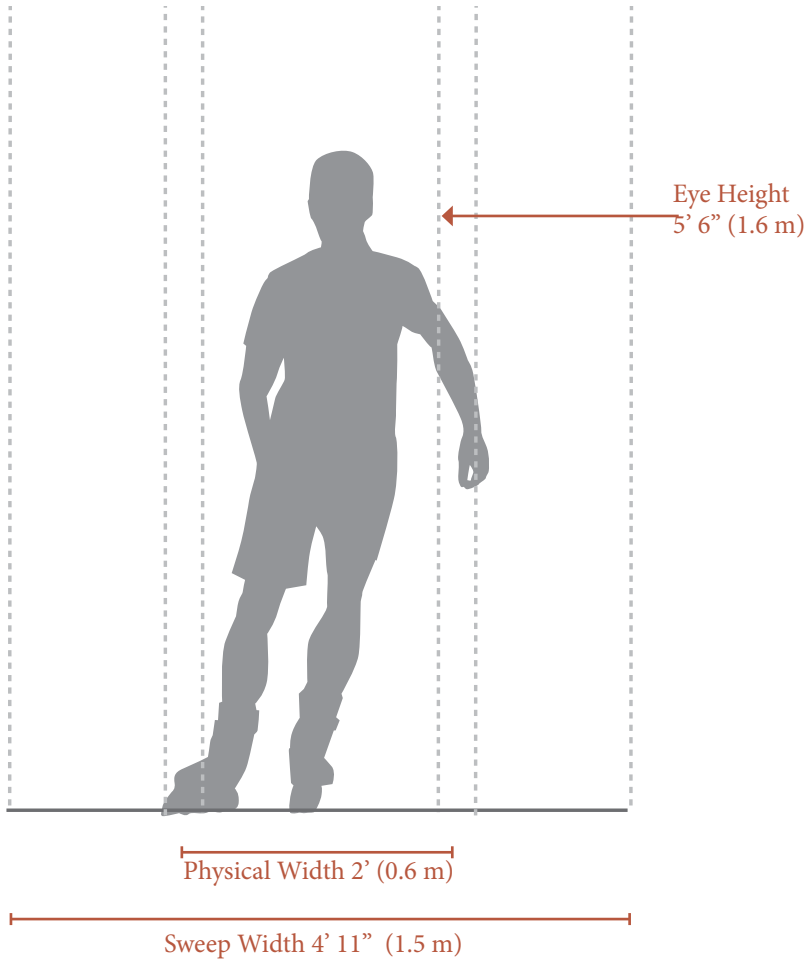
Inline skates are commonly used for recreational and transportation purposes. They typically have three to five wheels of 3 to 4 inches diameter, aligned in a straight line. Inline skate design allows for more efficient and high speed travel than quad wheel skates.

Operational characteristics vary by skill level of the operator. Novice skaters travel more slowly and have a narrower sweep width from advanced skaters. Novice users may also have trouble making sharp turns and stopping quickly, particularly on speed grades.

Inline skates are nearly impossible to use on unpaved surfaces and can be uncomfortable and difficult to operate on rough pavements such as chip seal and asphalt with large aggregate.

Typical Speed

User	Typical Speed
Inline Skates	9.9 mph



Source: FHWA. *Characteristics of Emerging Road and Trail Users and Their Safety.* 2004.

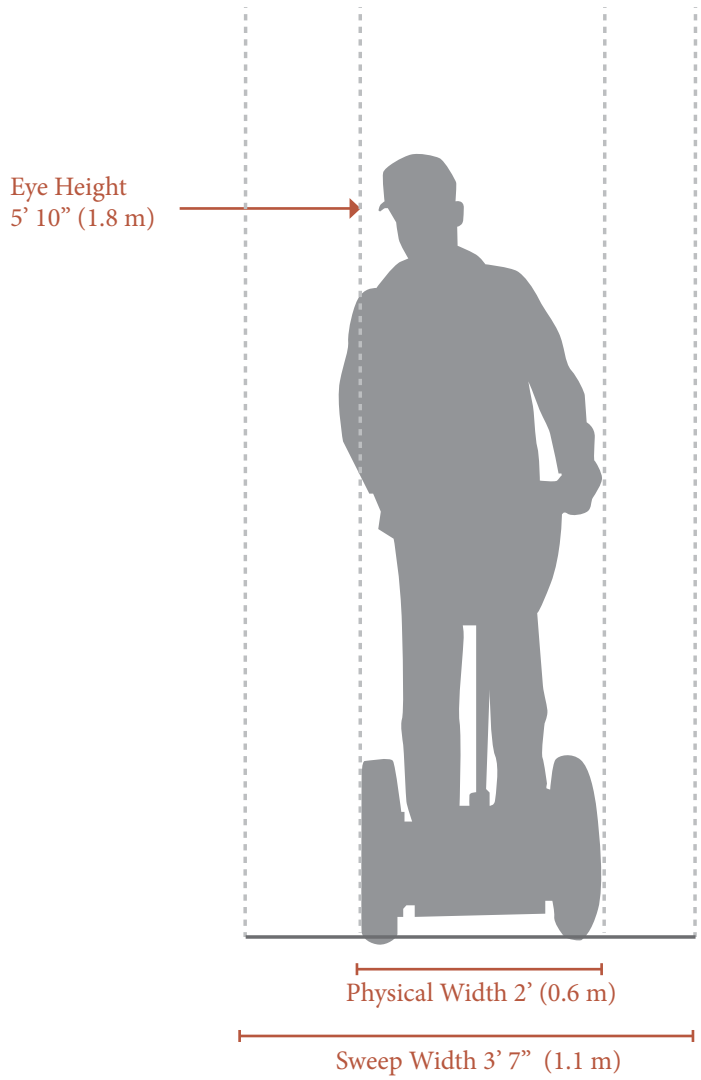
Design Needs of Electric Personal Mobility Devices (e.g., the Segway)

Electric personal mobility devices (EPMDs) such as the Segway, are appearing on paths and roadways around the country. North Carolina legislation has classified EPMDs as pedestrians, offering them all of the same rights and responsibilities.

The Segway is a self-balancing, electric-powered transportation device. Its footprint is not much larger than the human body's and has two wheels side by side next to the user's feet. The Segway uses gyroscopes and tilt sensors to monitor the body's movements and balance the device on the single axle. When a person leans forward, the Segway moves forward; leaning backward causes it to move back. The Segway has no brakes; to stop the device, users simply straighten up from their leaning position. Turning is accomplished with a twisting motion on the handlebar. Because both wheels are on one axle, it can turn in place with no turning radius.

Typical Speed

User	Typical Speed
Segway	10.5 mph



Source: FHWA. *Characteristics of Emerging Road and Trail Users and Their Safety.* 2004.
Roaring Fork Transportation Authority. Rio Grande Corridor Rules on the Use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices. 2011.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING LOCATION AND FACILITY SELECTION

Midblock Crossings

Midblock crossings are an important street design element for pedestrians. They can provide a legal crossing at locations where pedestrians want to travel, and can be safer than crossings at intersections because traffic is only moving in two directions. Locations where midblock crossings should be considered include:

- long blocks (longer than 600 ft) with destinations on both sides of the street.
- locations with heavy pedestrian traffic, such as schools, shopping centers.
- at midblock transit stops, where transit riders must cross the street on one leg of their journey.

Crossing Treatment Selection

The specific type of treatment at a crossing may range from a simple marked crosswalk to full traffic signals or grade separated crossings. Crosswalk lines should not be used indiscriminately, and appropriate selection of crossing treatments should be evaluated in an engineering study should be performed before a marked crosswalk is installed. The engineering study should consider the number of lanes, the presence of a median, the distance from adjacent signalized intersections, the pedestrian volumes and delays, the average daily traffic (ADT), the posted or statutory speed limit or 85th-percentile speed, the geometry of the location, the possible consolidation of multiple crossing points, the availability of street lighting, and other appropriate factors.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CONTEXTUAL GUIDANCE At unsignalized locations		Local Streets 15-25 mph		Collector Streets 25-30 mph			Arterial Streets 30-45 mph							
FACILITY TYPE		2 lane	3 lane	2 lane	2 lane with median refuge	3 lane	2 lane	2 lane with median refuge	3 lane	4 lane	4 lane with median refuge	5 lane	6 lane	6 lane with median refuge
1	Crosswalk Only (high visibility)	✓	✓	EJ	EJ	X	EJ	EJ	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	Crosswalk with warning signage and yield lines	EJ	✓	✓	✓	✓	EJ	EJ	EJ	X	X	X	X	X
3	Active Warning Beacon (RRFB)	X	EJ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
4	Hybrid Beacon	X	X	EJ	EJ	EJ	EJ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Full Traffic Signal	X	X	EJ	EJ	EJ	EJ	EJ	EJ	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Grade separation	X	X	EJ	EJ	EJ	X	EJ	EJ	EJ	EJ	EJ	✓	✓

LEGEND	
Most Desirable	✓
Engineering Judgement	EJ
Not Recommended	X

1 Marked Crosswalks

2 Crosswalk with Warning Signage

3 Active Warning Beacon (RRFB)

4 Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

5 Full Traffic Signal

6 Grade Separation

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 the 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.

Zones in the Sidewalk Corridor

Sidewalk Widths

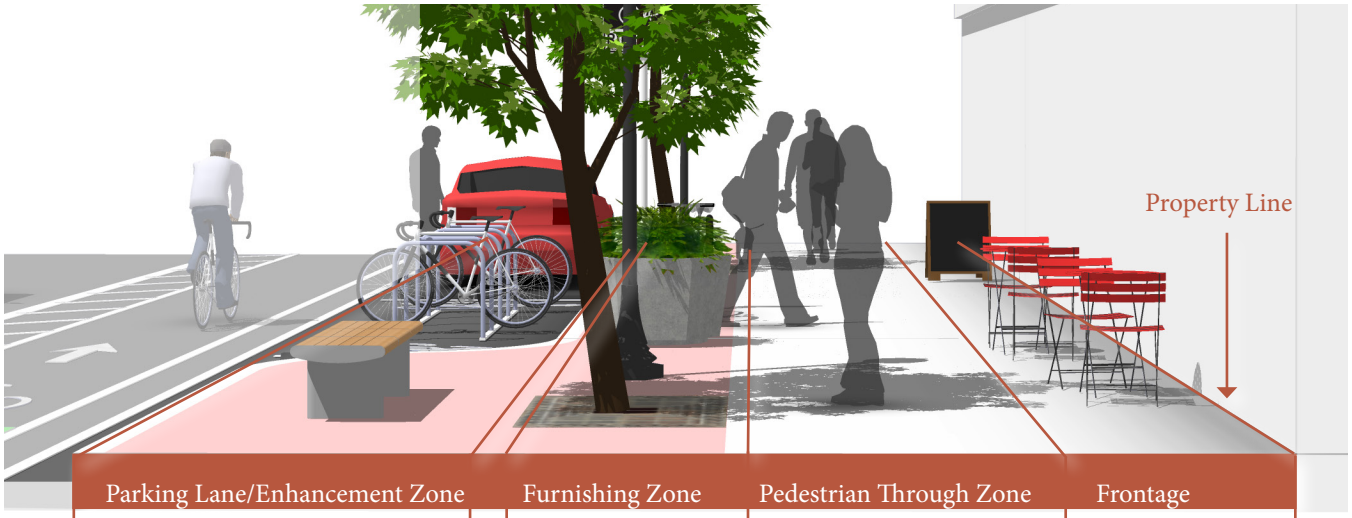
Sidewalk Obstructions and Driveway Ramps

Pedestrian Access in Construction Areas

Zones in the Sidewalk Corridor

Description

Sidewalks are the most fundamental element of the walking network, as they provide an area for pedestrian travel separated from vehicle traffic. A variety of considerations are important in sidewalk design. Providing adequate and accessible facilities can lead to increased numbers of people walking, improved safety, and the creation of social space.



Parking Lane/Enhancement Zone

The parking lane can act as a flexible space to further buffer the sidewalk from moving traffic. Curb extensions and bike corrals may occupy this space where appropriate.

In the edge zone there should be a 6 inch wide curb.

Edge Zone

Furnishing Zone

The furnishing zone buffers pedestrians from the adjacent roadway, and is also the area where elements such as street trees, signal poles, signs, and other street furniture are properly located.

Pedestrian Through Zone

The through zone is the area intended for pedestrian travel. This zone should be entirely free of permanent and temporary objects.

Wide through zones are needed in downtown areas or where pedestrian flows are high.

Frontage

The Frontage Zone allows pedestrians a comfortable "shy" distance from the building fronts. It provides opportunities for window shopping, to place signs, planters, or chairs. Not applicable if adjacent to a landscaped space.

Discussion

Sidewalks should be more than areas to travel; they should provide places for people to interact. There should be places for standing, visiting, and sitting. Sidewalks should contribute to the character of neighborhoods and business districts, strengthen their identity, and be an area where adults and children can safely participate in public life.

Additional References and Guidelines

USDOJ. *ADA Standards for Accessible Design.* 2010.
United States Access Board. *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public-Right-of-Way (PROWAG).* 2011.
AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.* 2004.
NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide.* 2013.

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 space. Colored, patterned, or stamped concrete can add distinctive visual appeal.

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.

Street Classification	Parking Lane/ Enhancement Zone	Furnishing Zone	Pedestrian Through Zone	Frontage Zone	Total
Local Streets	Varies	2 - 5 feet	4 - 6 feet	N/A	6 - 11 feet
Commercial Areas	Varies	4 - 6 feet	6 - 12 feet	2.5 - 10 feet	11 - 28 feet
Arterials and Collectors	Varies	2 - 6 feet	4 - 8 feet	2.5 - 5 feet	8 -19 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

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.

Additional References and Guidelines

USDOJ. *ADA Standards for Accessible Design.* 2010. United States Access Board. *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public-Right-of-Way (PROWAG).* 2011. AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.* 2004. NACTO *Urban Street Design Guide.* 2013.

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. Colored, patterned, or stamped concrete can add distinctive visual appeal.

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

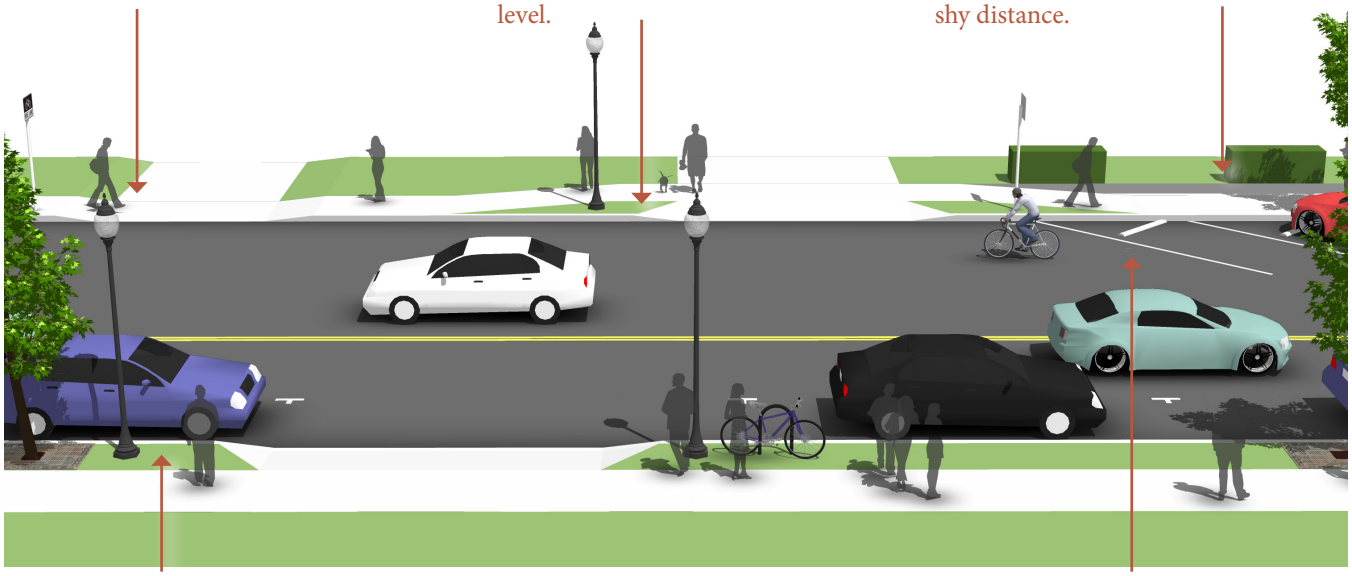
Reducing the number of accesses reduces the need for special provisions. This strategy should be pursued first.

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. *ADA Standards for Accessible Design.* 2010.
United States Access Board. *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public-Right-of-Way (PROWAG).* 2011.
AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.* 2004.

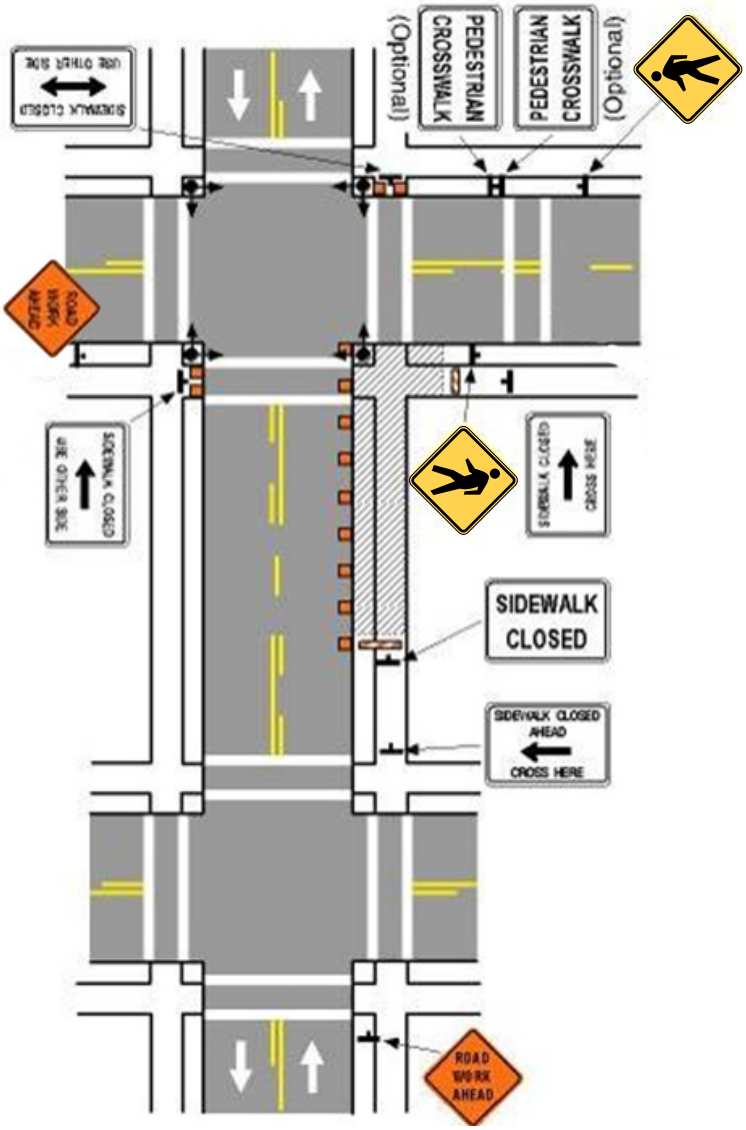
Materials and Maintenance

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

Pedestrian Access Through Construction Areas

Description

Measures should be taken to provide for the continuity of a pedestrian's trip through a construction closure. Only in rare cases should pedestrians be detoured to another street when travel lanes remain open.



Guidance

- Pedestrians should be provided with a safe, accessible, convenient path that replicates as nearly as practical the most desirable characteristics of the existing sidewalks. The alternate circulation path should be parallel to the disrupted pedestrian access route, be located on the same side of the street, and accommodate the disabled.
- The alternate route should have a width of 5 feet minimum, and an additional foot of width for each vertical element along the route.
- In rare cases where access is not available on the same side of the street, the alternate pedestrian route may be located on the opposite side of the street as long as the distance of the disrupted pedestrian route does not exceed 300 feet.
- Signage related to construction activities shall be placed in a location that does not obstruct the path of bicycles or pedestrians, including bicycle lanes, wide curb lanes, or sidewalks.

Discussion

The removal of a pedestrian access route, curb ramp, or pedestrian street crossing, even for a short time, may severely limit or totally preclude pedestrians, especially those with a disability, from navigating in the public right-of-way. It might also preclude access to buildings, facilities, or sites on adjacent properties.

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.* 2009.
AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.* 2004.

Materials and Maintenance

The alternate route should include sidewalks and pedestrian access routes, curb ramps, pedestrian crossings, lighting, and all other elements included in these standards.

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.

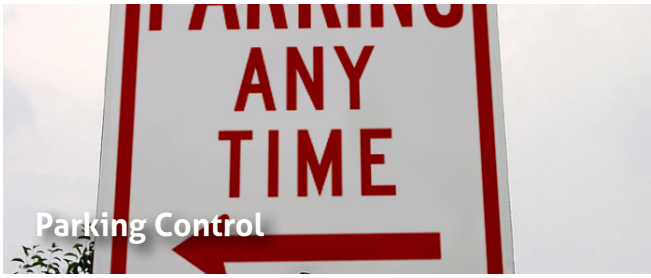
These attributes will vary with context but should be considered in all design processes. For example, suburban and rural intersections may have limited or no signing. However, legibility regarding appropriate pedestrian movements should still be taken into account during design.

Raised Crosswalks

Median Refuge Islands

Curb Extensions

Advance Stop Bar



Parking Control

Marked Crosswalks

ADA Compliant Curb Ramps

Marked Crosswalks

Description

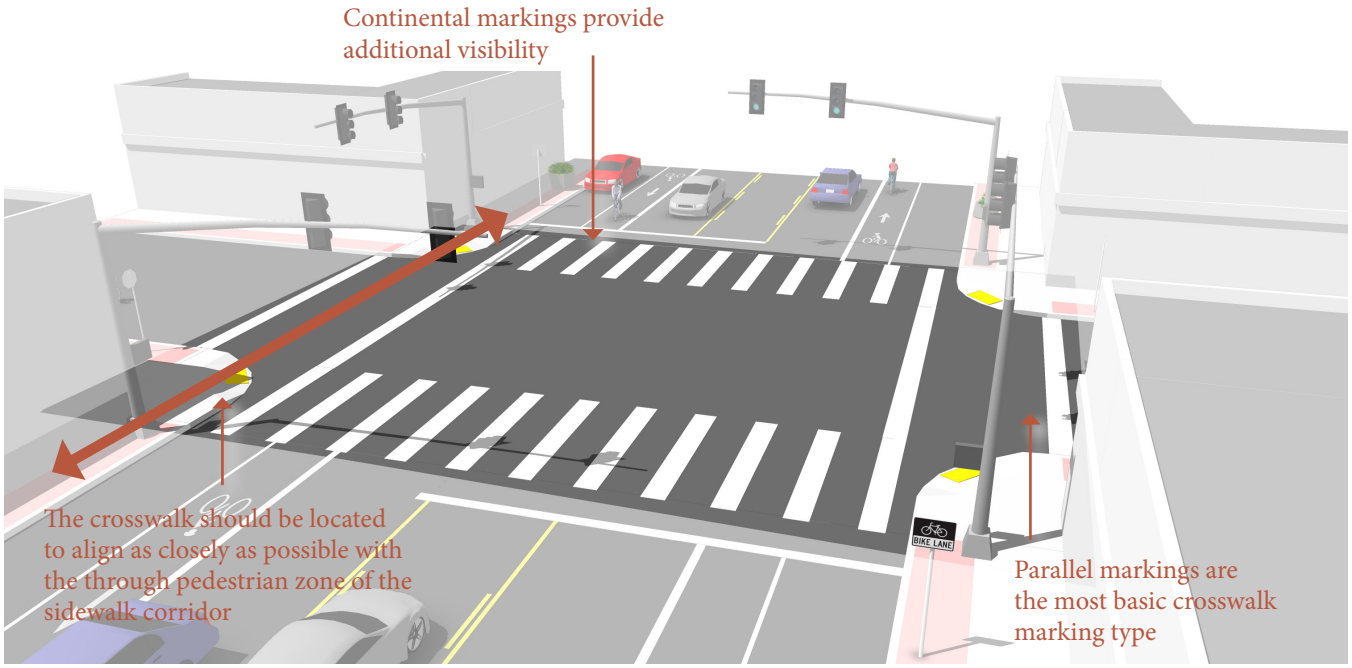
A marked crosswalk signals to motorists that they must stop for pedestrians and encourages pedestrians to cross at designated locations. Installing crosswalks alone will not necessarily make crossings safer especially on multi-lane roadways.

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 un-signalized 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. See intersection signalization for a discussion of enhancing pedestrian crossings.

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. (3B.18). 2009.*
AASHTO. Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities. 2004.
FHWA. *Safety Effects of Marked vs. Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations.* 2005.
FHWA. *Crosswalk Marking Field Visibility Study.* 2010.
NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide.* 2013.

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 than conventional paint.

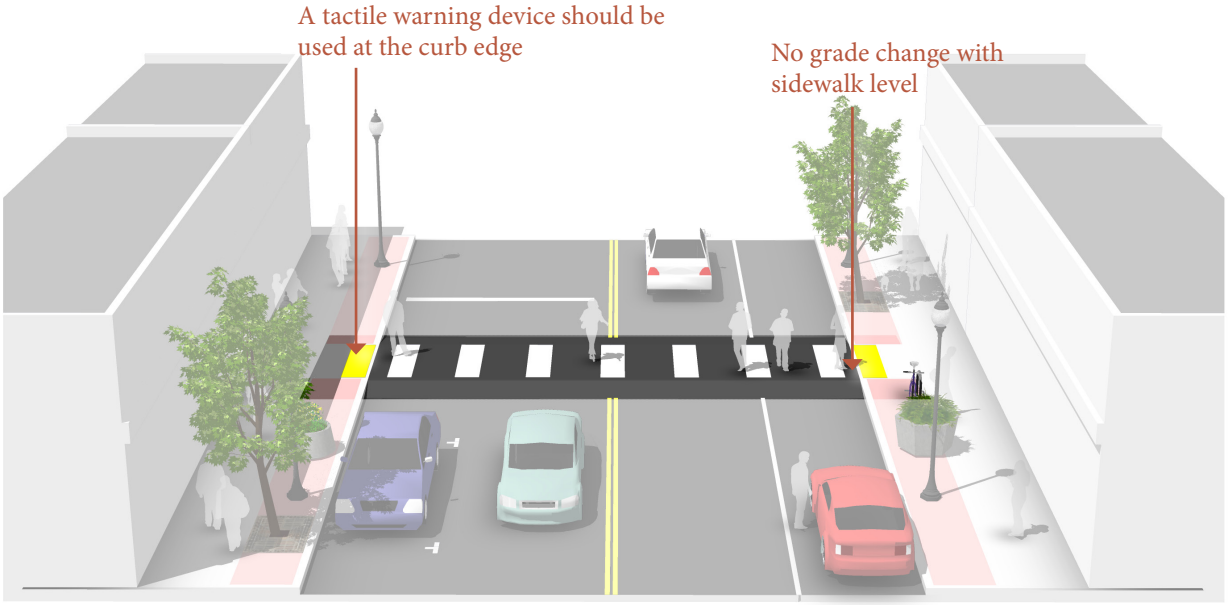
Raised Crosswalks

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; review 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. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. (3B.18)*. 2009.
AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.* 2004.
USDOJ. *ADA Standards for Accessible Design.* 2010.
NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide.* 2013.

Materials and Maintenance

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

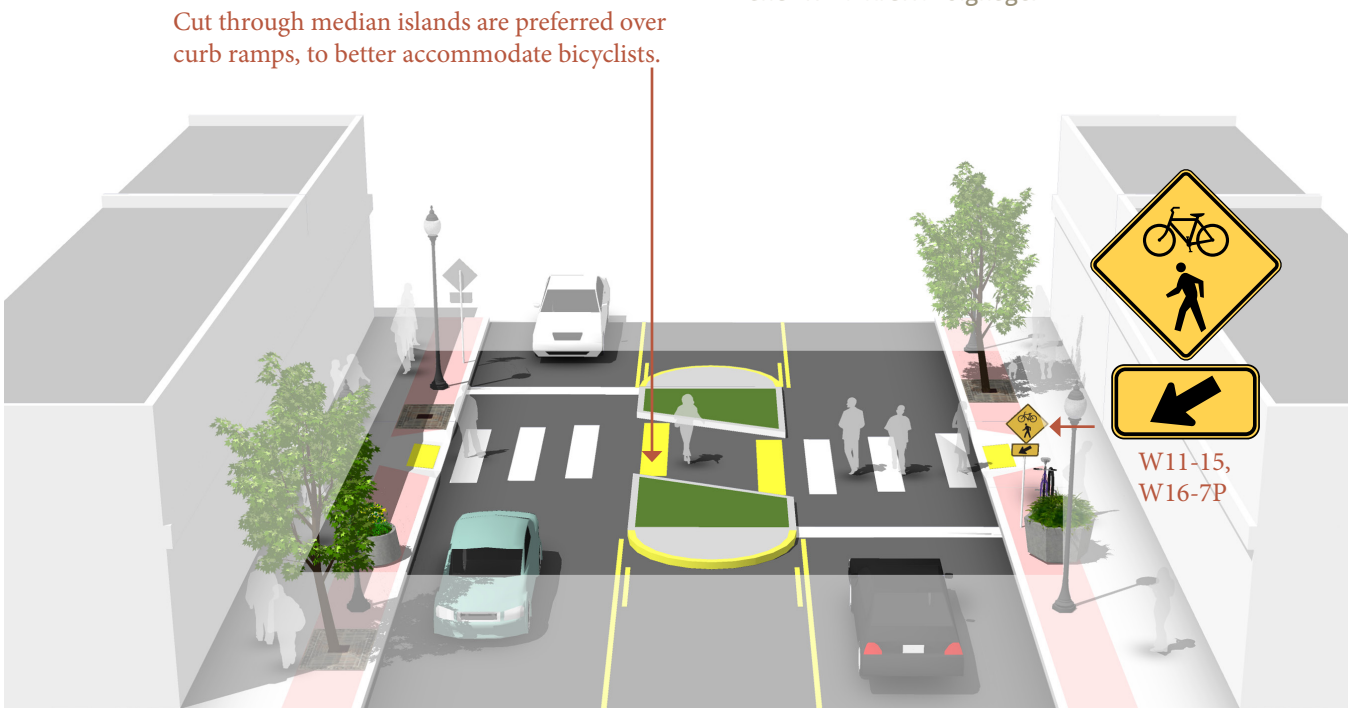
Median Refuge Islands

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 path 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.



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. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. 2009.
AASHTO. Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities. 2004.
NACTO. Urban Bikeway Design Guide. 2012.
NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide.* 2013.

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.

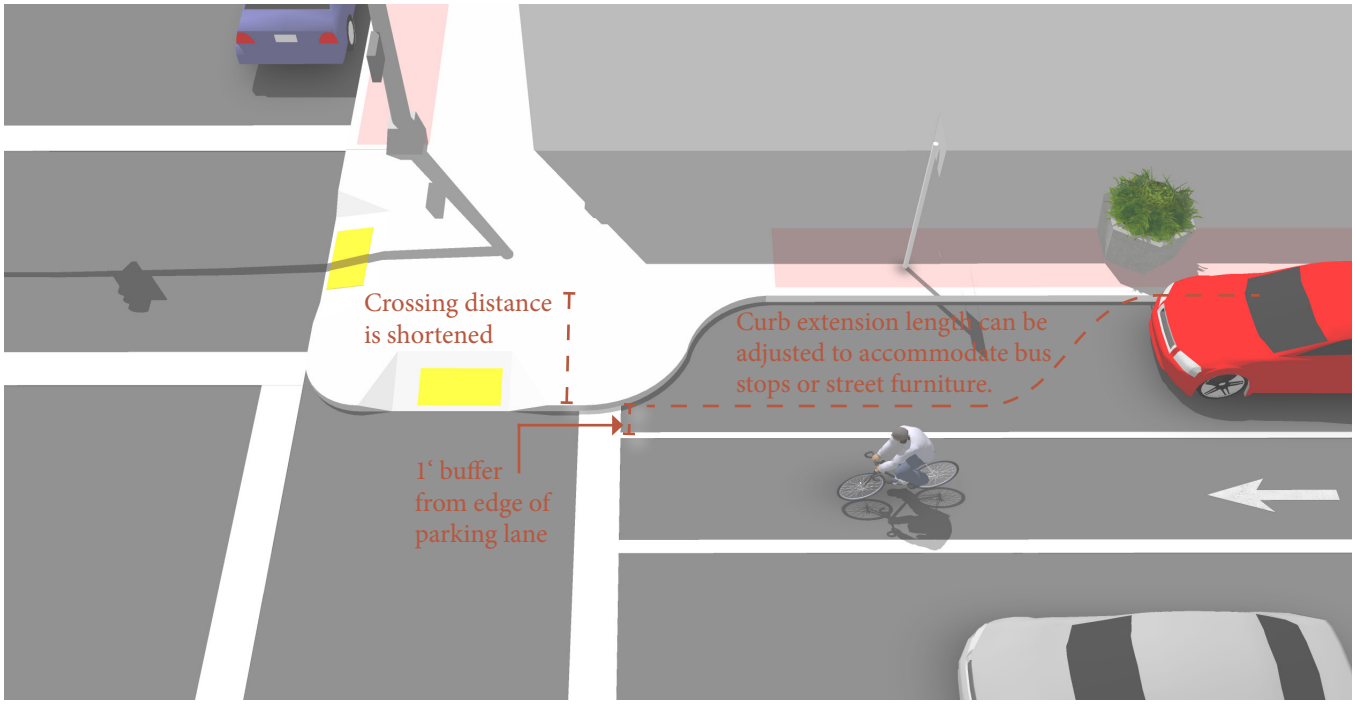
Curb Extensions

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. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.* 2004. AASHTO. *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets.* 2004. NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide.* 2013.

Materials and Maintenance

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

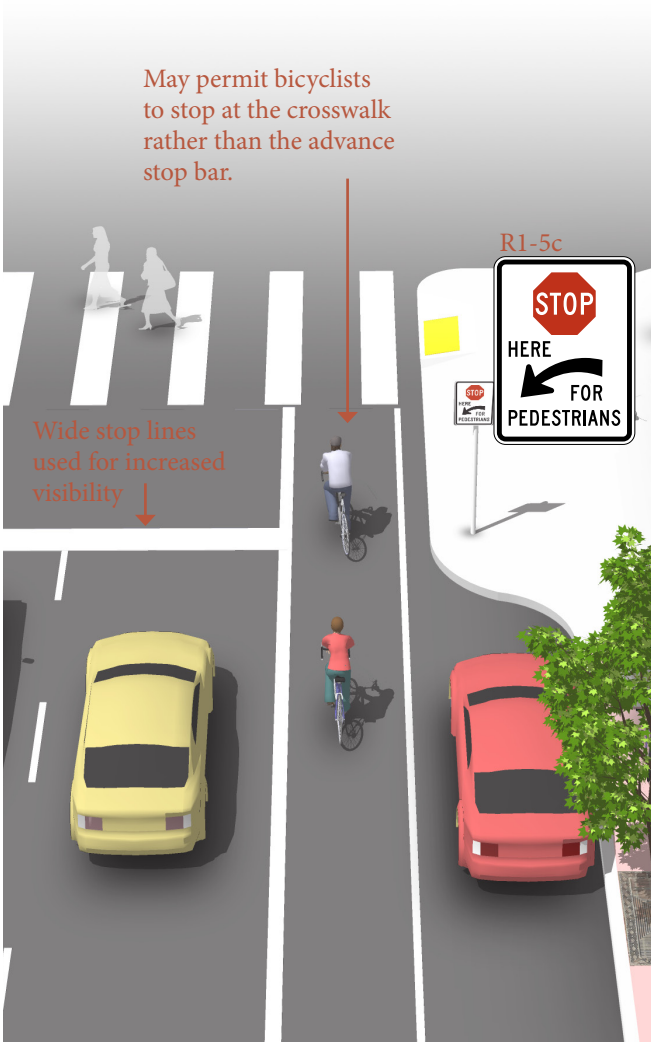
Advance Stop Bar

Description

Advance stop bars increase pedestrian comfort and safety by stopping motor vehicles well in advance of marked crosswalks, allowing vehicle operators a better line of sight of pedestrians and giving inner lane motor vehicle traffic time to stop for pedestrians.

Guidance

- On streets with at least two travel lanes in each direction.
- Prior to a marked crosswalk
- In one or both directions of motor vehicle travel
- Recommended 15-50 feet or more in advance of the crosswalk
- A "Stop Here for Pedestrians" sign should accompany the advance stop bar



Discussion

If a bicycle lane is present, mark the advance stop bar to permit bicyclists to stop at the crosswalk ahead of the stop bar.

If the State law requires drivers to YIELD to pedestrians in crosswalks, a Yield Line marking must be used rather than a stop line in these cases.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Parking Control

Description

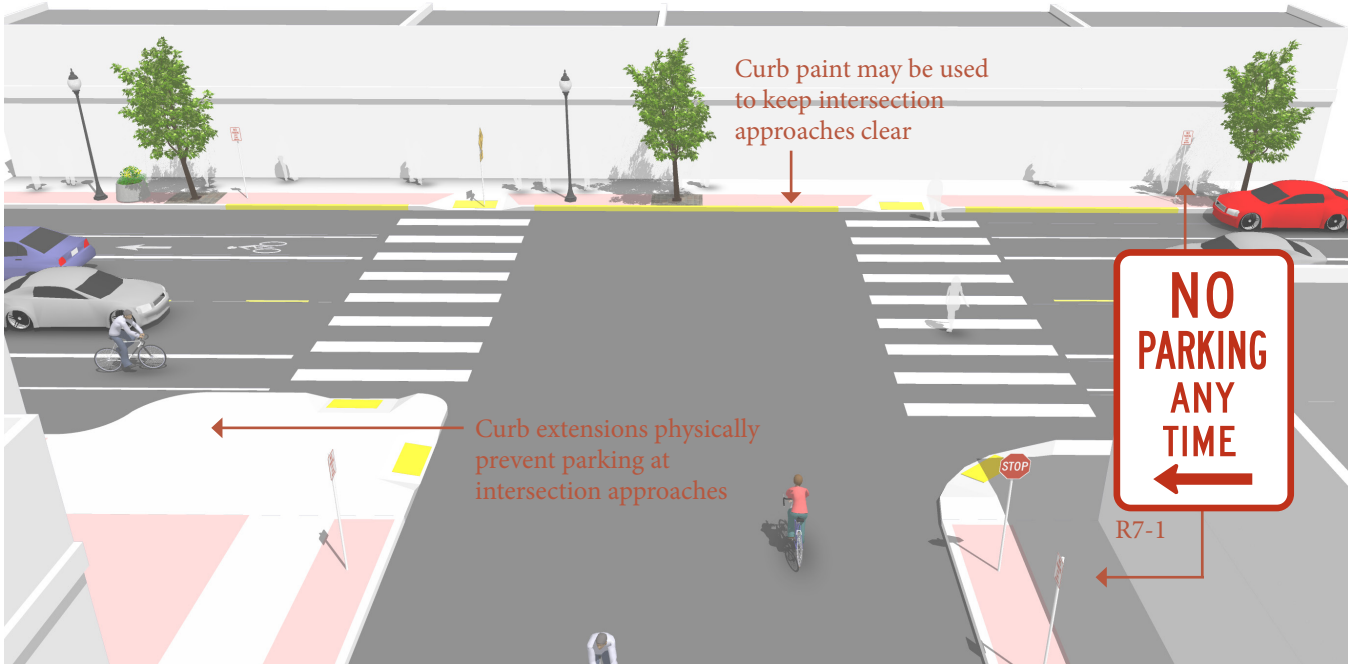
Parking control involves restricting or reducing on-street parking near intersections with high pedestrian activity. Locating parking away from the intersection improves motorist's visibility on the approach to the intersection and crosswalk. Improved sight lines at intersections reduces conflicts between motorists and pedestrians.

Guidance

Curb extensions, NO PARKING signage, or curb paint can be used to keep the approach to intersections clear of parked vehicles.

At "T" and offset intersections, where the boundaries of the intersection may not be obvious, this prohibition should be made clear with signage.

Parking should not be allowed within any type of intersection adjacent to schools, school crosswalks, and parks. This includes "T" and offset intersections.



Discussion

In areas where there is high parking demand parking compact vehicles may be allowed within "T" or offset intersections and on either side of the crosswalk. At these locations, signs will be placed to prohibit parking within the designated crosswalk areas, and additional enforcement should be provided, particularly when the treatment is new.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.* 2004.
AASHTO. *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets.* 2004.

Materials and Maintenance

Signage and striping require routine maintenance.

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.

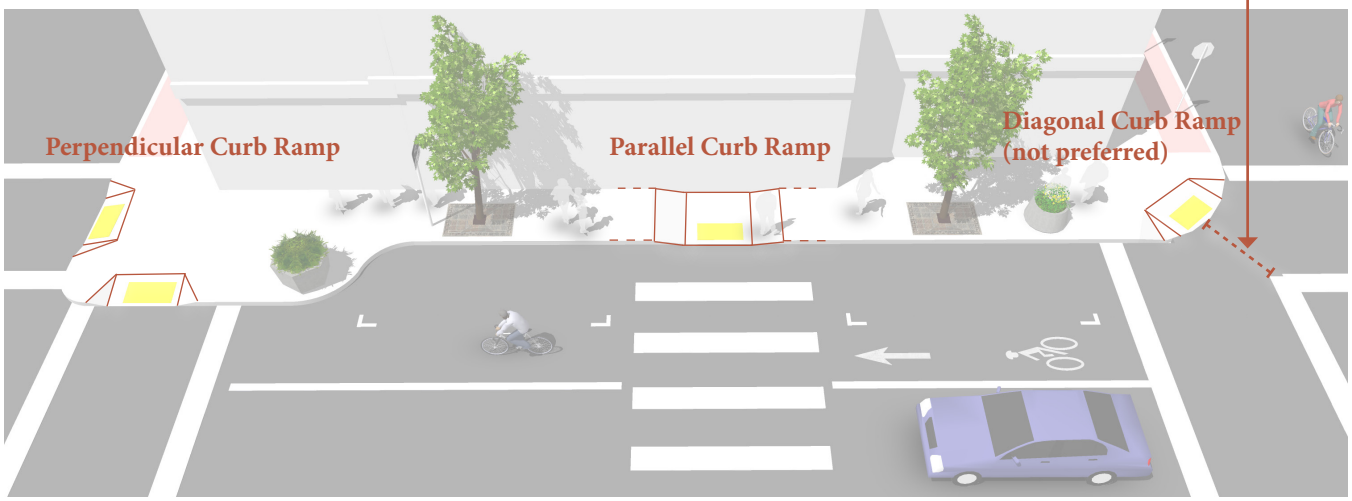
Although diagonal curb ramps might save money, they create potential safety and mobility problems for pedestrians,including reduced maneuverability and increased interaction with turning vehicles, particularly in areas with high traffic volumes. Diagonal curb ramp configurations are the least preferred 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 1:12 , with a maximum cross slope of 2.0%.
- 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.

Curb ramps shall be located so that they do not project into vehicular traffic lanes, parking spaces, or parking access aisles. Three configurations are illustrated below.

Diagonal ramps shall include a clear space of at least 48" within the crosswalk for user maneuverability



Crosswalk spacing not to scale. For illustration purposes only.

Discussion

The edge of an ADA compliant curb ramp may 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 should provide color contrast so partially sighted people can see them.

Additional References and Guidelines

United States Access Board. *Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities.* 2002.
United States Access Board. *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public-Right-of-Way (PROWAG).* 2011.
USDOJ. *ADA Standards for Accessible Design.* 2010.

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.

DESIGN NEEDS OF BICYCLISTS

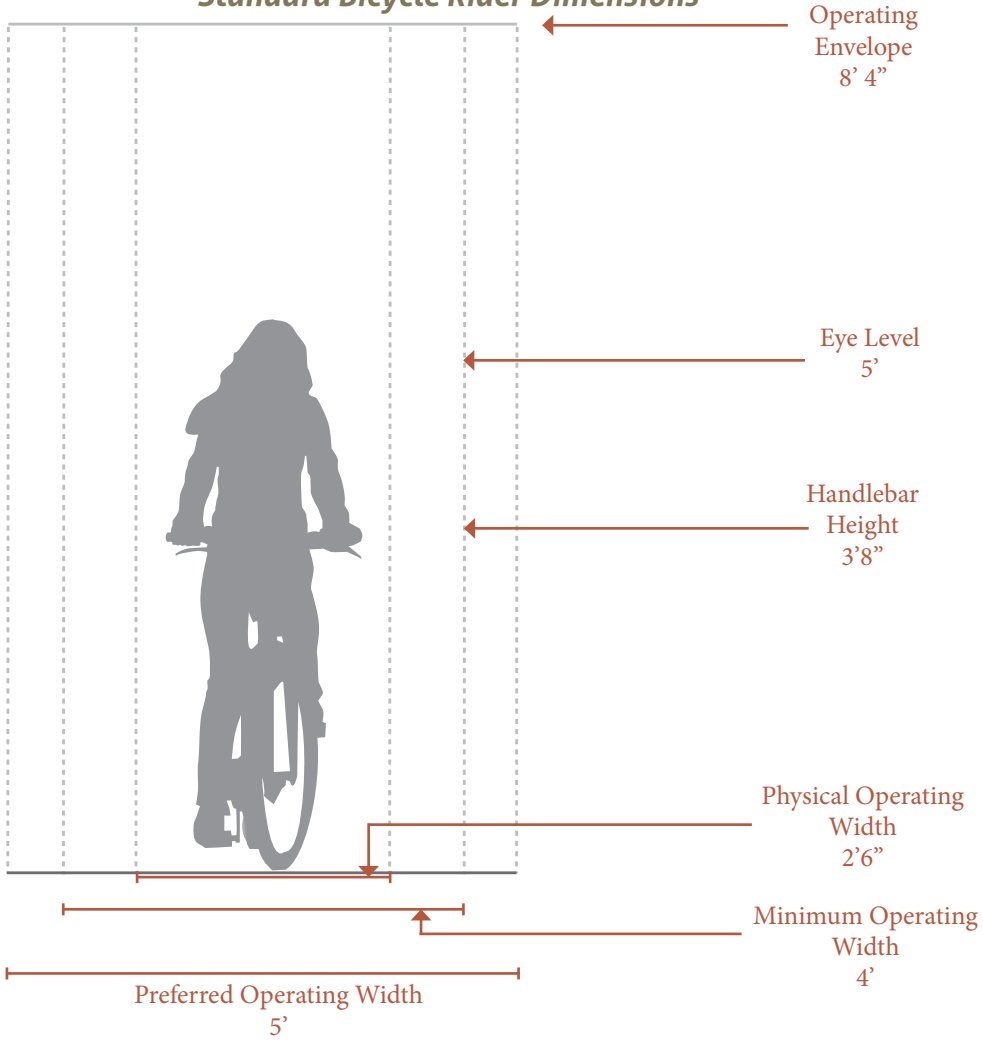
The purpose of this section is to provide the facility designer with an understanding of how bicyclists operate and how their bicycle influences that operation. Bicyclists, by nature, are much more affected by poor facility design, construction and maintenance practices than motor vehicle drivers. Bicyclists 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.

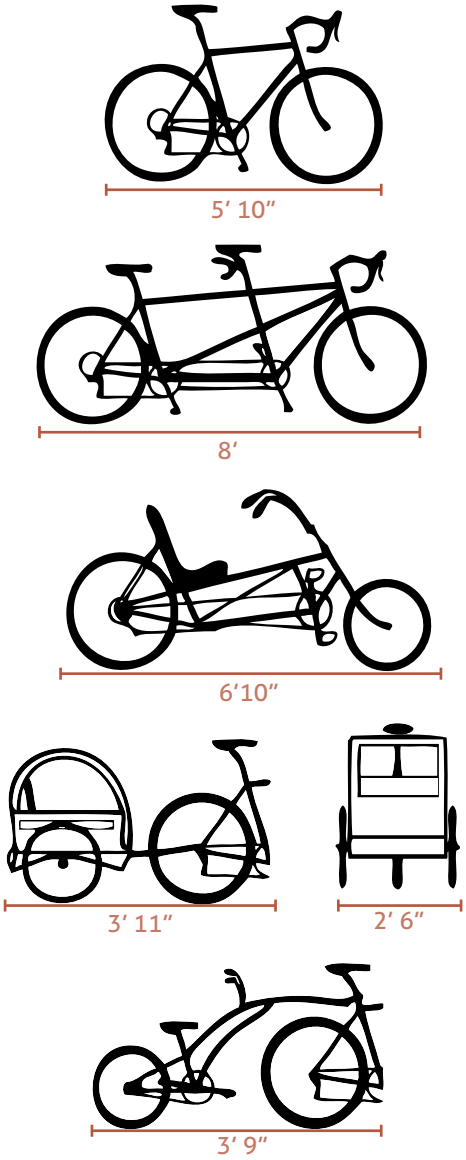
Standard Bicycle Rider Dimensions



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

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

DESIGN SPEED EXPECTATIONS



Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Typical Dimensions

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

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 shared use path	Physical length	10 ft
	Physical width	2 ft 6 in

Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Design Speed Expectations

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

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

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

TYPES OF BICYCLISTS

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

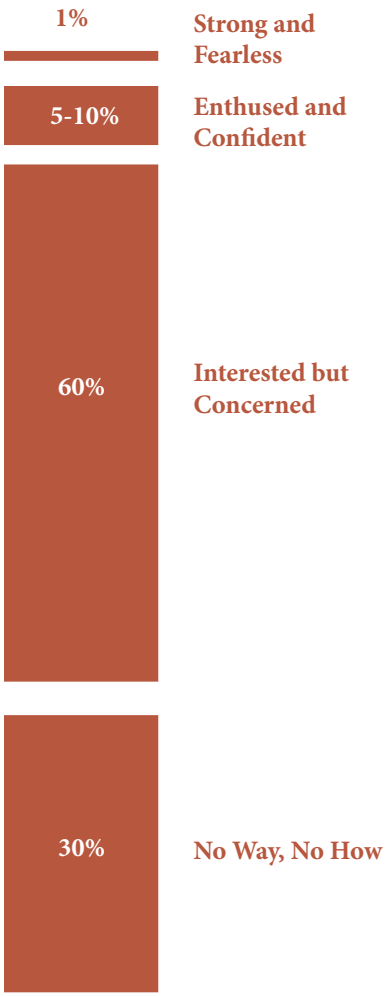
The bicycle planning and engineering professions currently use several systems to classify the population which can assist in understanding the characteristics and infrastructure preferences of different bicyclists. The current AASHTO Guide to the Development of Bicycle Facilities encourages designers to identify their rider type based on the trip purpose (Recreational vs Transportation) and on the level of comfort and skill of the rider (Causal vs Experienced). A more detailed framework for understanding of the US population's relationship to transportation focused bicycling is illustrated in the figure below. Developed by planners in Portland, OR[1] and supported by research[2], this classification provides the following alternative categories to address varying attitudes towards bicycling in the US:

Strong and Fearless (approximately 1% of population) – Characterized by bicyclists that will typically ride anywhere regardless of roadway conditions or weather. These bicyclists can ride faster than other user types, prefer direct routes and will typically choose roadway connections -- even if shared with vehicles -- over separate bicycle facilities such as shared use paths.

- **Enthused and Confident** (5-10% of population) - This user group encompasses bicyclists who are fairly comfortable riding on all types of bikeways but usually choose low traffic streets or shared use paths when available. These bicyclists may deviate from a more direct route in favor of a preferred facility type. This group includes all kinds of bicyclists such as commuters, recreationalists, racers and utilitarian bicyclists.

- **Interested but Concerned** (approximately 60% of population) – This user type comprises the bulk of the cycling population and represents bicyclists who typically only ride a bicycle on low traffic streets or shared use paths under favorable weather conditions. These bicyclists perceive significant barriers to their increased use of cycling, specifically traffic and other safety issues. These people may become "Enthused & Confident" with encouragement, education and experience.

- **No Way, No How** (approximately 30% of population) – Persons in this category are not bicyclists, and perceive severe safety issues with riding in traffic. Some people in this group may eventually become more regular cyclists with time and education. A significant portion of these people will not ride a bicycle under any circumstances.



Typical Distribution of Bicyclist Types

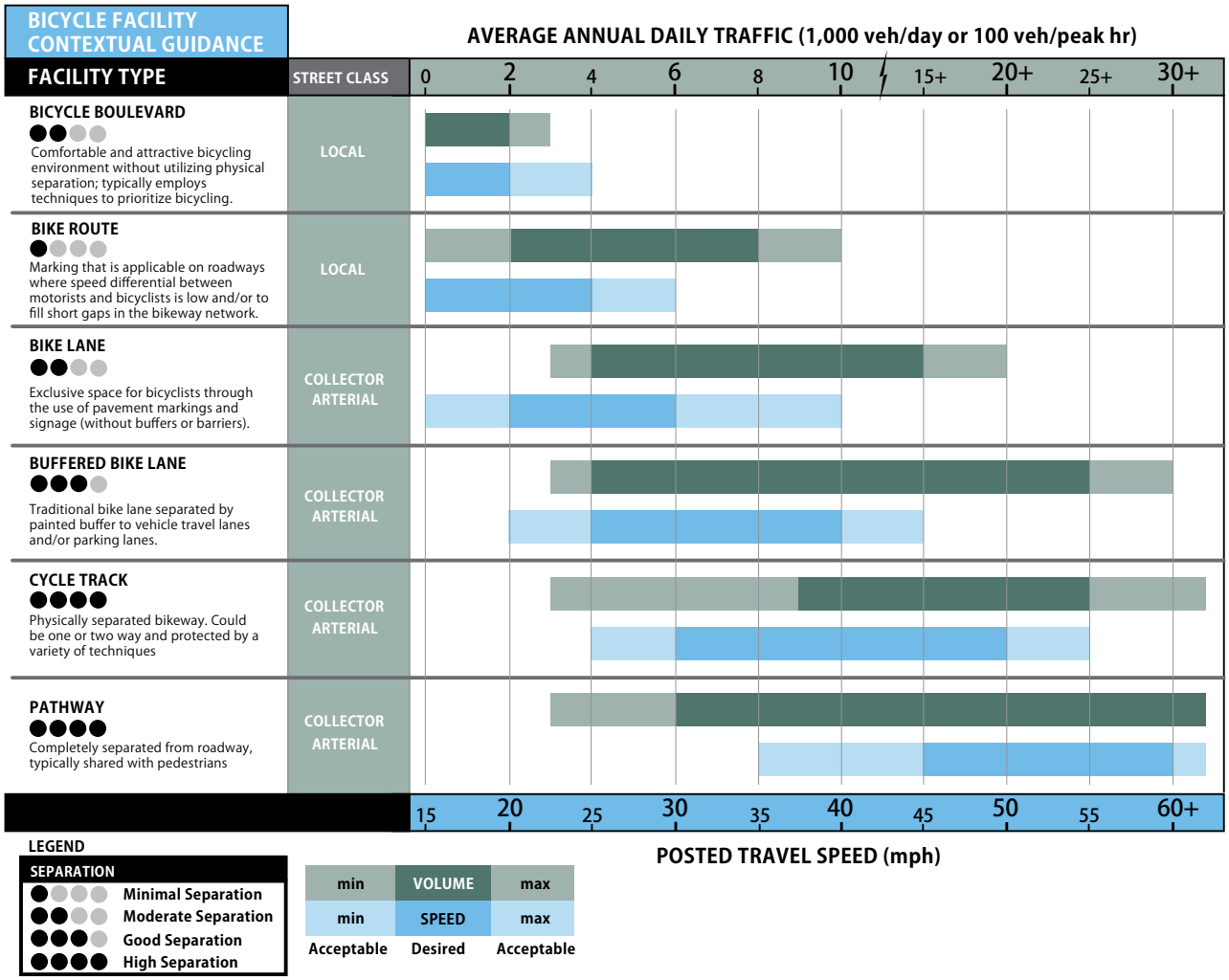
1 Roger Geller, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation. Four Types of Cyclists. http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?&a=237507. 2009.

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

BICYCLE FACILITY CONTEXTUAL GUIDANCE

Selecting the best bikeway facility type for a given roadway can be challenging, due to the range of factors that influence bicycle users' comfort and safety. There is a significant impact on cycling comfort when the speed differential between bicyclists and motor vehicle traffic is high and motor vehicle traffic volumes are high. As a starting point to identify a preferred facility, the chart below can be used to determine the recommended type of bikeway to be provided in particular roadway speed and volume situations. To use this chart, identify the appropriate daily traffic volume and travel speed on or the existing or proposed roadway, and locate the facility types indicated by those key variables.

Other factors beyond speed and volume which affect facility selection include traffic mix of automobiles and heavy vehicles, the presence of on-street parking, intersection density, surrounding land use, and roadway sight distance. These factors are not included in the facility selection chart below, but should always be considered in the facility selection and design process.



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.

Bike boulevards are a special class of shared roadways designed for a broad spectrum of bicyclists. They are low-volume local streets where motorists and bicyclists share the same travel lane. Treatments for bike boulevards are selected as necessary to create appropriate automobile volumes and speeds, and to provide safe crossing opportunities of busy streets.

Signed Shared Roadway

Marked Shared Roadway

Shared Roadways with Diagonal Parking

Bike Boulevards

Signed Shared Roadway

Description

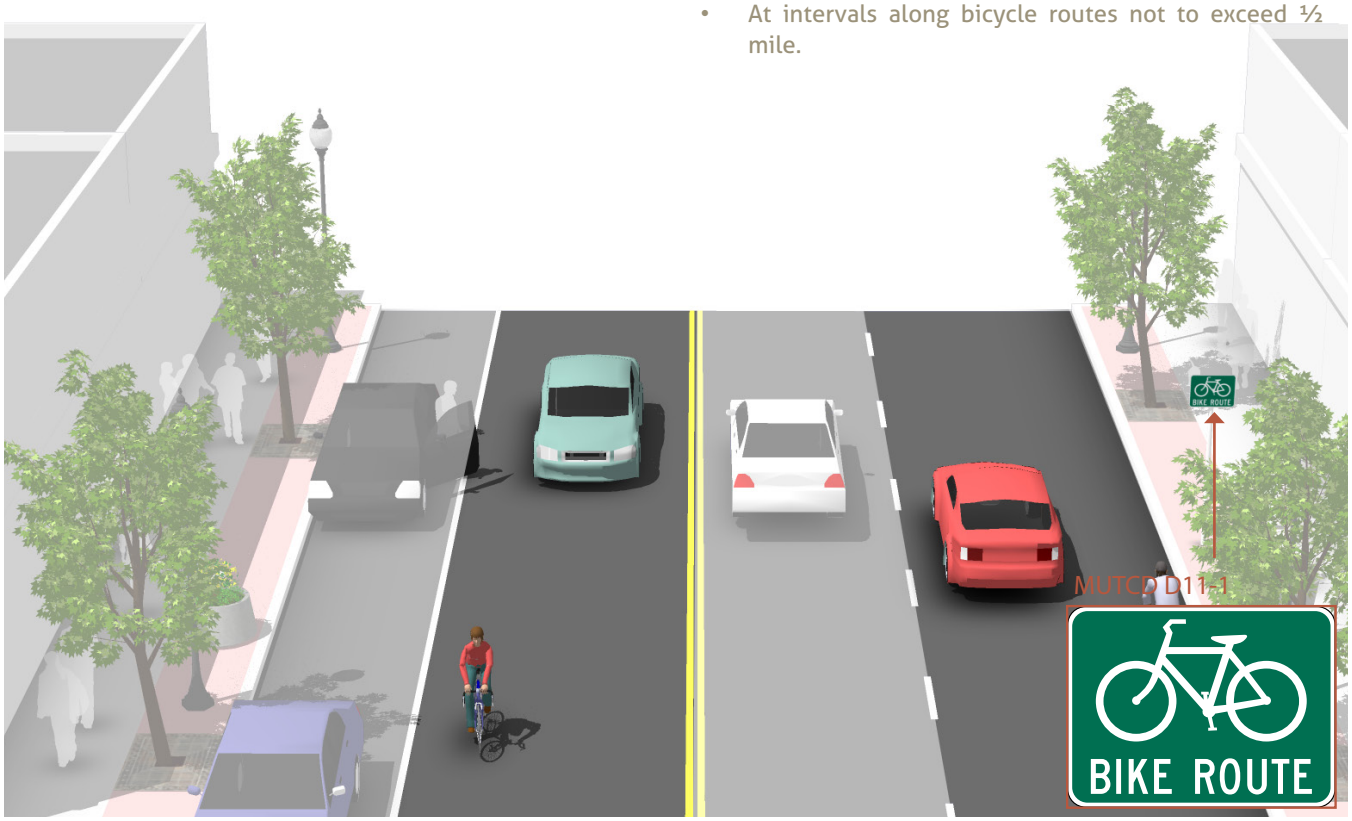
Signed shared roadways are facilities shared with motor vehicles. They are typically used on roads with low speeds and traffic volumes, however can be used on higher volume roads with wide outside lanes or shoulders. A motor vehicle driver will usually have to cross over into the adjacent travel lane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

Guidance

Lane width varies depending on roadway configuration.

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

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



Discussion

Signed Shared Roadways serve either to provide continuity with other bicycle facilities (usually bike lanes) or to designate preferred routes through high-demand corridors. This configuration differs from a bike boulevard due to a lack of traffic calming, wayfinding, pavement markings and other enhancements designed to provide a higher level of comfort for a broad spectrum of users.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Marked Shared Roadway

Description

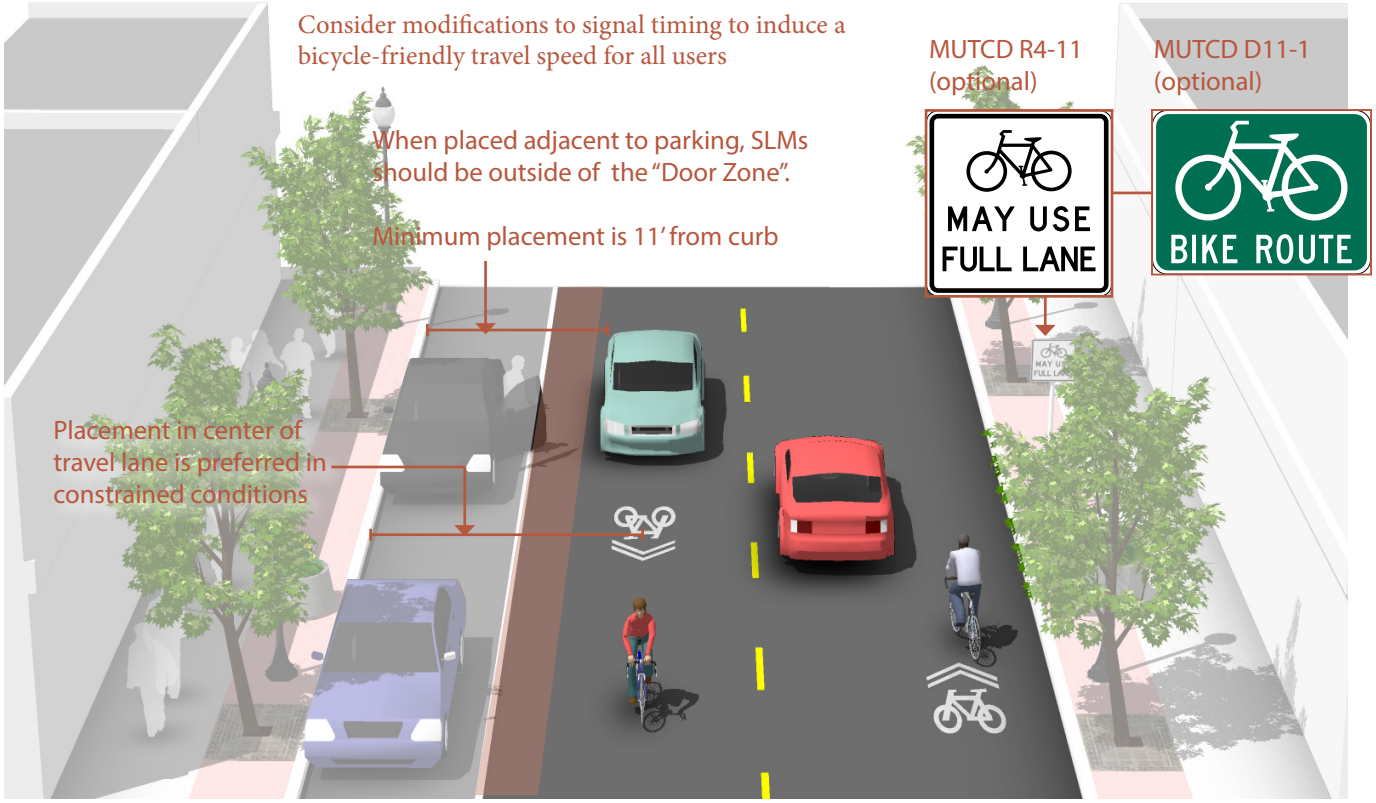
A marked shared roadway is a general purpose travel lane marked with shared lane markings (SLM) used to encourage bicycle travel and proper positioning within the lane.

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

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Shared Roadway Adjacent to Diagonal Parking

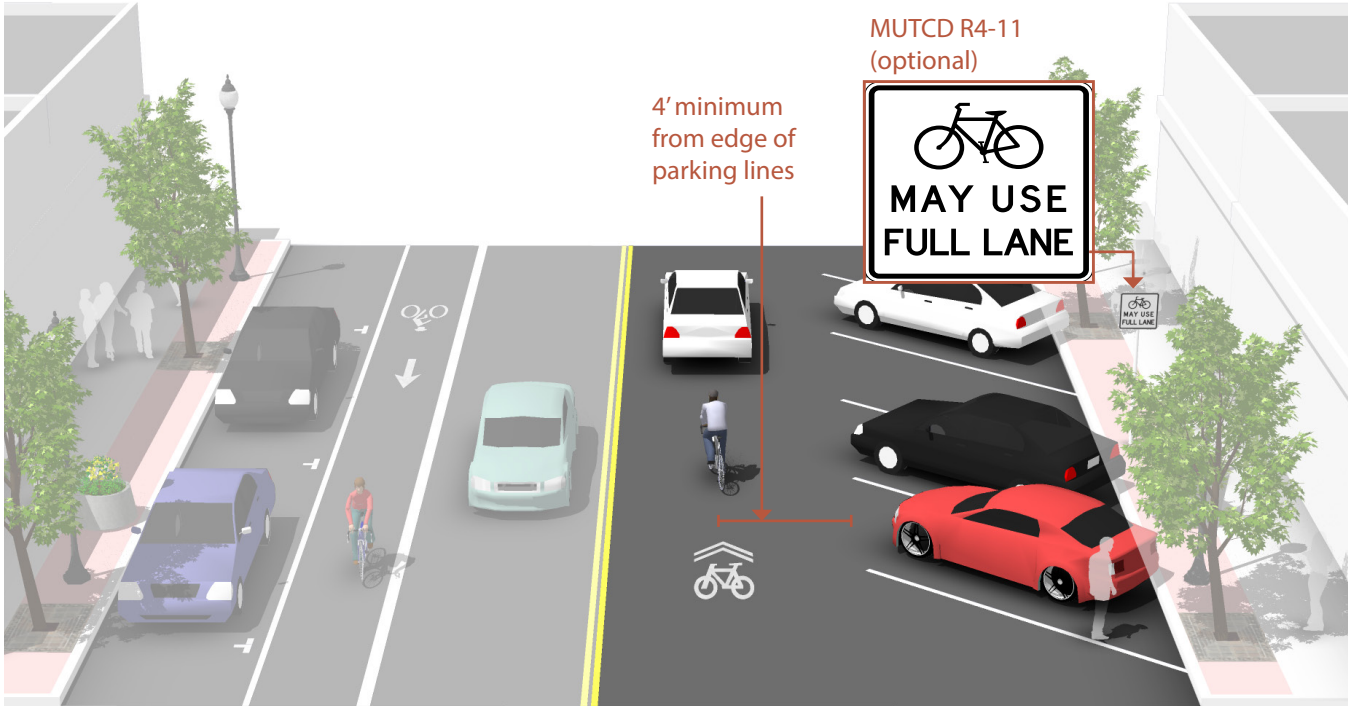
Description

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

Back-in diagonal parking improves sight distance between drivers and bicyclists when compared to conventional head-in diagonal parking. Back-in diagonal parking provides additional benefits to vehicles including loading and unloading of the trunk at the curb rather than in the street, passengers (including children) are directed by open doors towards the curb; there is also no door conflict with bicyclists.

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 4 feet from the edge of parking lines.



Discussion

Conventional front-in diagonal parking is not compatible or recommended in conjunction with high levels of bicycle traffic as drivers backing out of conventional diagonal parking have poor visibility of approaching bicyclists.

While there may be a learning curve for some drivers, using back-in diagonal parking is typically an easier maneuver than conventional parallel parking.

Additional References and Guidelines

There is no currently adopted Federal or State guidance for this treatment.

Materials and Maintenance

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

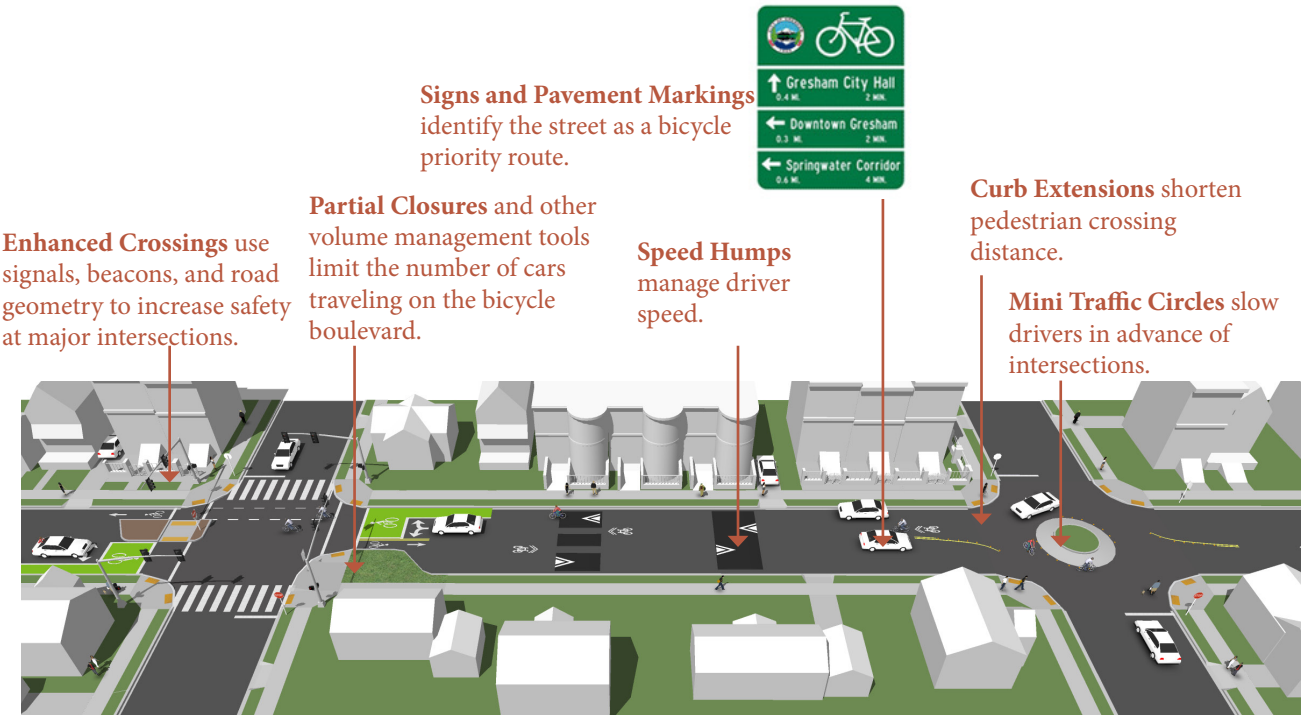
Bike Boulevard

Description

Bicycle boulevards are low-volume, low-speed 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. *Bicycle Boulevard Planning and Design Handbook.* 2009.
BikeSafe. *Bicycle countermeasure selection system.*
Ewing, Reid. *Traffic Calming: State of the Practice.* 1999.
Ewing, Reid and Brown, Steven. *U.S. Traffic Calming Manual.* 2009.

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 simple striping or robust physical barriers, 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.

Shoulder Bikeways

Conventional Bicycle Lanes

Contra-Flow Bike Lanes

Buffered Bike Lanes

Uphill Bike Lane Treatments

Protected Bike Lanes

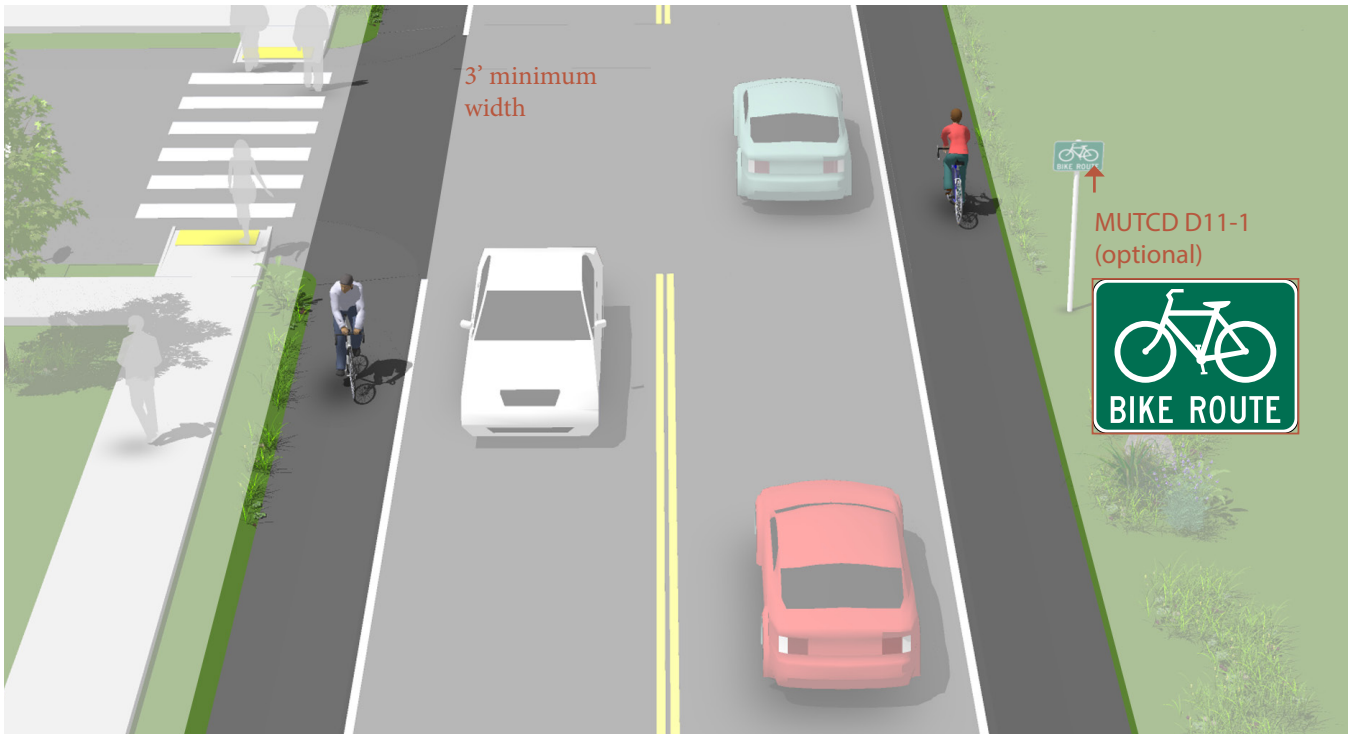
Shoulder Bikeways

Description

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Bike Lane without On-Street Parking

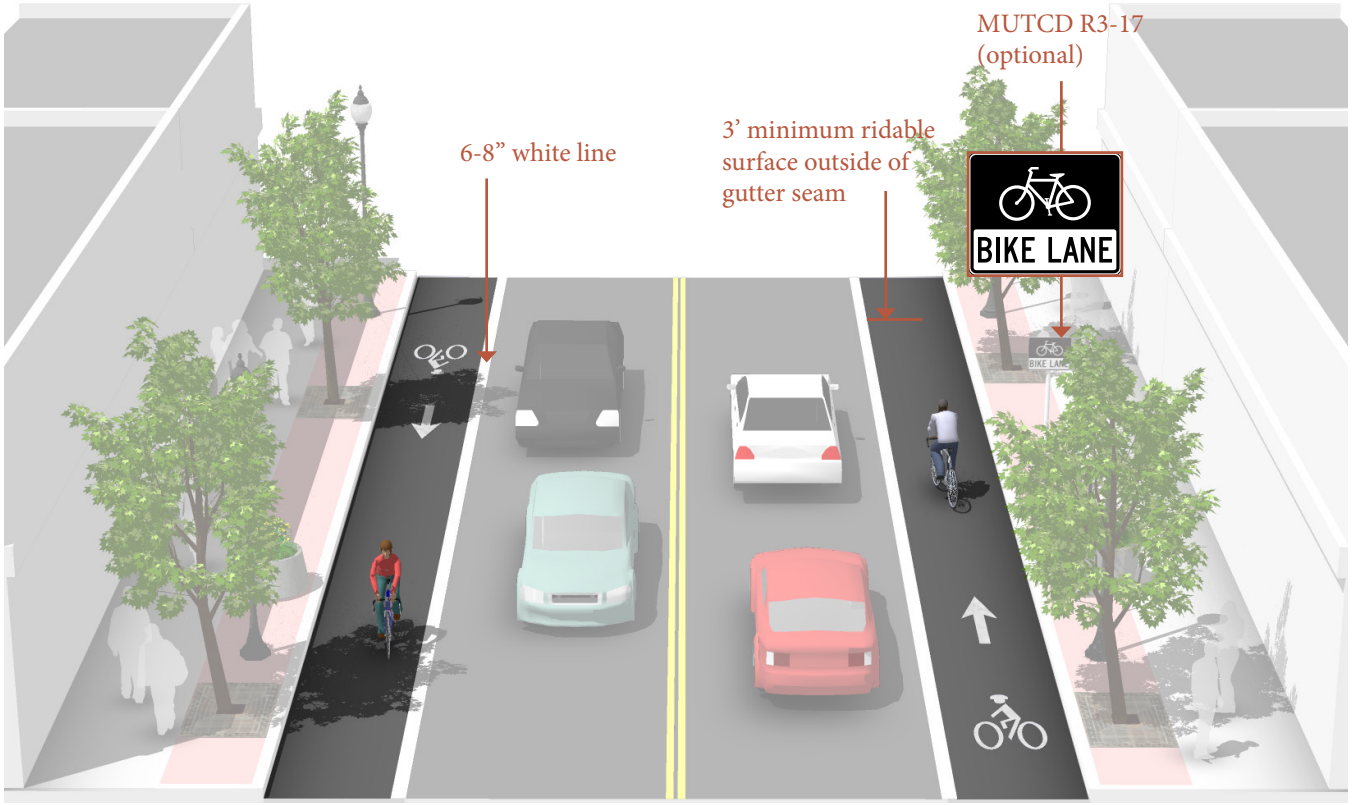
Description

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

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Bike Lane Adjacent to On-Street Parallel Parking

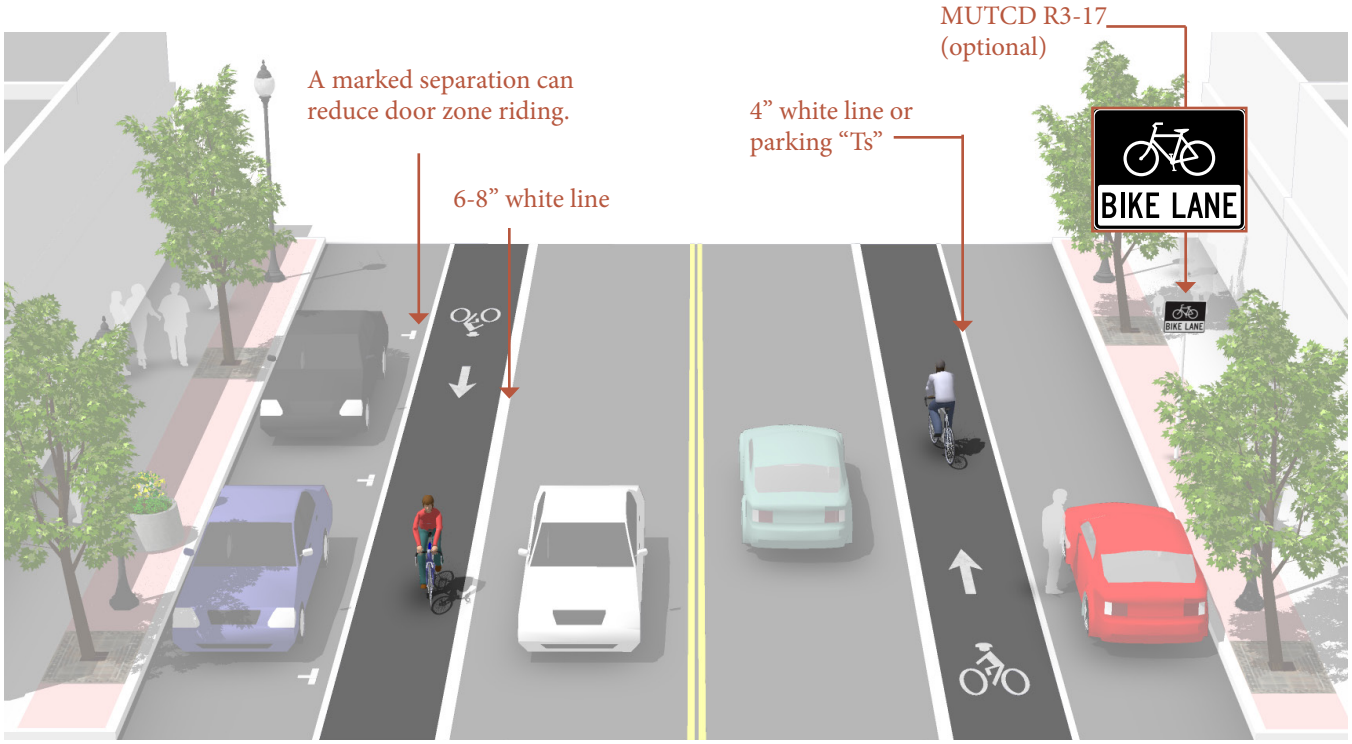
Description

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

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Bike Lanes and Diagonal Parking

Description

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

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

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

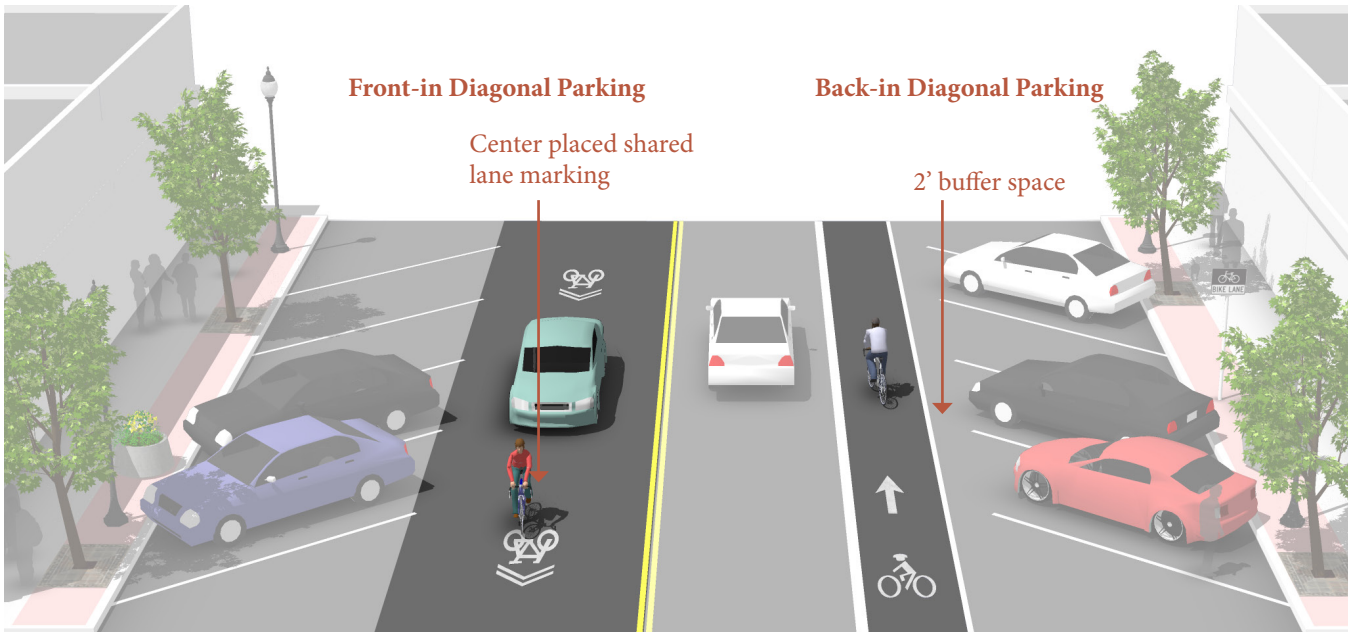
Guidance

Front-in Diagonal Parking

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

Back-in Diagonal Parking

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



Discussion

Conventional front-in diagonal parking is not compatible or recommended in conjunction with high levels of bicycle traffic or with the provision of bike lanes, as drivers backing out of conventional diagonal parking have limited visibility of approaching bicyclists.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

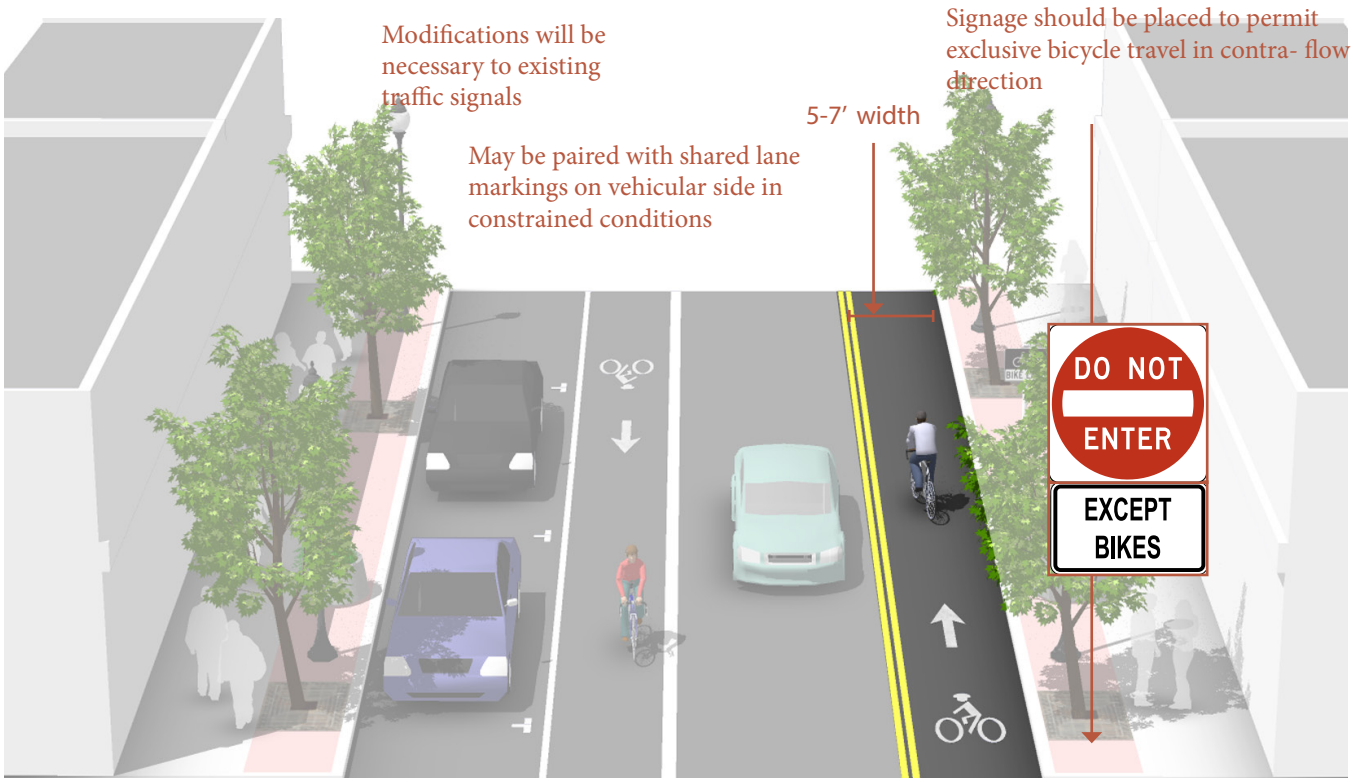
Contra-flow Bike Lane on One-way Street

Description

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Buffered Bike Lane

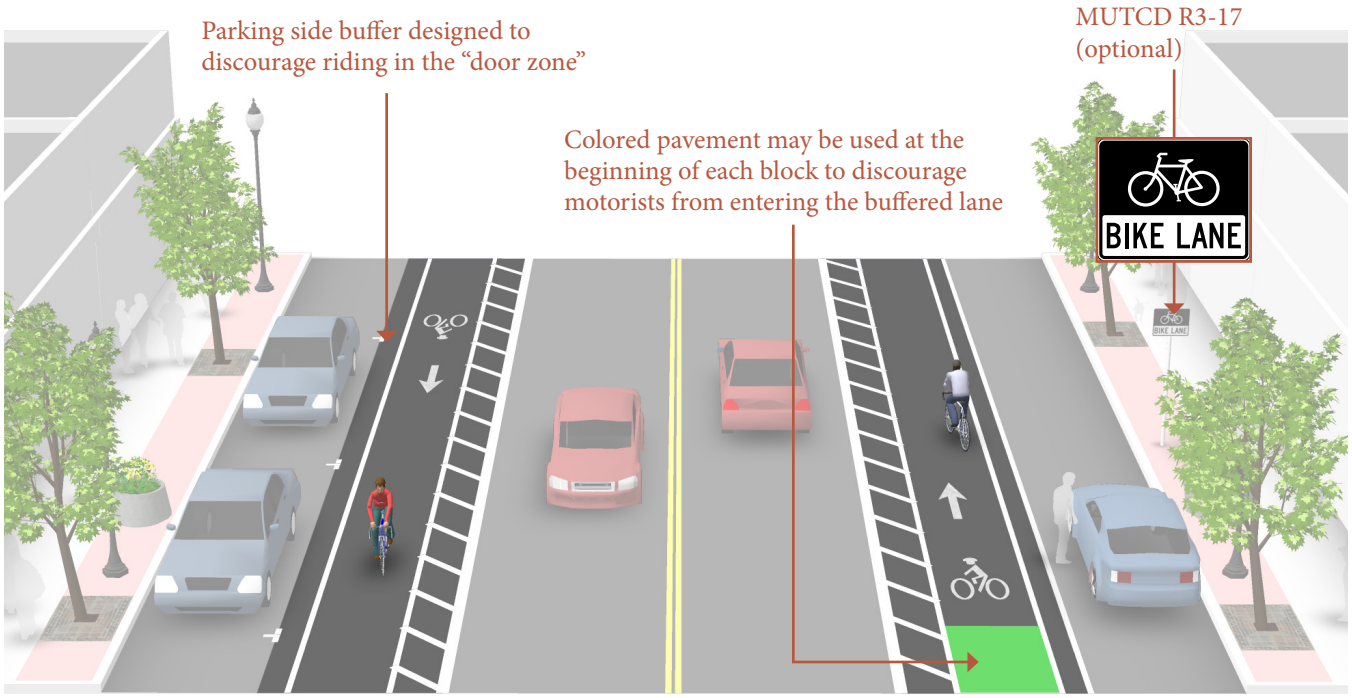
Description

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

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

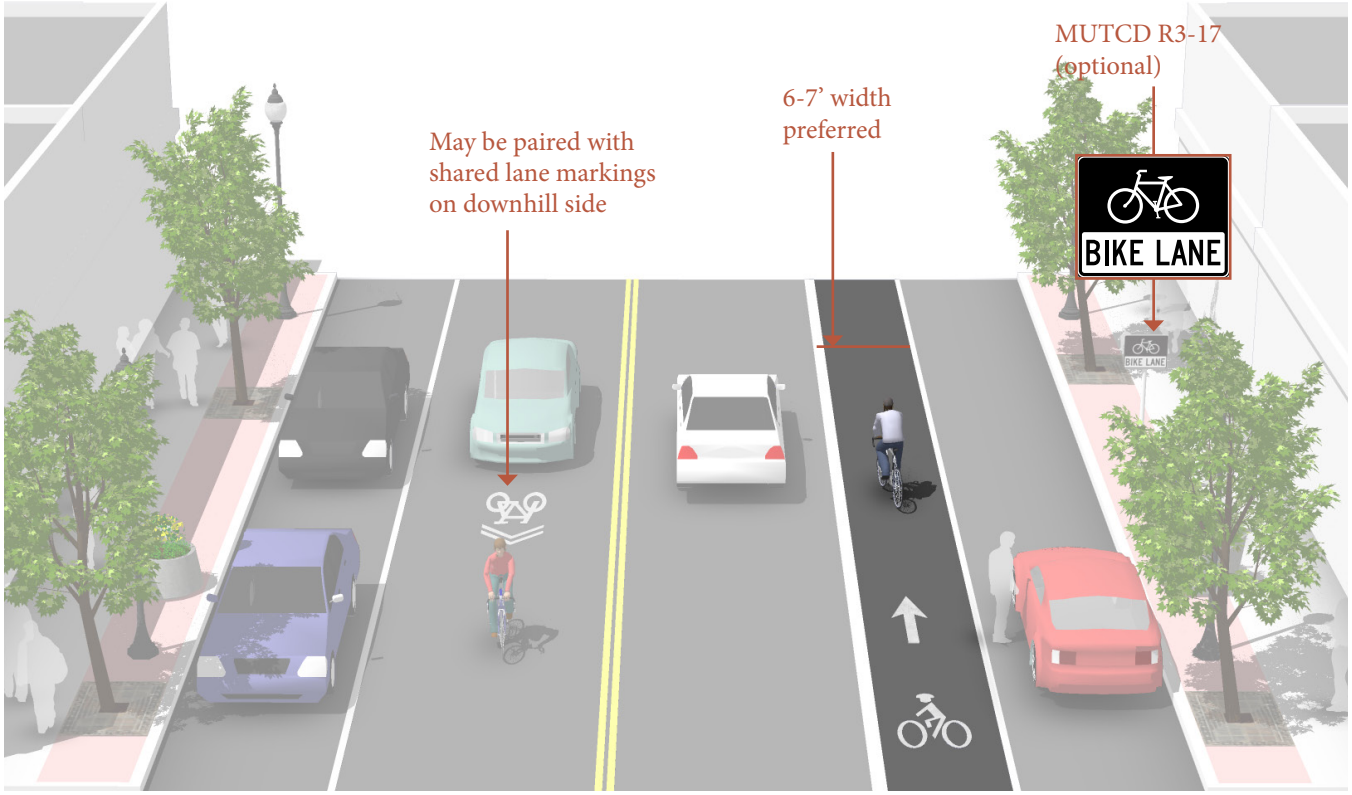
Uphill Bicycle Climbing Lane

Description

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Protected Bike Lanes (Cycle Tracks)

Description

A [rotected bike lane (also called 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 protected bike lane is physically separated from motor traffic and distinct from the sidewalk. Potected bike lanes 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 protected bike lanes may be at the level of the adjacent sidewalk or set at an intermediate level between the roadway and sidewalk to separate the bike lane from the pedestrian area.

Guidance

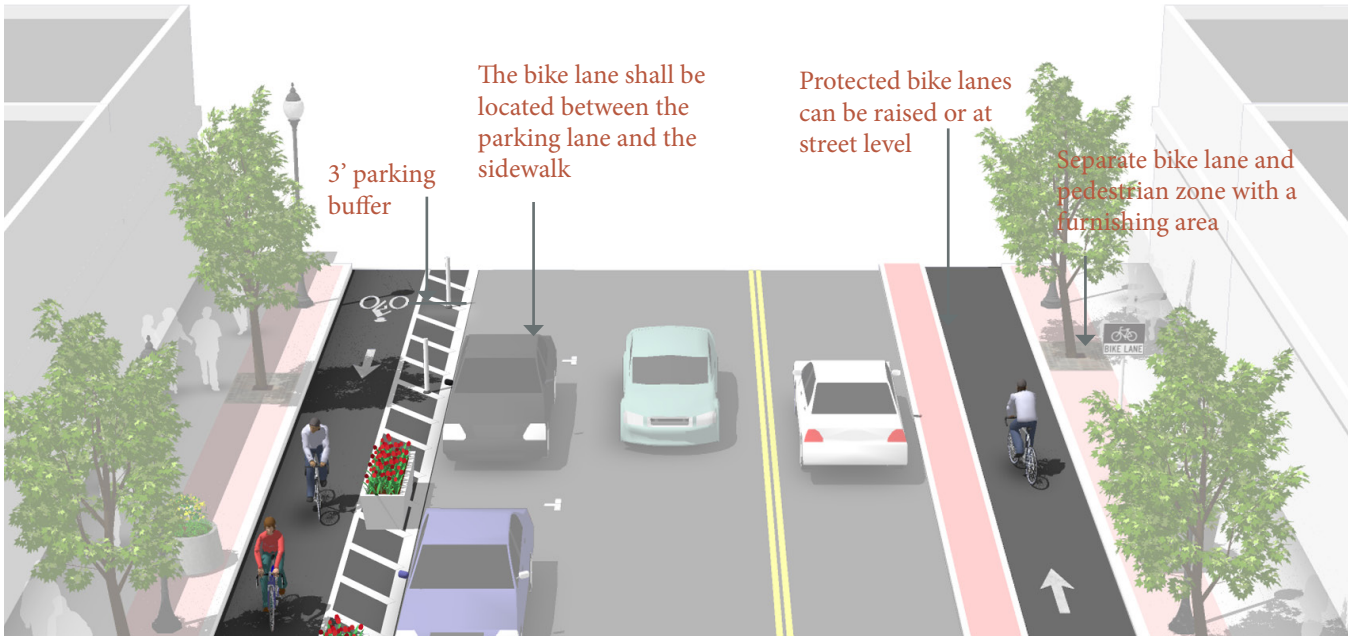
Protected bike lanes should ideally be placed along streets with long blocks and few driveways or mid-block access points for motor vehicles.

One-Way Protected Bike Lanes

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

Two-Way Protected Bike Lanes

- Protected bike lanes 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 protected bike lane 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 protected bike lane has priority over entering and exiting traffic. If configured as a raised protected bike lane, the crossing should be raised so that the sidewalk and protected bike lane maintain their elevation through the crossing.

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide.* 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

In cities with winter climates, barrier separated and raised protected bike lanes 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.

Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas

Shared Bicycle/Right Turn Lane

Intersection Crossing Markings

Two Stage Turn Boxes

Bike Boxes

Bicyclists at Roundabouts

Bike Lanes at Right Turn Only Lanes

Bikes at Diverging Lane Ramps

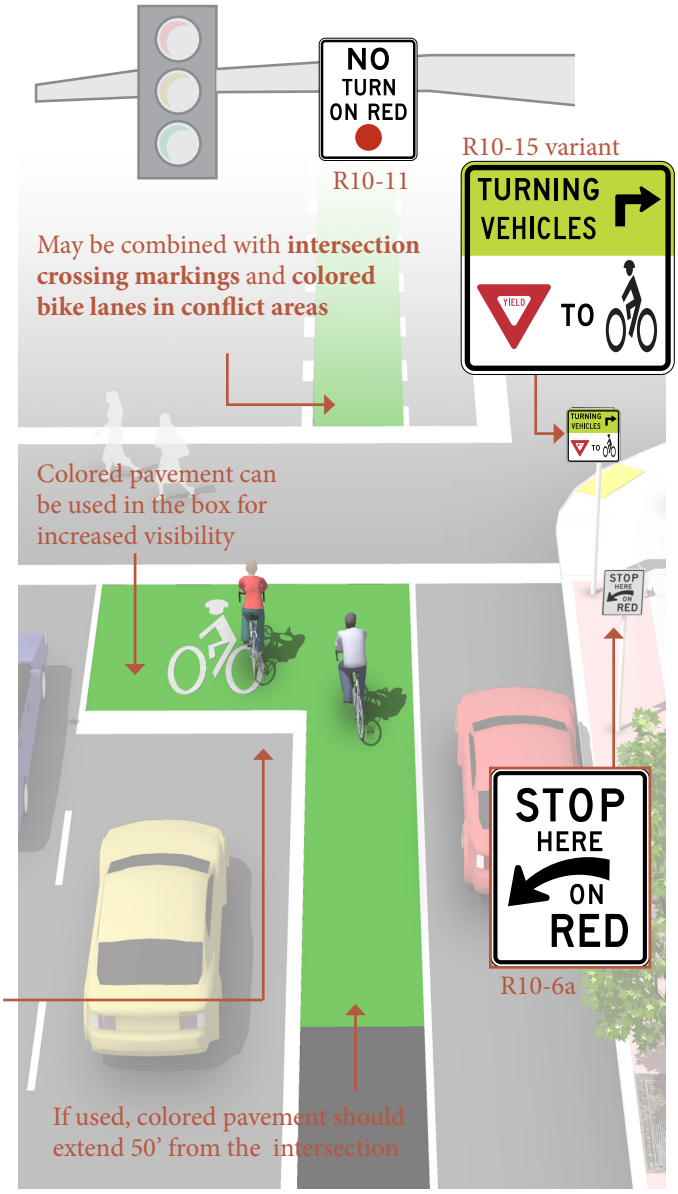
Bike Box

Description

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

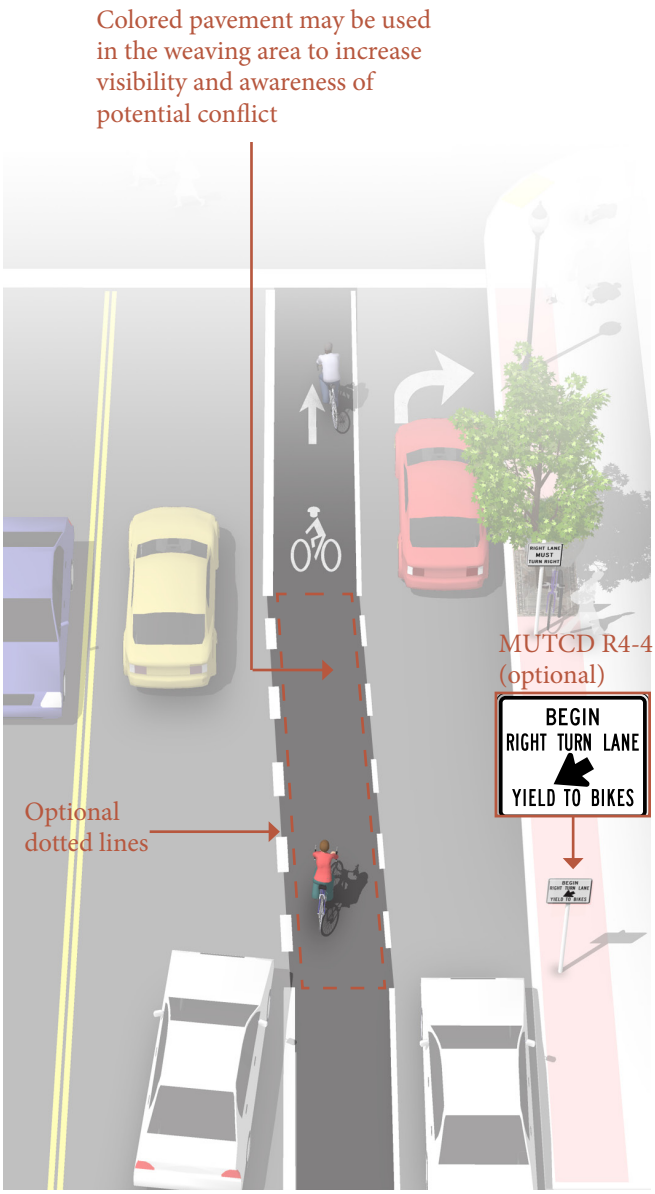
Because the effectiveness of markings depends entirely on their visibility, maintaining markings should be a high priority.

Bike Lanes at Right Turn Only Lanes

Description

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

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



Guidance

At auxiliary right turn only lanes (add lane):

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

Where a through lane becomes a right turn only lane:

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

Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas

Description

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

Guidance

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

Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

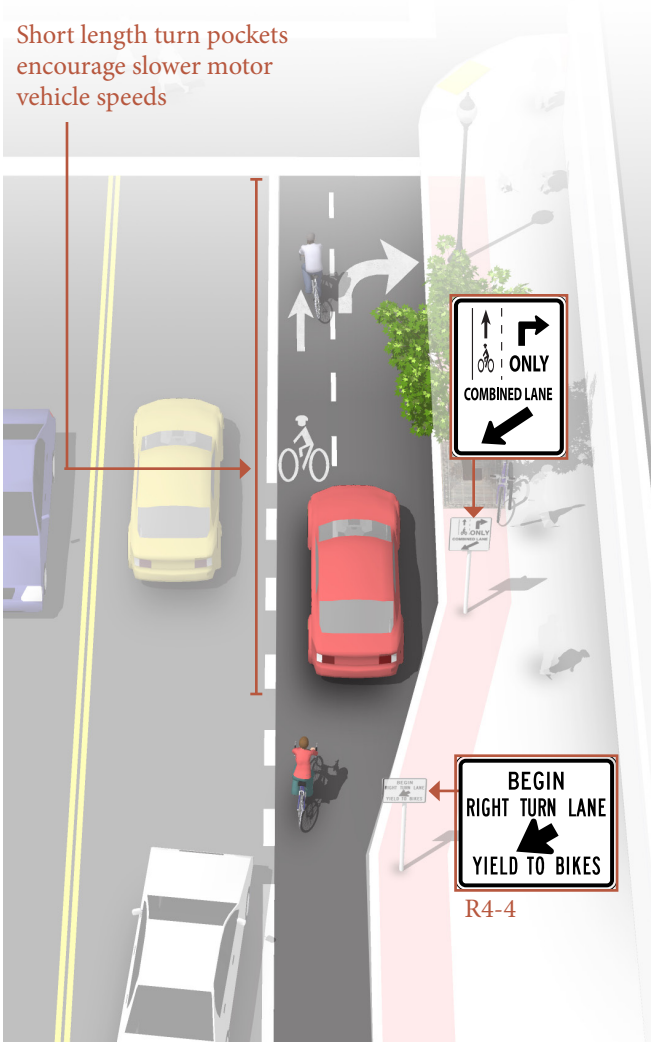
Because the effectiveness of markings depends entirely on their visibility, maintaining markings should be a high priority.

Shared Bicycle/Right Turn Lane

Description

The combined bike lane/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. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide.* 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

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

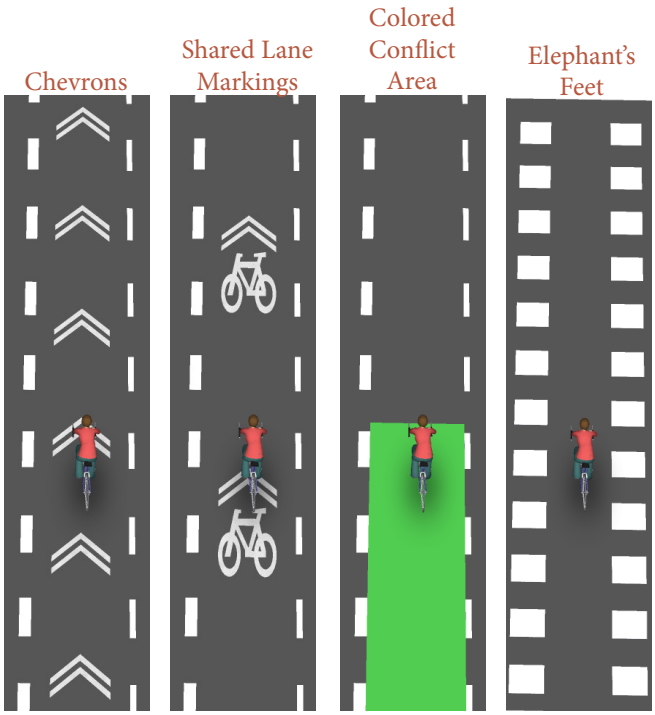
Intersection Crossing Markings

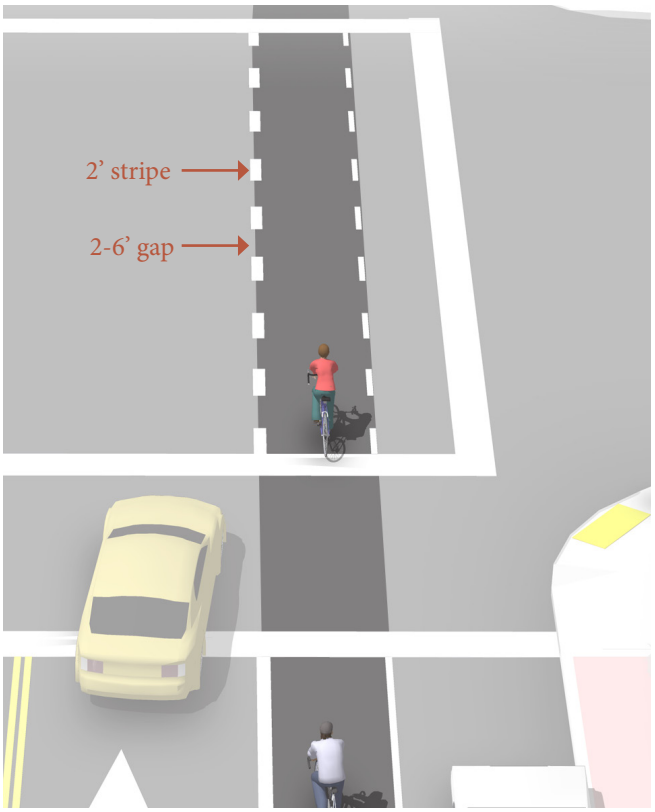
Description

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

Guidance

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





Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Two-Stage Turn Boxes

Description

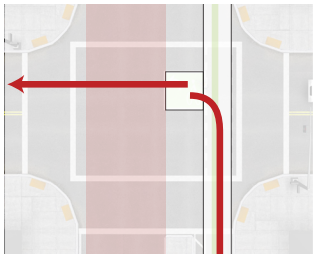
Two-stage turn queue boxes offer bicyclists a safe way to make left turns at multi-lane signalized intersections from a right side bike lane.

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

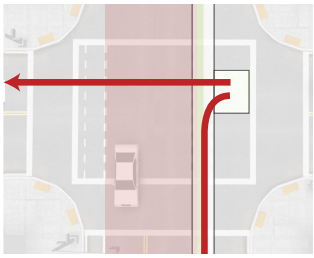
Guidance

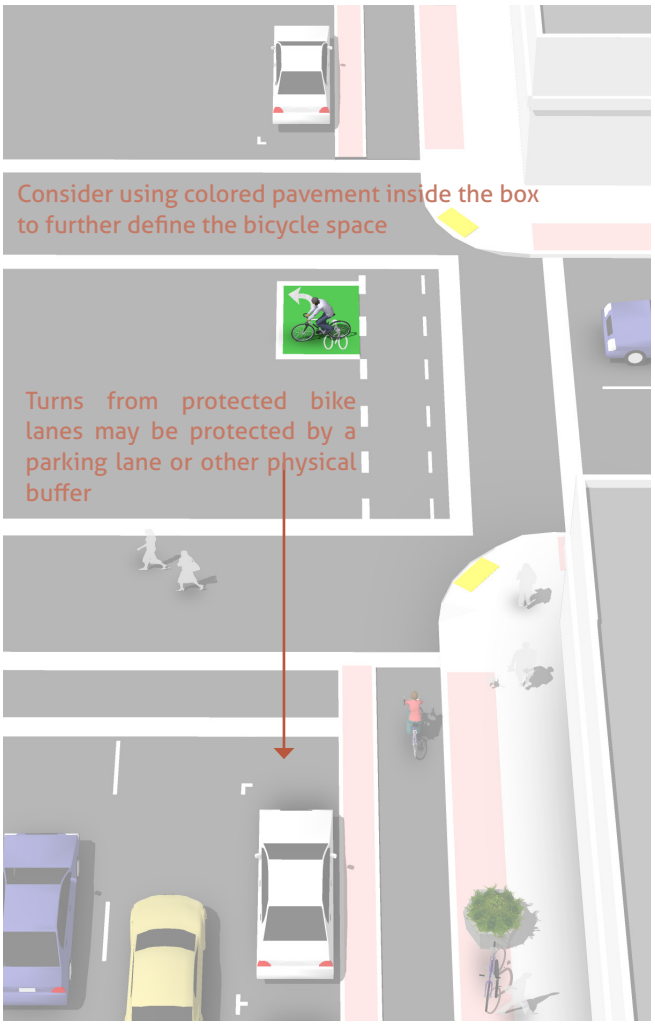
- The queue box shall be placed in a protected area. Typically this is within an on-street parking lane or protected bike lane buffer area.
- 6' minimum depth of bicycle storage area
- Bicycle stencil and turn arrow pavement markings shall be used to indicate proper bicycle direction and positioning.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

Protected bike lane turn box protected by physical buffer:



Bike lane turn box protected by parking lane:





Discussion

Two-Stage Turn boxes are considered experimental by FHWA.

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

Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide.* 2012.

Materials and Maintenance

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

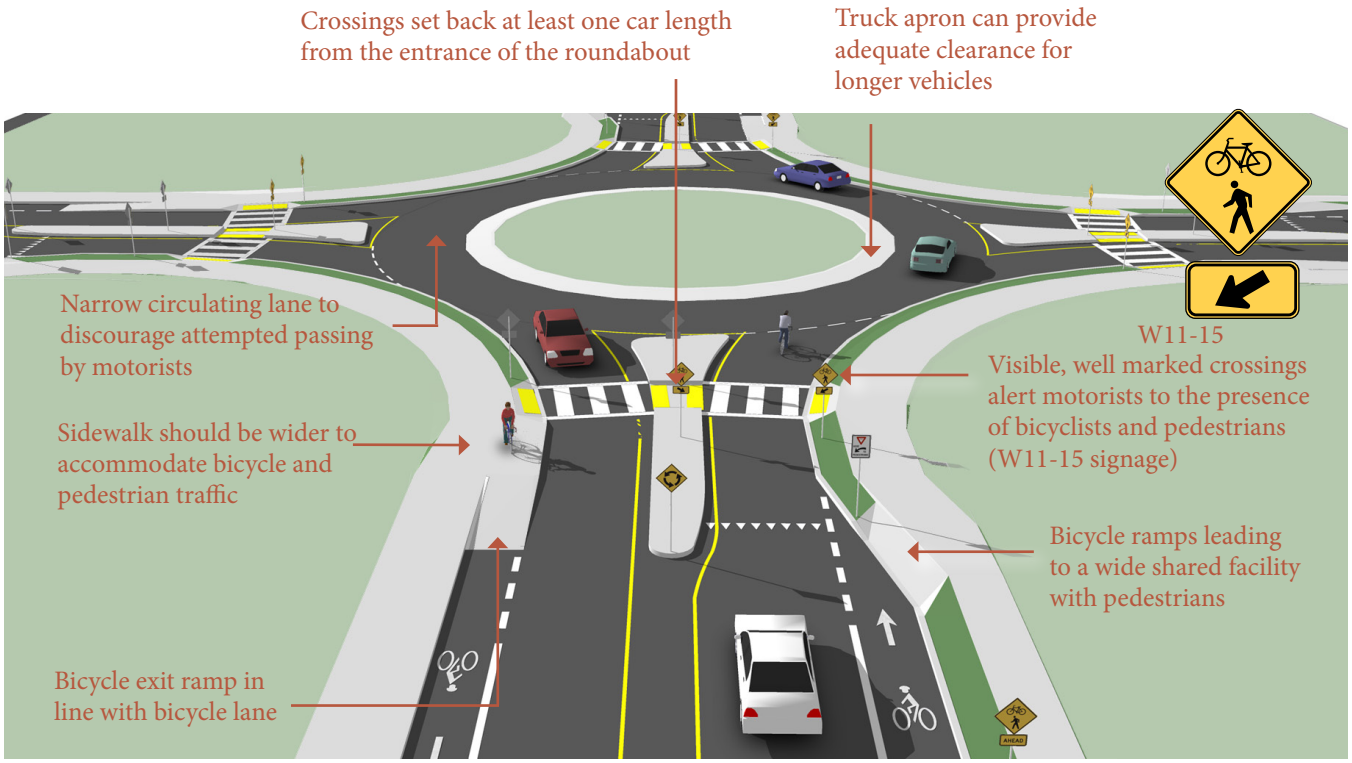
Bicyclists at Single Lane Roundabouts

Description

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

Guidelines

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

FHWA. *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide.* 2000.
TRB. *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide, Second Edition.* NCHRP 672. 2010.

Materials and Maintenance

Signage and striping require routine maintenance.

Bike Lanes at Diverging Ramp Lanes

Description

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

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

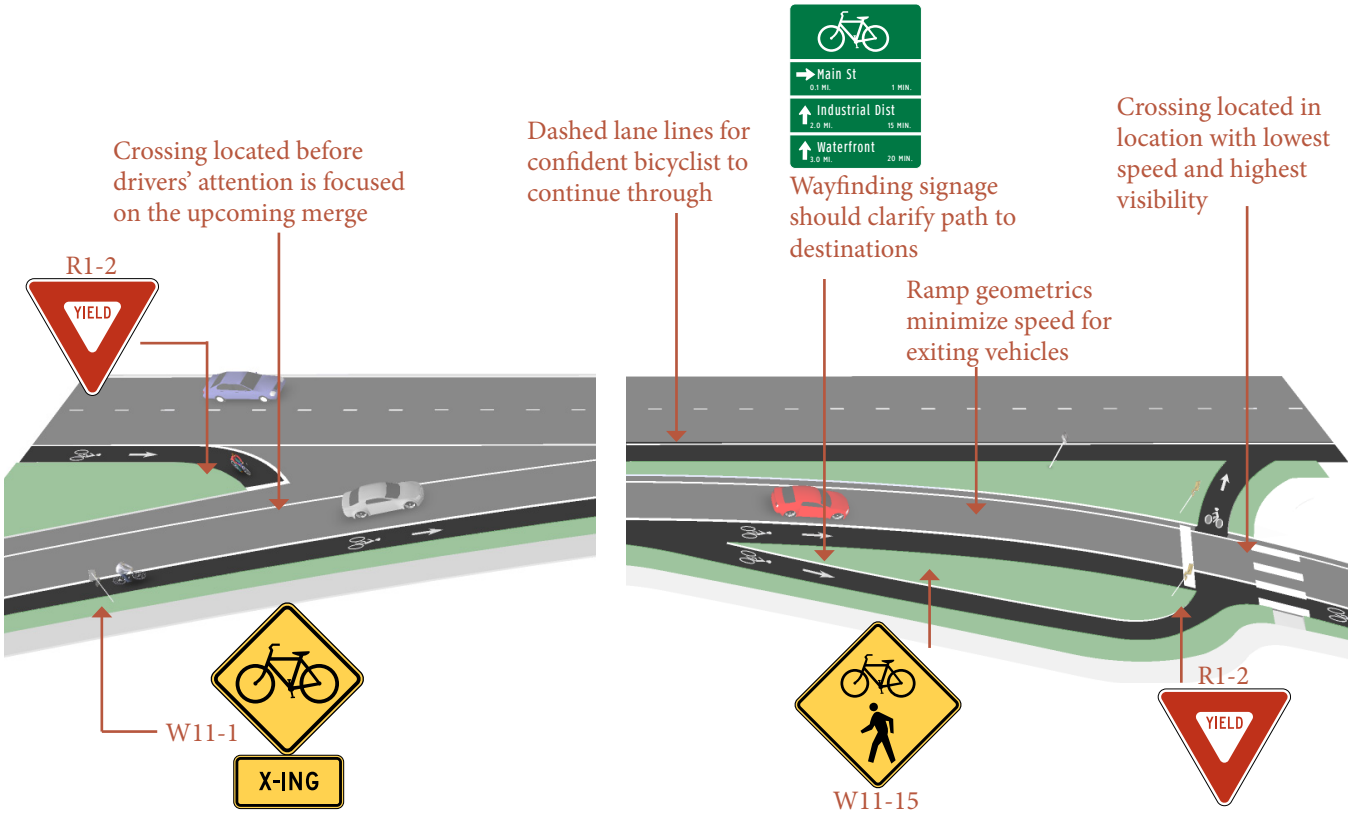
Guidance

Entrance Ramps:

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

Exit Ramps:

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

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

FHWA. *Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Lesson 15: Bicycle Lanes.* 2006.

Materials and Maintenance

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

BIKEWAY SIGNING

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

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

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

Signage can serve both wayfinding and safety purposes including:

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

A community-wide bicycle wayfinding signage plan would identify:

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

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

Wayfinding Sign Types

Wayfinding Sign Placement

Wayfinding Sign Types

Description

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

D11-1c

Confirmation Signs

Alternative Bike Route Guide (D11-1c) signs are used to Indicate to bicyclists that they are on a designated bikeway and make motorists aware of the bicycle route. The use of the D11-1c sign (which includes a destination or route name) is preferred whenever practical, as it provides the reader with more useful information than the D11-1.

D1-1

Turn Signs

A Bicycle Destination Sign (D1-1) with one or more destination in a single direction indicates where a bike route turns from one street onto another street. This signage can be used with pavement markings, and includes destinations and arrows.

Decisions Signs

Decision sign assemblies are a combination of D11-1c and D1-3a signs used to mark the junction of two or more bikeways and inform bicyclists of the designated bike route to access key destinations. Commonly includes destinations and arrows and distances.

D11-1/D1-3a

Numbered Bicycle Route Signs

Numbered Bicycle Route (M1-8, M1-8a) signs are used to establish a unique identification of state or local bicycle routes. U.S. Bicycle Route (M1-9) signs shall contain the AASHTO designated route number.

M1-8

M1-9

Discussion

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.

While not included in the MUTCD, some jurisdictions include travel time on Bicycle Destination Signs to help communicate and inform users of realistic bicycle travel times based on a 10 mph travel speed.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Wayfinding Sign Placement

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

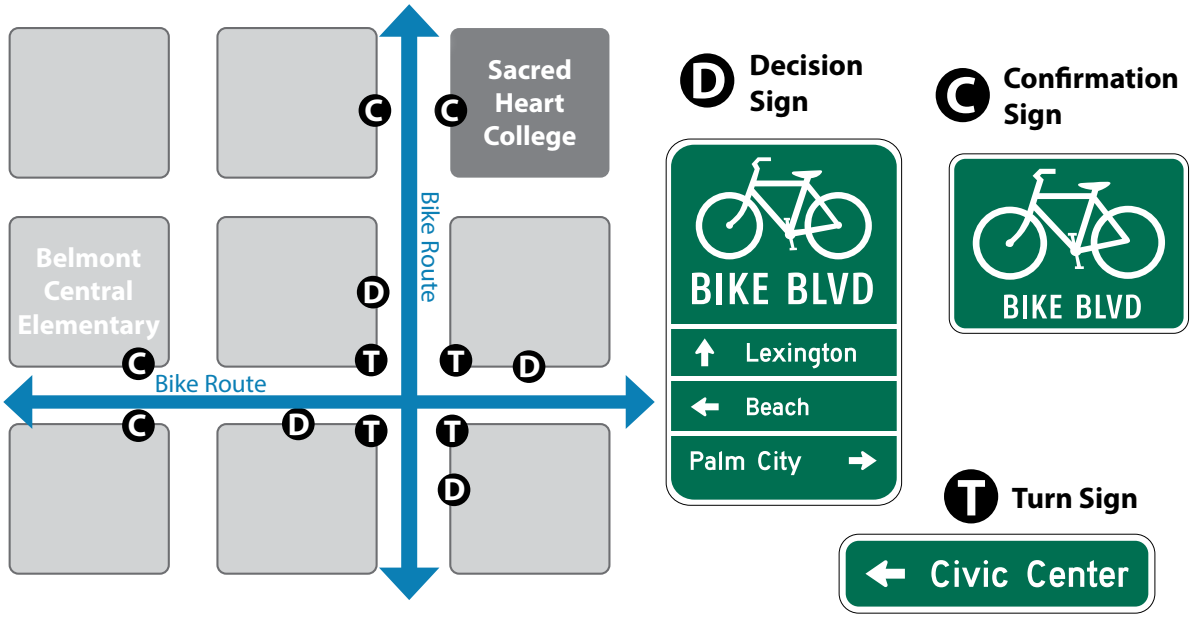
- Near-side of intersections in advance of a junction with another bicycle route.
- Along a route to indicate a nearby destination.

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

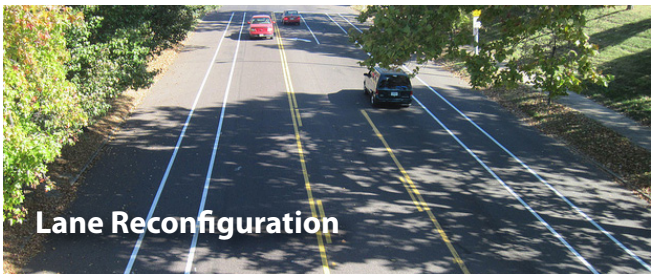
Materials and Maintenance

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

RETROFITTING EXISTING STREETS TO ADD BIKEWAYS

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

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



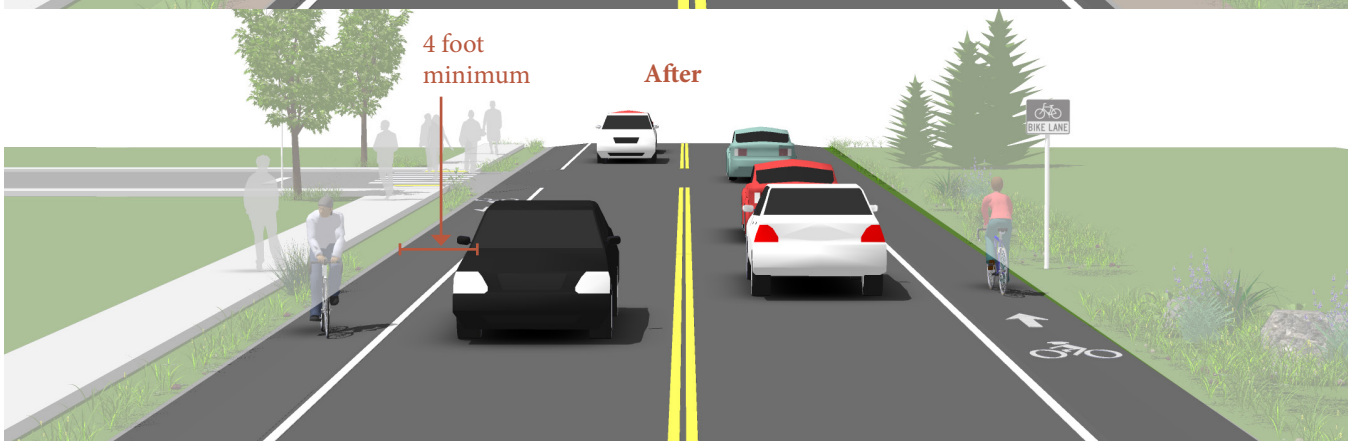
Roadway Widening

Description

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Lane Narrowing

Description

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

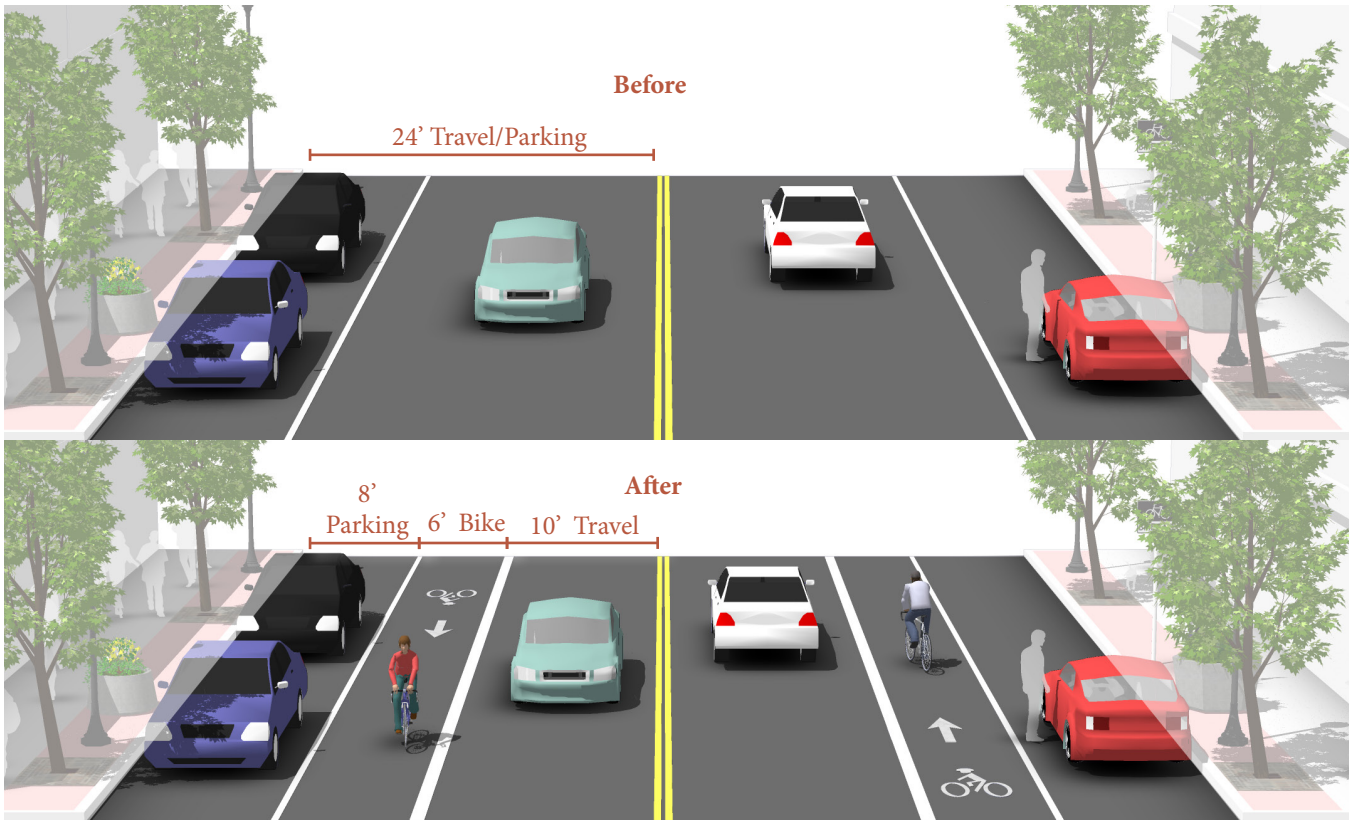
Guidance

Vehicle lane width:

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

Bicycle lane width:

- Guidance on bicycle lanes applies to this treatment.



Discussion

Special consideration should be given to the amount of heavy vehicle traffic and horizontal curvature before the decision is made to narrow travel lanes. Center turn lanes can also be narrowed in some situations to free up pavement space for bike lanes. AASHTO supports reduced width lanes in *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets: "On interrupted-flow operation conditions at low speeds (45 mph or less), narrow lane widths are normally adequate and have some advantages."*

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Lane Reconfiguration

Description

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

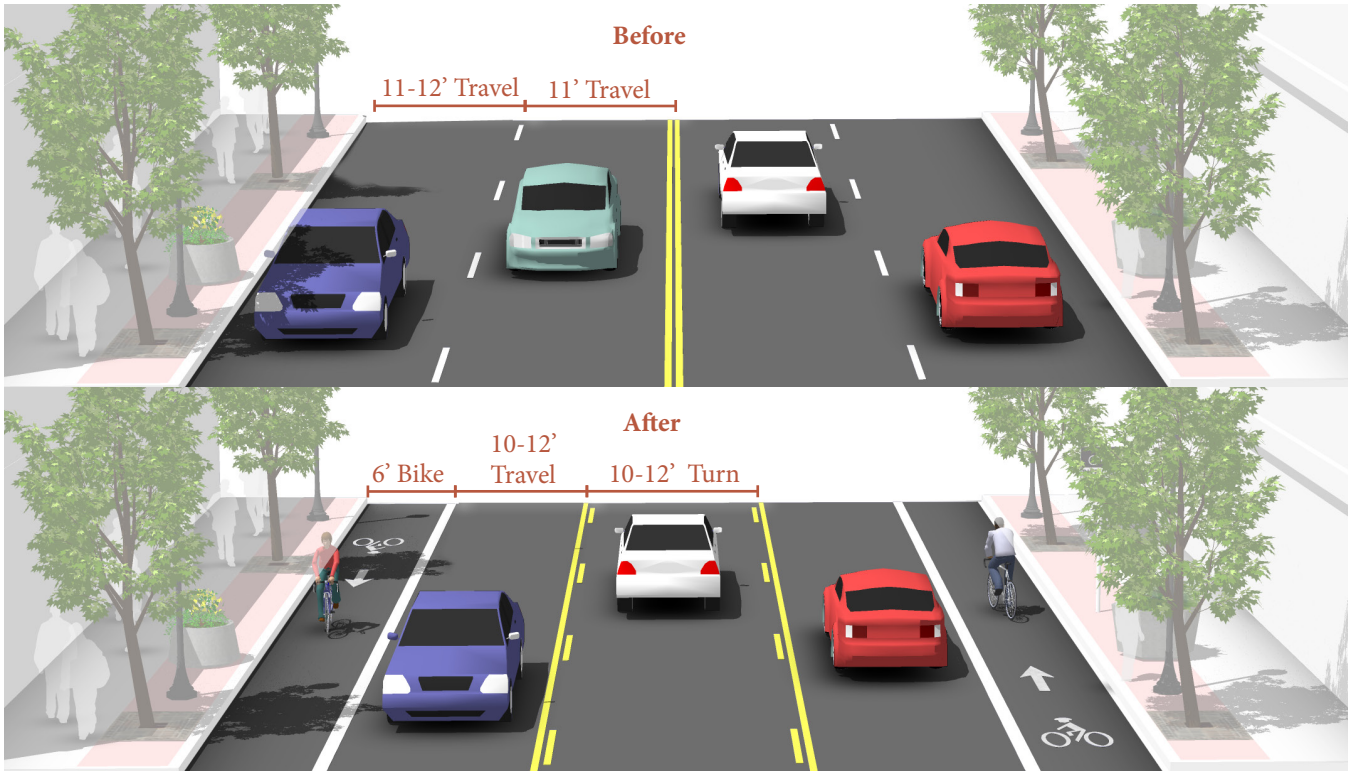
Guidance

Vehicle lane width:

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

Bicycle lane width:

- Guidance on bicycle lanes applies to this treatment.



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Parking Reduction

Description

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

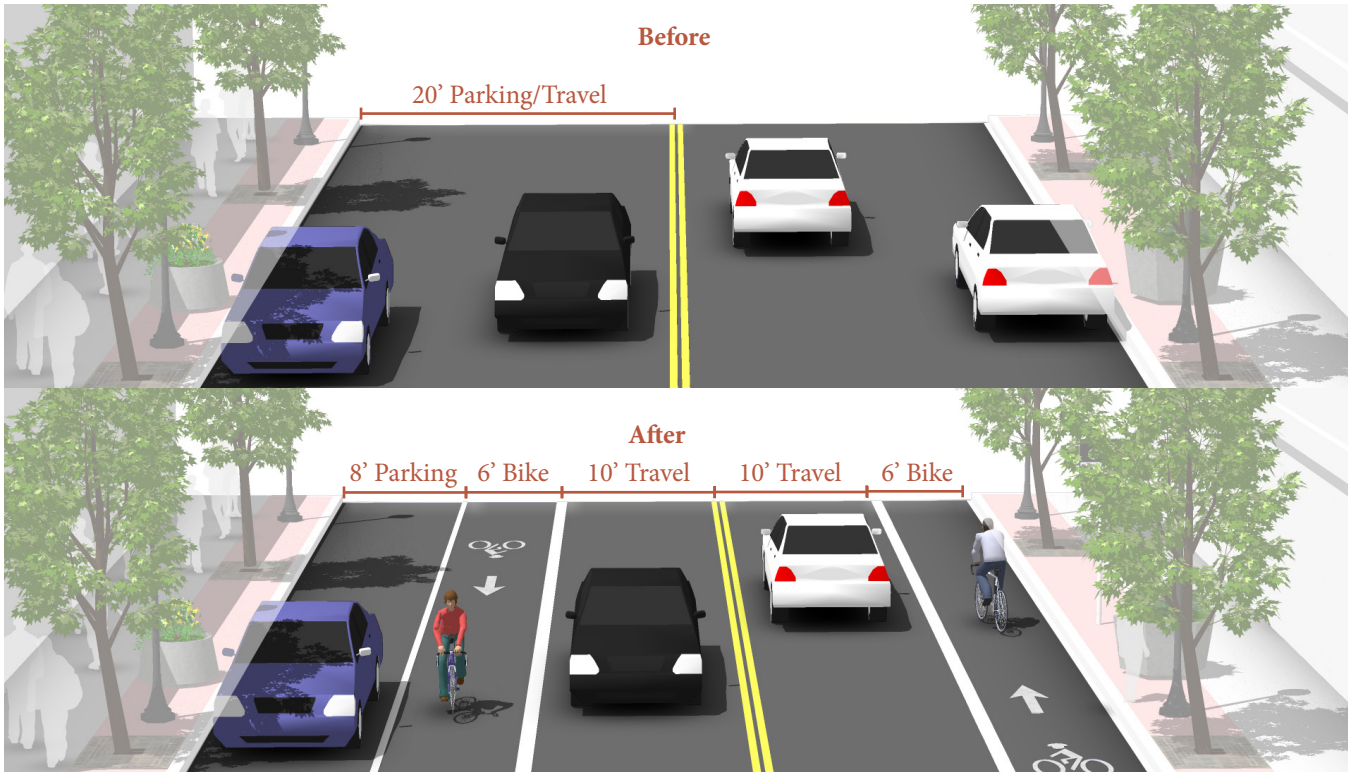
Guidance

Vehicle lane width:

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

Bicycle lane width:

- Guidance on bicycle lanes applies to this treatment.



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

BICYCLE SUPPORT FACILITIES

Bicycle Parking

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

Access to Transit

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

Bicycle Racks

On-Street Bike Corral

Secure Parking Areas

Bicycle Access to Transit

Bicycle Racks

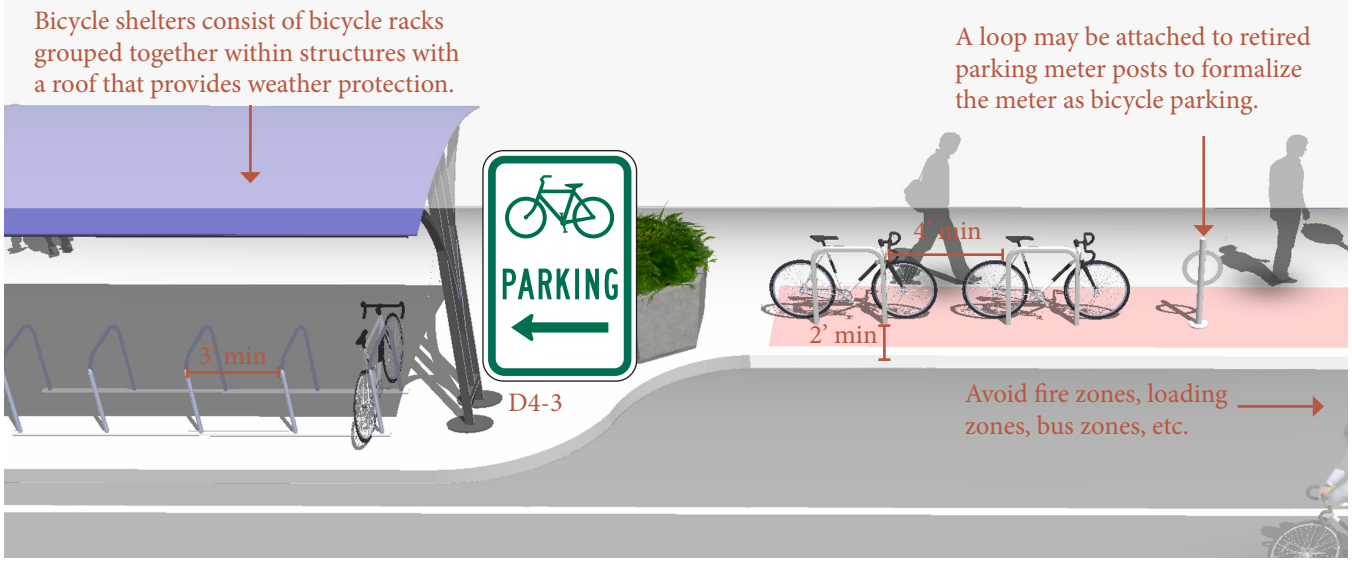
Description

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

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

Where the placement of racks on sidewalks is not possible (due to narrow sidewalk width, sidewalk obstructions, street trees, etc.), bicycle parking can be provided in the street where on-street vehicle parking is allowed in the form of on-street bicycle corrals. Some types of bicycle racks may meet design criteria, but are discouraged except in limited situations. This includes undulating "wave" racks, schoolyard "wheel bender" racks, and spiral racks.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

On-Street Bicycle Corral

Description

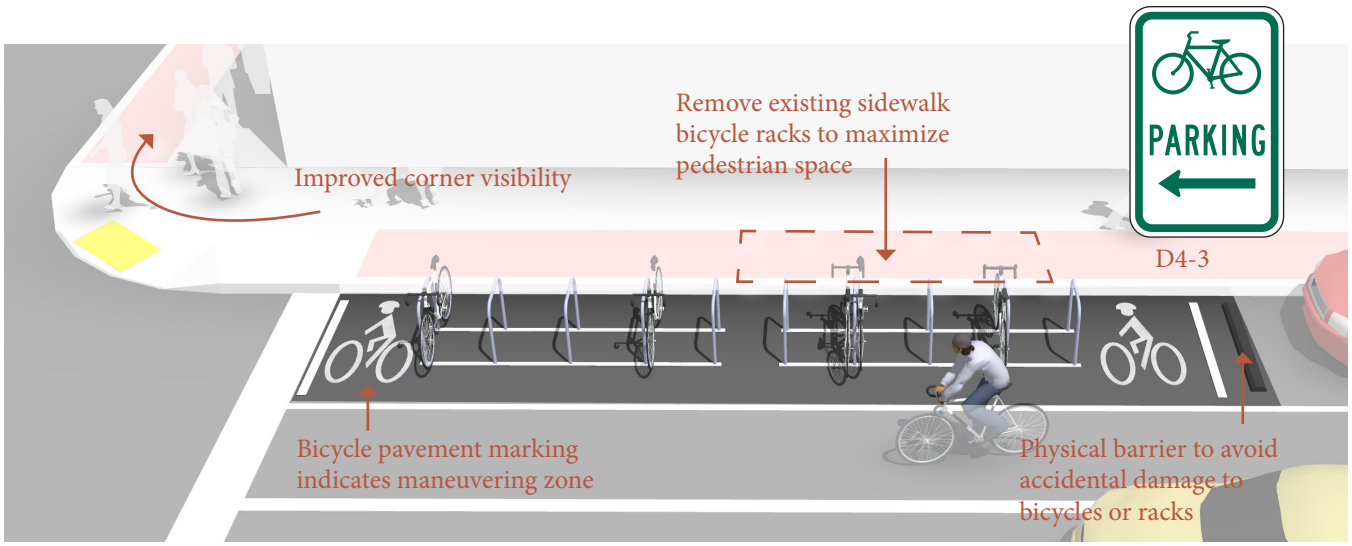
Bicycle corrals (also known as on-street bicycle parking) consist of bicycle racks grouped together in a common area within the street traditionally used for automobile parking. Bicycle corrals are reserved exclusively for bicycle parking and provide a relatively inexpensive solution to providing high-volume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

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

Guidance

See guidelines for sidewalk bicycle rack placement and clear zones.

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Secure Parking Areas (SPA)

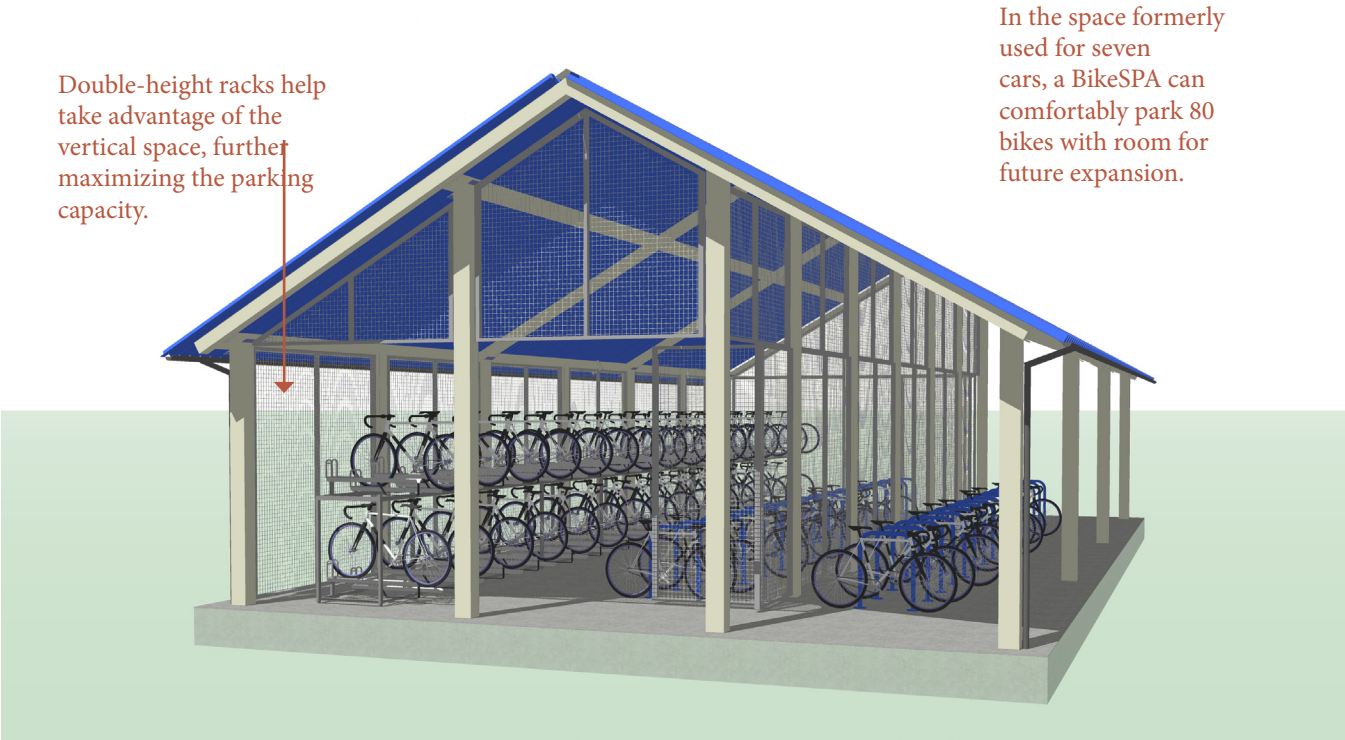
Description

A Secure Parking Area for bicycles, also known as a BikeSPA or Bike & Ride (when located at transit stations), is a semi-enclosed space that offers a higher level of security than ordinary bike racks. Accessible via key-card, combination locks, or keys, BikeSPAs provide high-capacity parking for 10 to 100 or more bicycles. Increased security measures create an additional transportation option for those whose biggest concern is theft and vulnerability.

Guidance

Key features may include:

- Closed-circuit television monitoring.
- Double high racks & cargo bike spaces.
- Bike repair station with bench.
- Bike tube and maintenance item vending machine.
- Bike lock "hitching post" – allows people to leave bike locks.
- Secure access for users.



Discussion

Long-term parking facilities are more expensive to provide than short-term facilities, but are also significantly more secure. Although many bicycle commuters would be willing to pay a nominal fee to guarantee the safety of their bicycle, long-term bicycle parking should be free wherever automobile parking is free. BikeSPAs are ideal for transit centers, airports, train stations, or wherever large numbers of people might arrive by bicycle and need a secure place to park while away.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Bicycle Access to Transit

Description

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

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

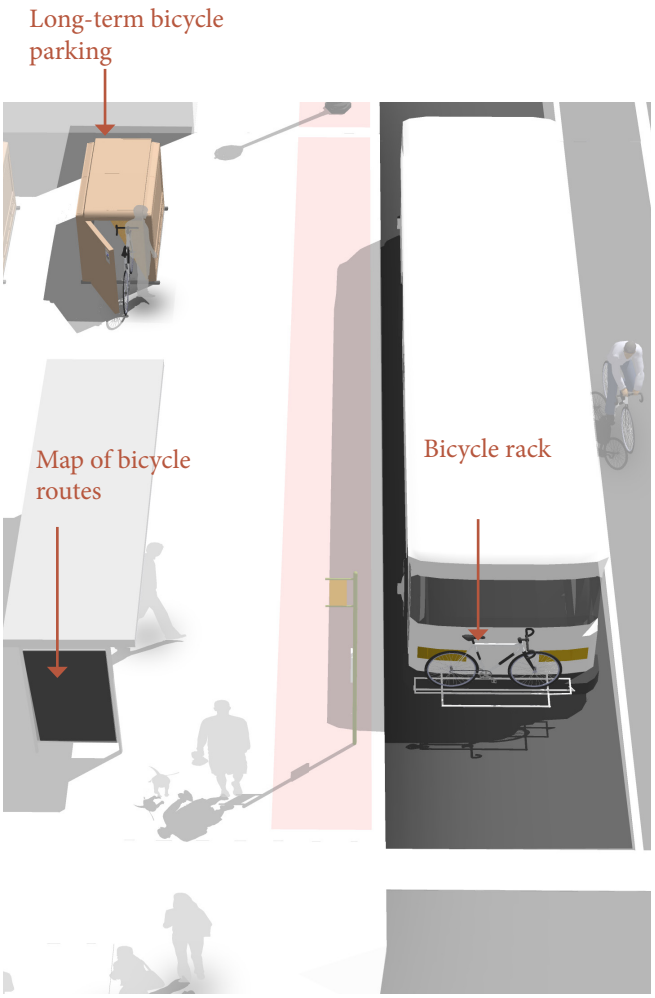
Guidance

Access

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

Bicycle Parking

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

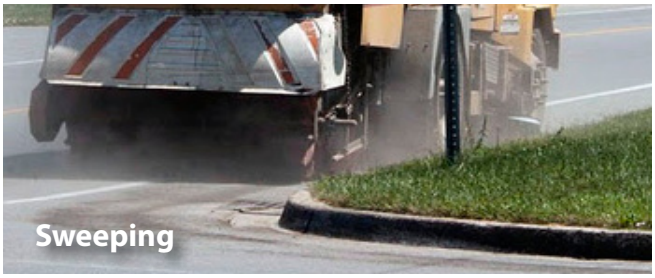
Regularly inspect the functioning of long-term parking moving parts and enclosures. Change keys and access codes periodically to prevent access to unapproved users.

BIKEWAY MAINTENANCE

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

Recommended Walkway and Bikeway Maintenance Activities

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


Sweeping

Roadway Surface

Gutter to Pavement Transition

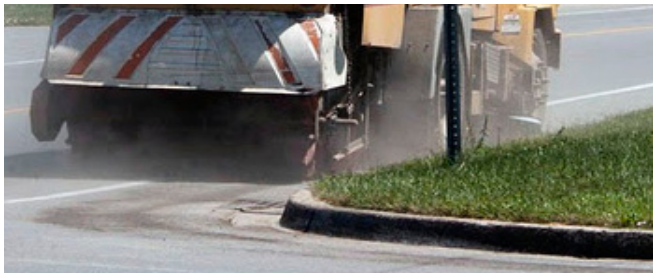
Drainage Grates

Maintenance Management Plan

Sweeping

Description

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



Guidance

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

Roadway Surface

Description

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

Guidance

- Maintain a smooth pothole-free surface.
- Ensure that on new roadway construction, the finished surface on bikeways does not vary more than ¼".
- Maintain pavement so ridge buildup does not occur at the gutter-to-pavement transition or adjacent to railway crossings.
- Inspect the pavement 2 to 4 months after trenching construction activities are completed to ensure that excessive settlement has not occurred.
- If chip sealing is to be performed, use the smallest possible chip on bike lanes and shoulders. Sweep loose chips regularly following application.
- During chip seal maintenance projects, if the pavement condition of the bike lane is satisfactory, it may be appropriate to chip seal the travel lanes only. However, use caution when doing this so as not to create an unacceptable ridge between the bike lane and travel lane.

Pavement Overlays

Description

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

Guidance

- Extend the overlay over the entire roadway surface to avoid leaving an abrupt edge.
- If the shoulder or bike lane pavement is of good quality, it may be appropriate to end the overlay at the shoulder or bike lane stripe provided no abrupt ridge remains.
- Ensure that inlet grates, manhole and valve covers are within ¼ inch of the finished pavement surface and are made or treated with slip resistant materials.
- Pave gravel driveways to property lines to prevent gravel from being tracked onto shoulders or bike lanes.

Gutter to Pavement Transition

Description

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

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

Guidance

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

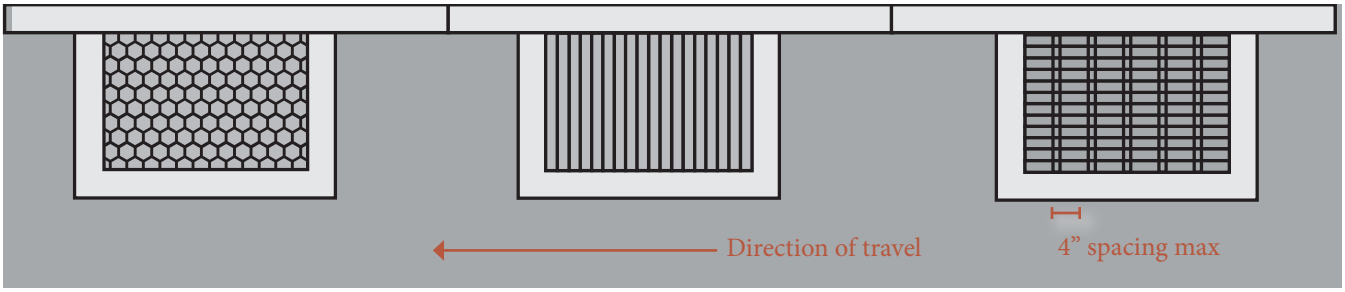
Drainage Grates

Description

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

Guidance

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



Maintenance Management Plan

Description

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

Guidance

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

SIGNALIZED CROSSINGS FOR BICYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

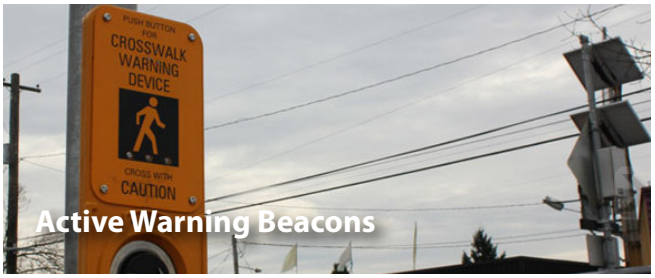
Crossing beacons and signals facilitate crossings of roadways for bicyclists and pedestrians. Beacons make crossing intersections safer by clarifying when to enter an intersection and by alerting motorists to the presence of pedestrians and bicyclists.

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.

Signals may be necessary as part of the construction of a protected bicycle facility such as a protected bike lane with potential turning conflicts, or to decrease vehicle or pedestrian conflicts at major crossings. An intersection with bicycle signals may reduce stress and delays for a crossing bicyclist, and discourage illegal and unsafe crossing maneuvers.

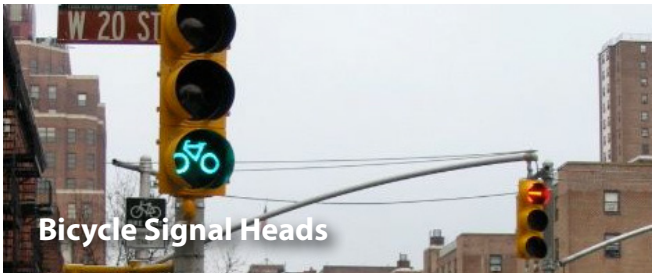
Pedestrians at Signalized Crossings



Active Warning Beacons

Hybrid Beacon (HAWK)

Bicycle Detection and Actuation



Bicycle Signal Heads

Pedestrians at Signalized Crossings

Description

Pedestrian Signal Head

Pedestrian signal indicators demonstrate to pedestrians when to cross at a signalized crosswalk. All traffic signals should be equipped with pedestrian signal indications except where pedestrian crossing is prohibited by signage.

Countdown pedestrian signals are particularly valuable for pedestrians, as they indicate whether a pedestrian has time to cross the street before the signal phase ends. Countdown signals should be used at all signalized intersections.

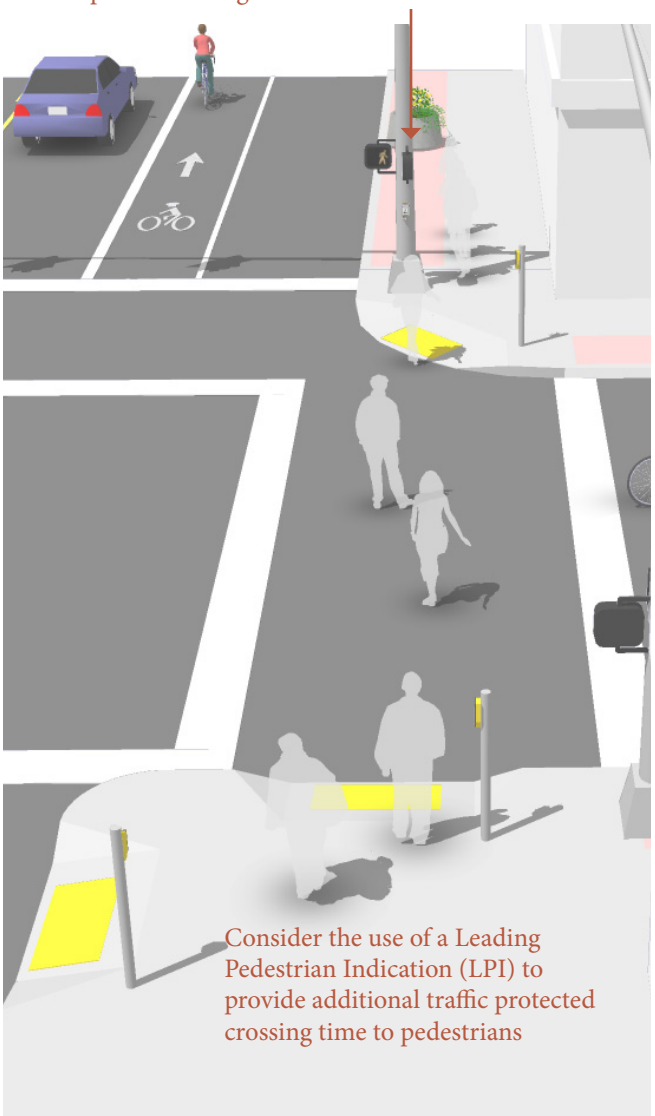
Signal Timing

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 4' 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. Special pedestrian phases can be used to provide greater visibility or more crossing time for pedestrians at certain intersections.

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.

Additional References and Guidelines

United States Access Board. *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public-Right-of-Way (PROWAG).* 2011.

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

NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide.* 2013.

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.

Active Warning Beacons

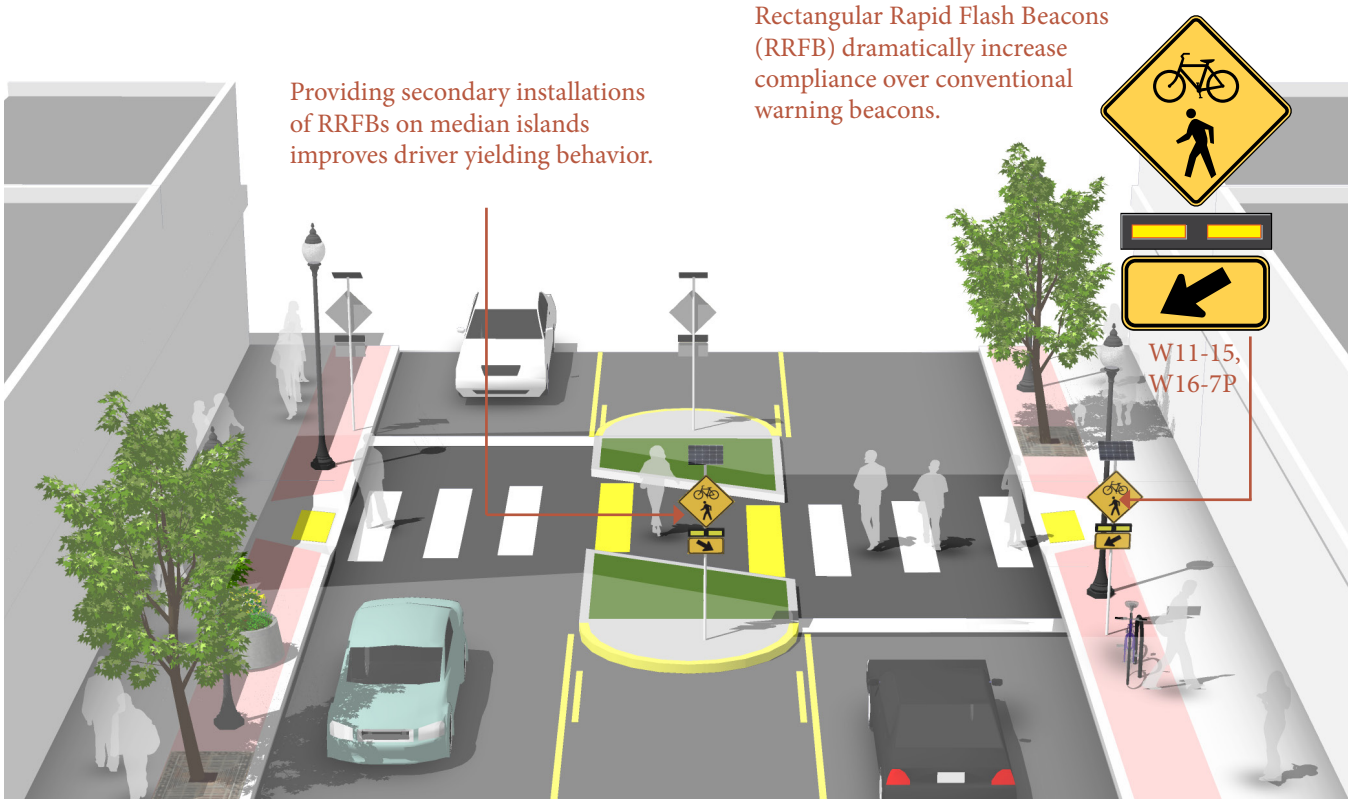
Description

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 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 percent. Additional studies over long term installations show little to no decrease in yielding behavior over time.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Hybrid Beacon for Bicycle Route Crossing

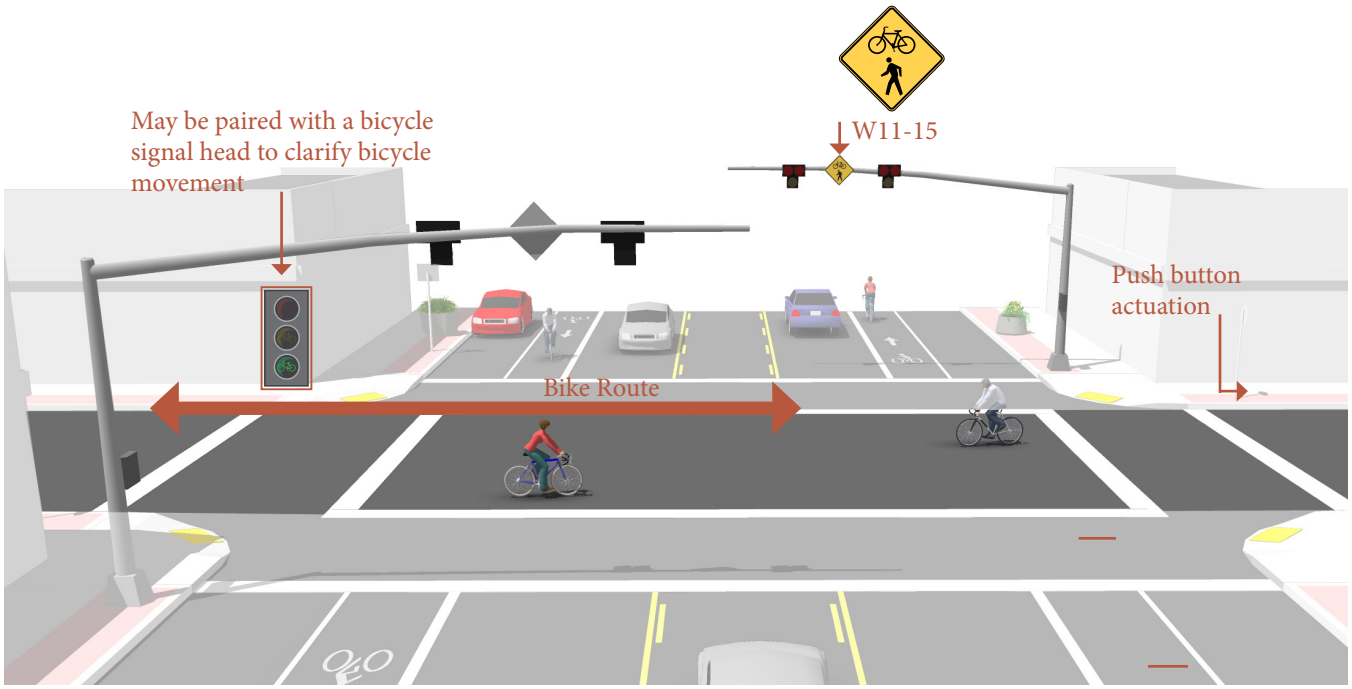
Description

A hybrid beacon, previously known as a High-intensity Activated CrosswalK (HAWK), consists of a signal-head with two red lenses over a single yellow lens on the major street, and pedestrian and/or bicycle signal heads for the minor street. There are no signal indications for motor vehicles on the minor street approaches.

Hybrid beacons are used to improve non-motorized crossings of major streets in locations where side-street volumes do not support installation of a conventional traffic signal (or where there are concerns that a conventional signal will encourage additional motor vehicle traffic on the minor street). Hybrid beacons may also be used at mid-block crossing locations.

Guidance

- Hybrid beacons may be installed without meeting traffic signal control warrants if roadway speed and volumes are excessive for comfortable user crossing.
- 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

The hybrid beacon can significantly improve the operation of a bicycle route, particularly along bicycle boulevard corridors. Because of the low traffic volumes on these facilities, intersections with major roadways are often unsignalized, creating difficult and potentially unsafe crossing conditions for bicyclists. Each crossing, regardless of traffic speed or volume, requires additional review by a registered engineer to identify sight lines, potential impacts on traffic progression, timing with adjacent signals, capacity, and safety.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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.

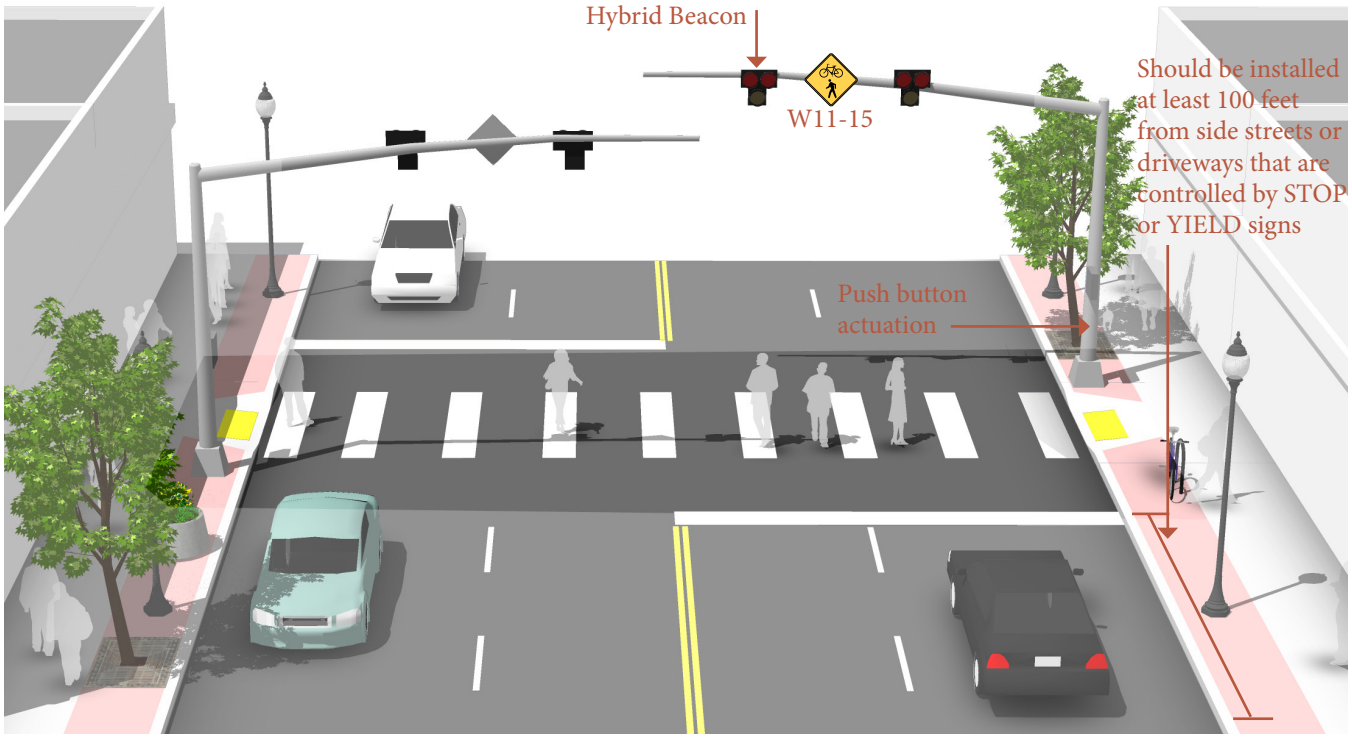
Hybrid Beacon for Mid-Block Crossing

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

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.

Bicycle Detection and Actuation

Description

Push Button Actuation

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

Loop Detectors

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

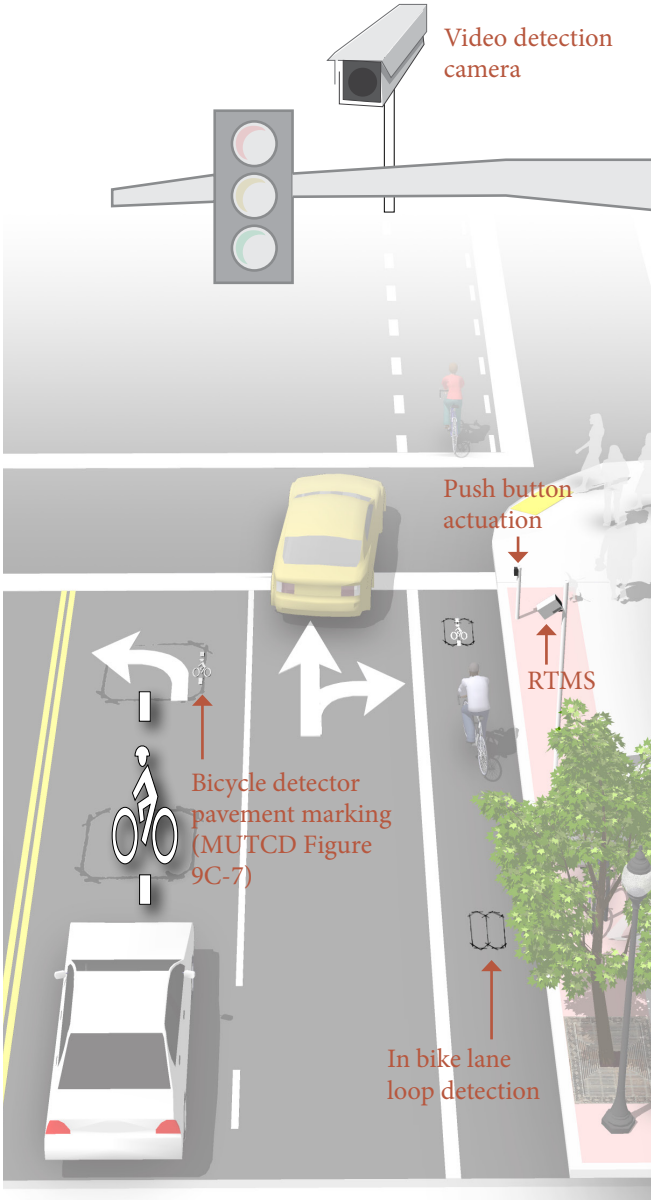
Loops that are sensitive enough to detect bicycles should be supplemented with pavement markings to instruct bicyclists how to trip them.

Video Detection Cameras

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

Remote Traffic Microwave Sensor Detection (RTMS)

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



Discussion

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

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

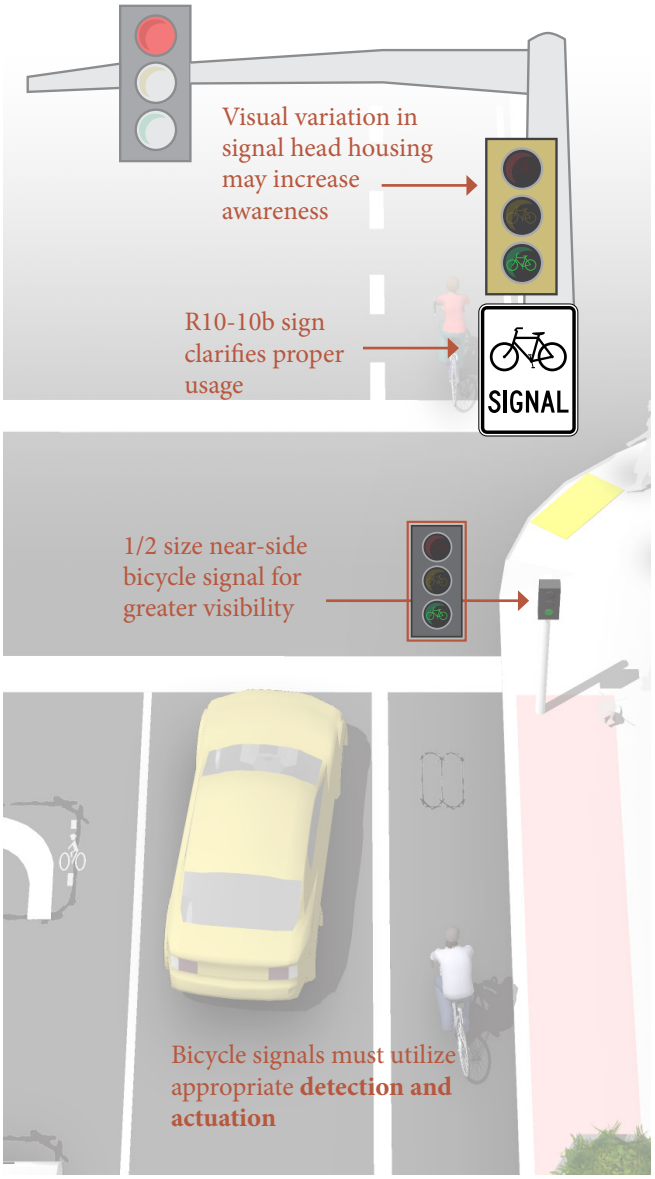
Signal detection and actuation for bicyclists should be maintained with other traffic signal detection and roadway pavement markings.

Bicycle Signal Heads

Description

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

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



Guidance

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

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

Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

SHARED USE PATHS

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

Key features of shared use paths include:

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

General Design Practices

Shared Use Paths in River and Utility Corridors

Shared Use Paths in Abandoned Rail Corridors

Local Neighborhood Accessways

Shared Use Paths Along Roadways

Natural Surface Shared Use Paths

General Design Practices

Description

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

Guidance

Width

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

Lateral Clearance

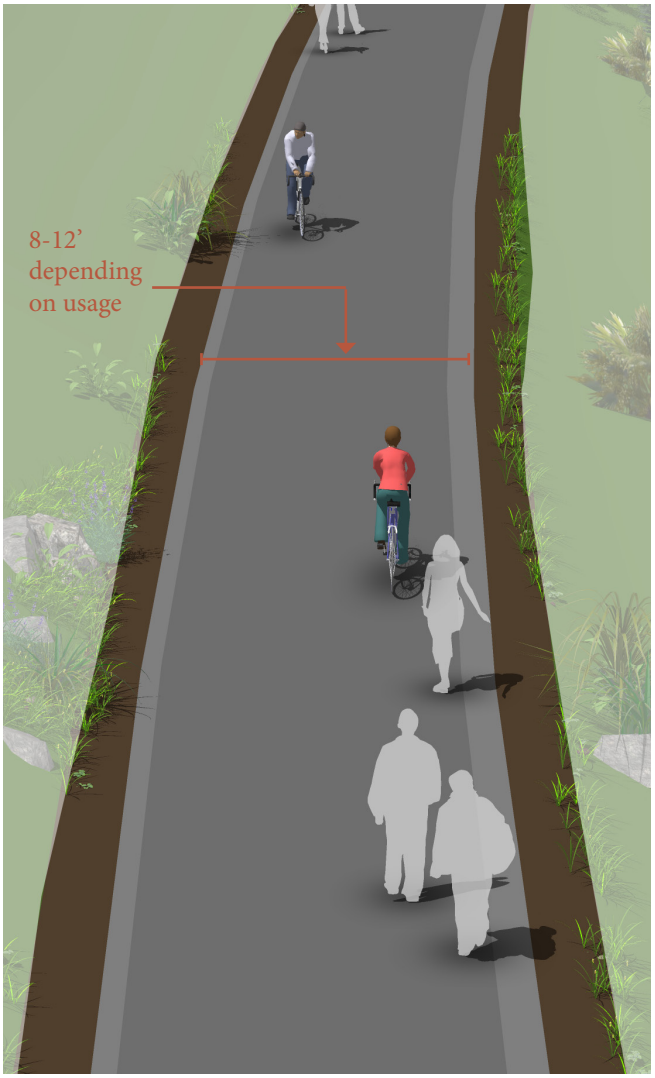
- A 2 foot or greater shoulder on both sides of the path should be provided. An additional foot of lateral clearance (total of 3') is required by the MUTCD for the installation of signage or other furnishings.
- If bollards are used at intersections and access points, they should be colored brightly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

Overhead Clearance

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

Striping

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

Roaring Fork Transportation Authority. Rail Corridor and Trails Rules and Regulations. Undated.
AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.* 2012.
FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.* 2009.
Flink, C. *Greenways: A Guide To Planning Design And Development.* 1993.

Materials and Maintenance

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

Shared Use Paths in River and Utility Corridors

Description

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

Guidance

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

Access Points

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

Path Closure

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

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

Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

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

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Shared Use Paths in Abandoned Rail Corridors

Description

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

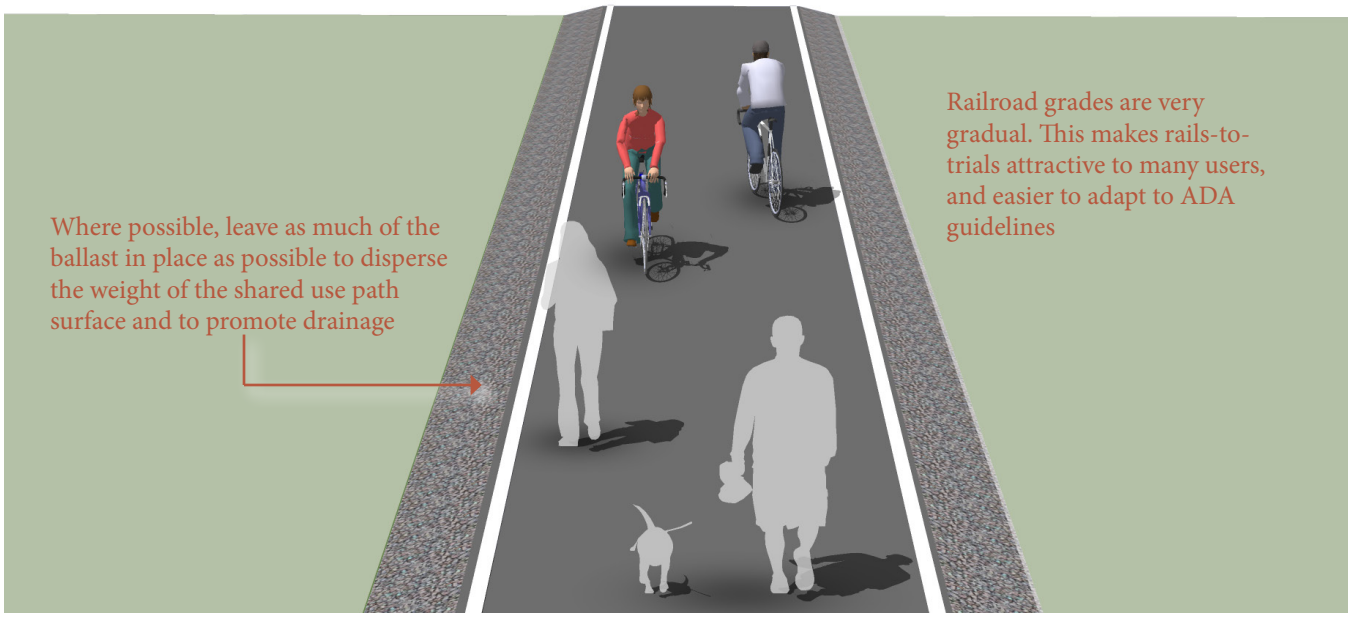
In some cases, rail owners may rail-bank their corridors as an alternative to a complete abandonment of the line, thus preserving the rail corridor for possible future use.

The railroad may form an agreement with any person, public or private, who would like to use the banked rail line as a shared use path 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 shared use path development.

Guidance

Shared 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, or shared use path.



Discussion

It is often impractical and costly to add material to existing railroad bed fill slopes. This results in shared use paths 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. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.* 2012.
FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.* 2009.
Flink, C. *Greenways: A Guide To Planning Design And Development.* 1993.

Materials and Maintenance

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

Local Neighborhood Accessways

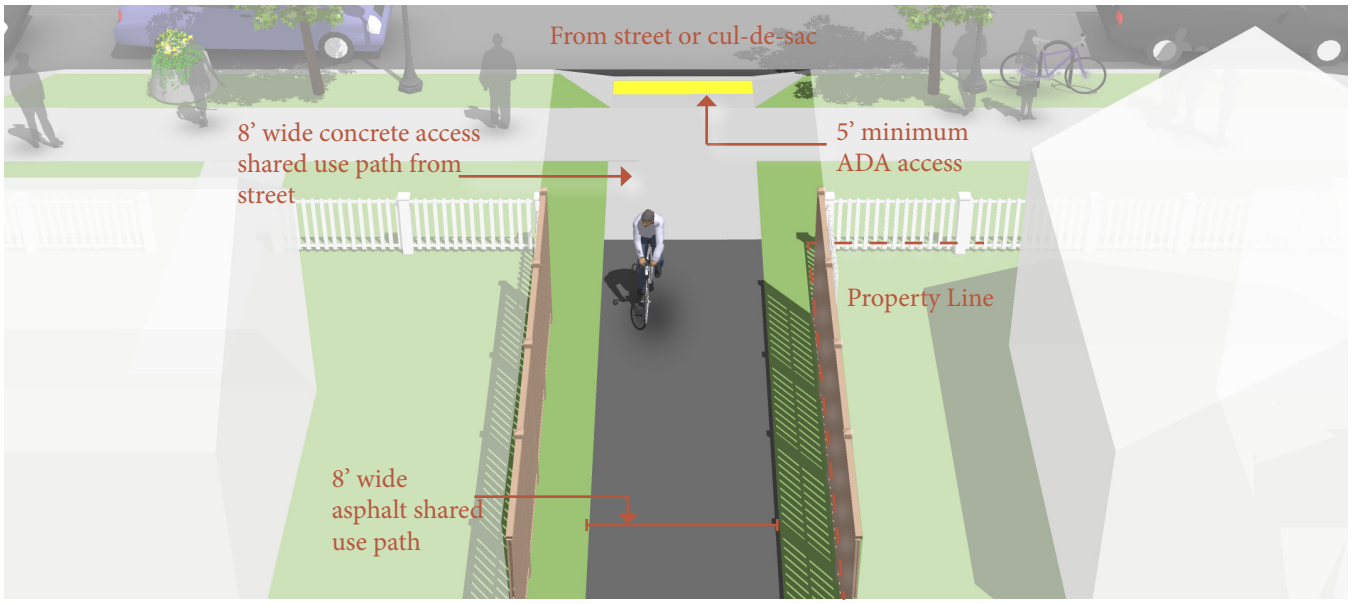
Description

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

Additionally, these smaller shared use paths 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.
- Shared use path pavement shall be at least 8' wide to accommodate emergency and maintenance vehicles, meet ADA requirements and be considered suitable for multi-use.
- Shared use path 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 paths should slightly meander whenever possible.



Discussion

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

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Shared Use Paths Along Roadways

Description

Shared Use Paths along roadways, also called Sidepaths, are a type of path that run adjacent to a street.

Because of operational concerns it is generally preferable to place paths within independent rights-of-way away from roadways. However, there are situations where existing roads provide the only corridors available.

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.

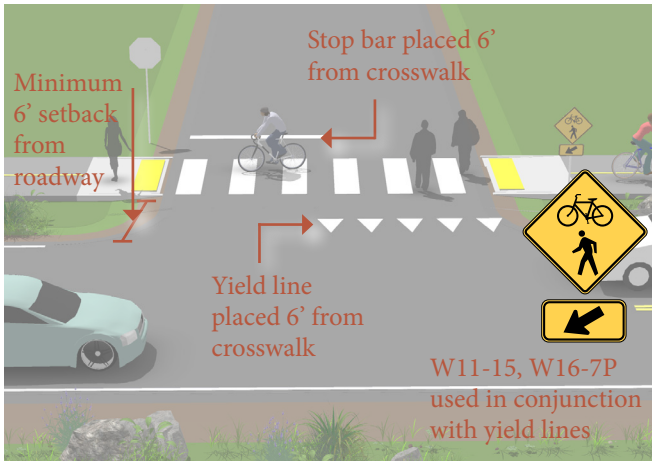
The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities cautions practitioners of the use of two-way sidepaths on urban or suburban streets with many driveways and street crossings.

In general, there are two approaches to crossings: adjacent crossings and setback crossings, illustrated below.

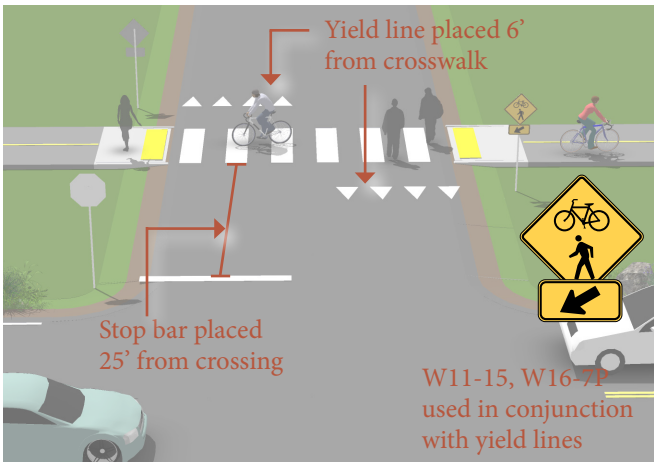
Guidance

- Guidance for sidepaths should follow that for general design practises of shared use paths.
- A high number of driveway crossings and intersections create potential conflicts with turning traffic. Consider alternatives to sidepaths on streets with a high frequency of intersections or heavily used driveways.
- Where a sidepath terminates special consideration should be given to transitions so as not to encourage unsafe wrong-way riding by bicyclists.
- Crossing design should emphasize visibility of users and clarity of expected yielding behavior. Crossings may be STOP or YIELD controlled depending on sight lines and bicycle motor vehicle volumes and speeds.

Adjacent Crossing - A separation of 6 feet emphasizes the conspicuity of riders at the approach to the crossing.



Setback Crossing - A set back of 25 feet separates the path crossing from merging/turning movements that may be competing for a driver's attention.



Discussion

The provision of a shared use path adjacent to a road is not a substitute for the provision of on-road accommodation such as paved shoulders or bike lanes, but may be considered in some locations in addition to on-road bicycle facilities.

To reduce potential conflicts in some situations, it may be better to place one-way sidepaths on both sides of the street.

Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.* 2012.
NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide.* See entry on Raised Cycle Tracks. 2012.

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 Shared Use Paths

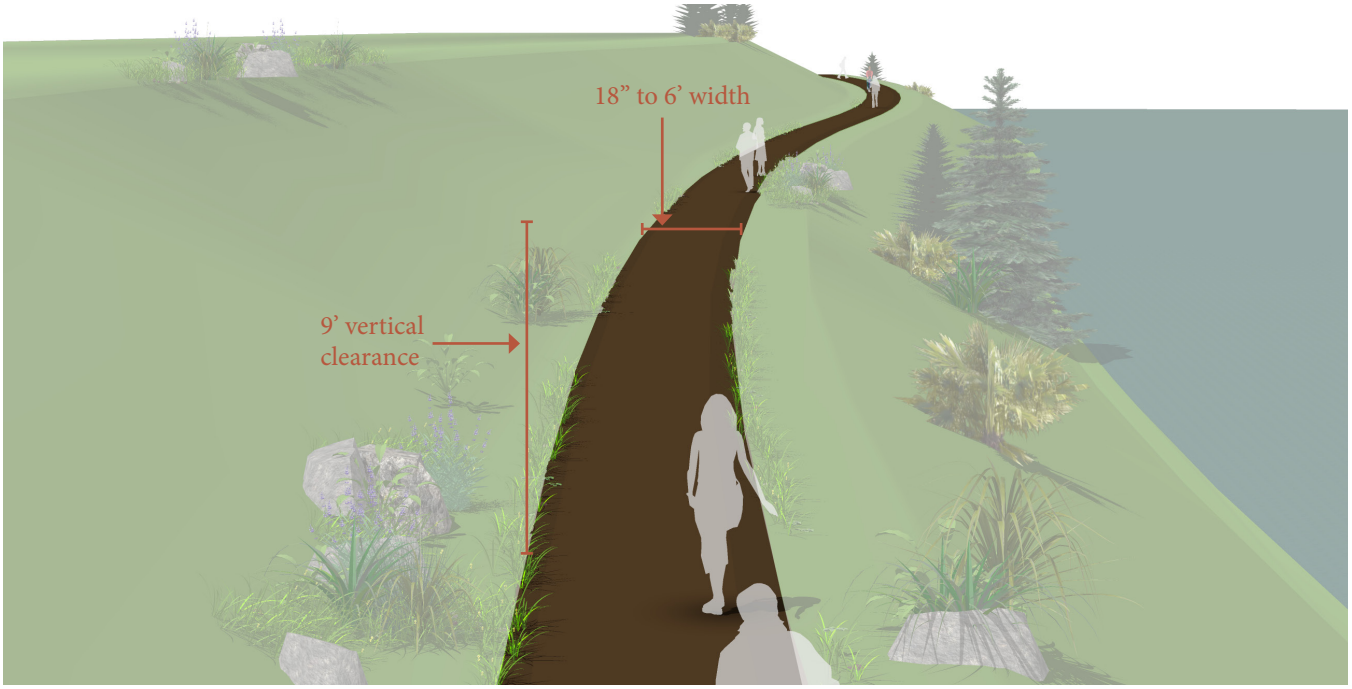
Description

Sometimes referred to as footpaths or hiking trails, the natural surface shared use path is used along corridors that are environmentally-sensitive but can support bare earth, wood chip, or boardwalk shared use paths. Natural surface shared use paths 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 bicycles. Natural surface shared use paths designed for bicycles are typically known as single track shared use paths.

Guidance

- Shared use paths 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.
- Natural Surface Shared use path's can be made of dirt, rock, soil, forest litter, or other native materials. Some shared use paths use crushed stone (a.k.a. "crush and run") that contains about 4% fines by weight, and compacts with use.
- Provide positive drainage for shared use path tread without extensive removal of existing vegetation; maximum slope is five percent (typical).



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

Consider implications for accessibility when weighing options for surface treatments.

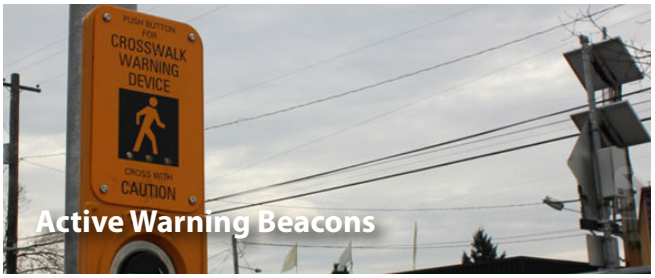
SHARED USE PATH/ROADWAY CROSSINGS

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

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

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

Marked/Unsignalized Crossings



Active Warning Beacons

Route Users to Existing Signals

Signalized/Controlled Crossings

Undercrossings

Overcrossings

Marked/Unsignalized Crossings

Description

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

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

Guidance

Maximum traffic volumes

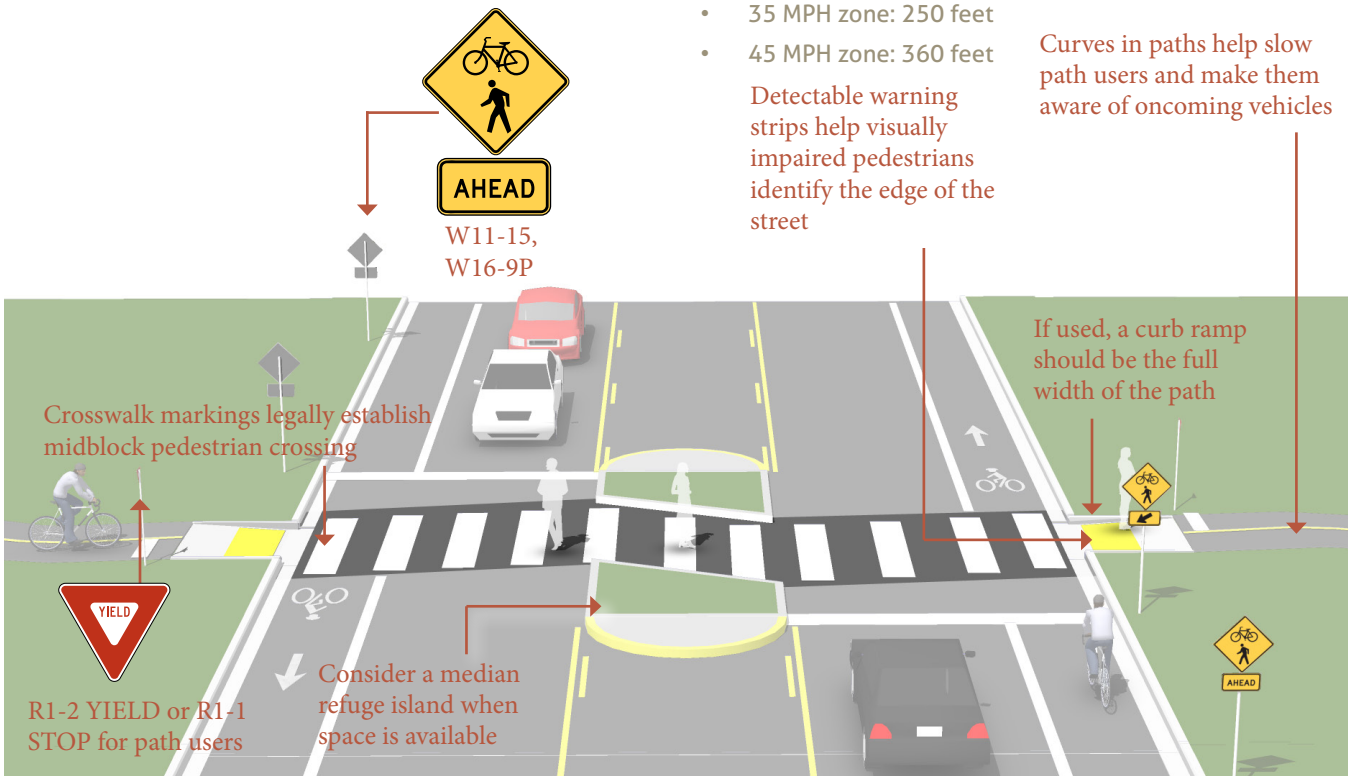
- ≤9,000-12,000 Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume
- Up to 15,000 ADT on two-lane roads, preferably with a median
- Up to 12,000 ADT on four-lane roads with median

Maximum travel speed

- 35 MPH

Minimum line of sight

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



Discussion

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

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Active Warning Beacons

Description

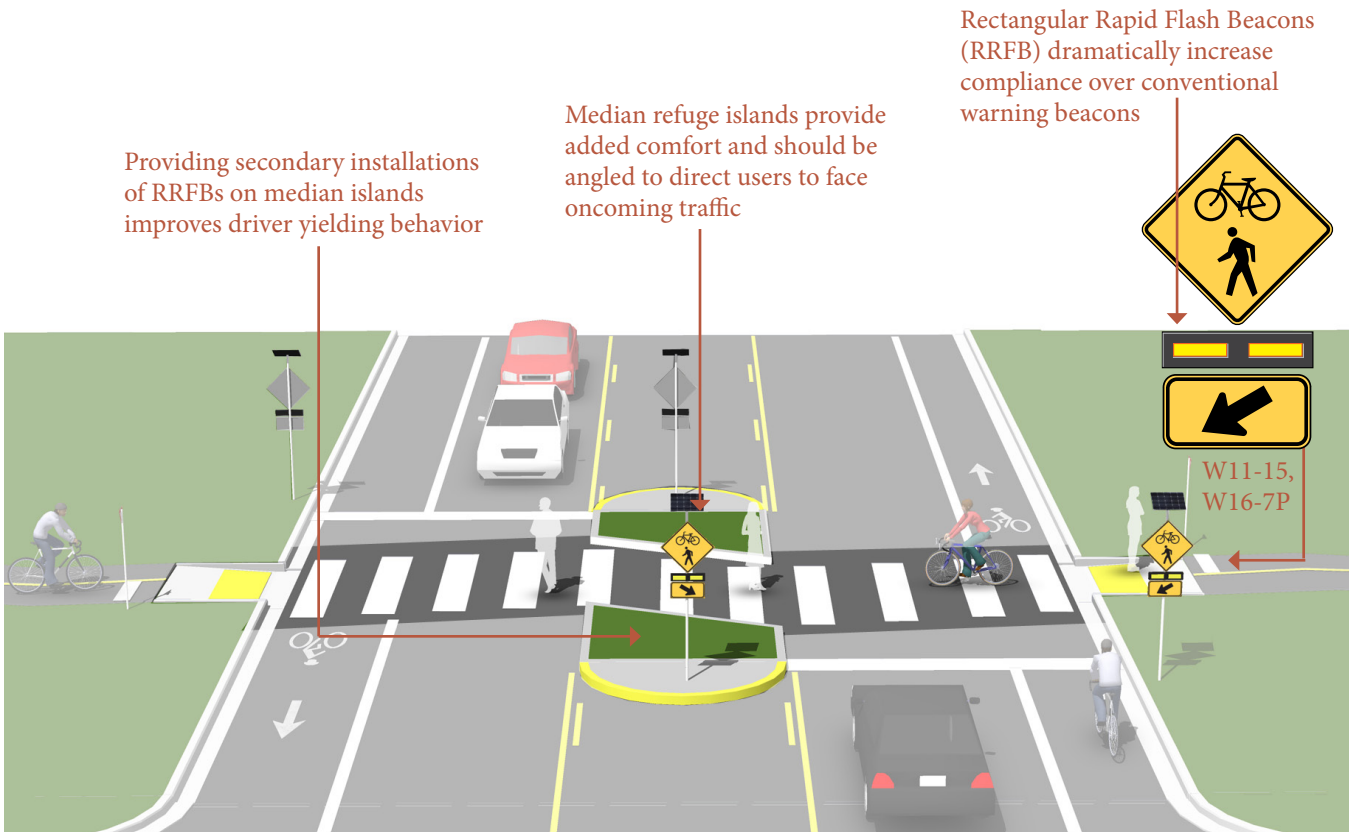
Enhanced marked crossings are unsignalized crossings with additional treatments designed to increase motor vehicle yielding compliance on multi-lane or high volume roadways.

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

Guidance

Guidance for marked/unsignalized crossings applies.

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



Discussion

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

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

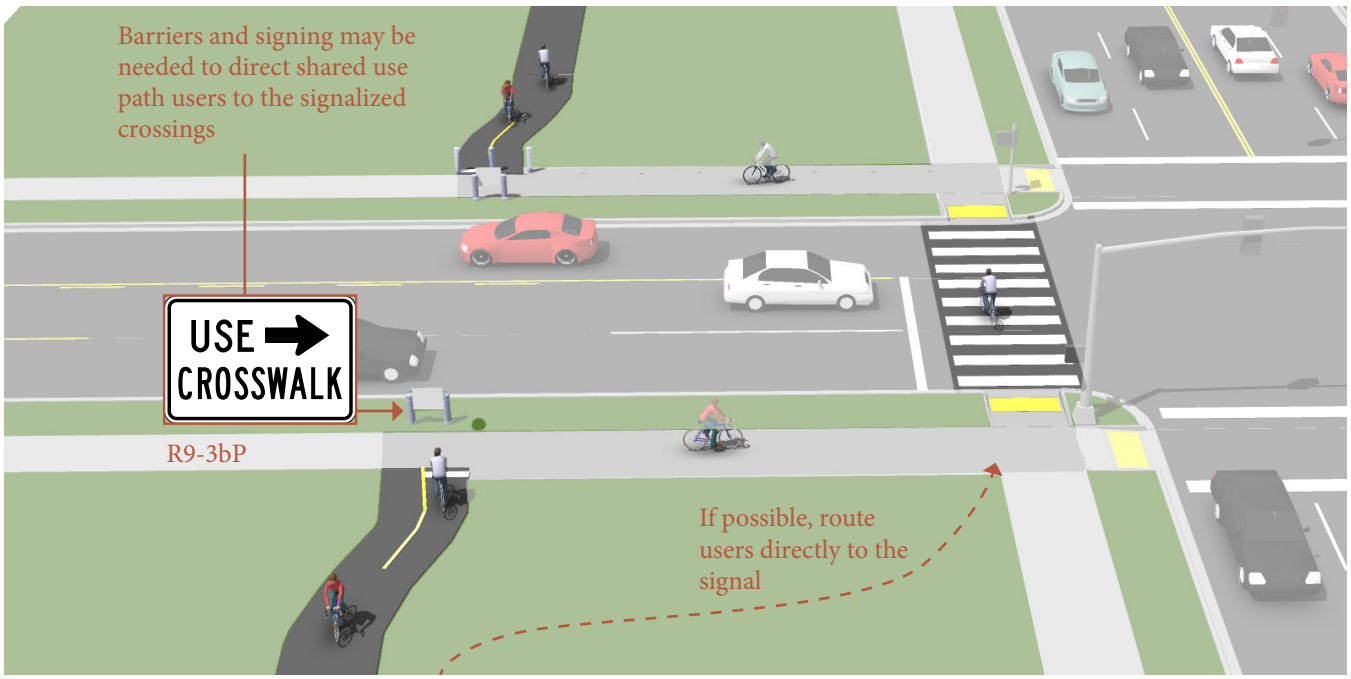
Route Users to Signalized Crossings

Description

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Crossings

Description

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

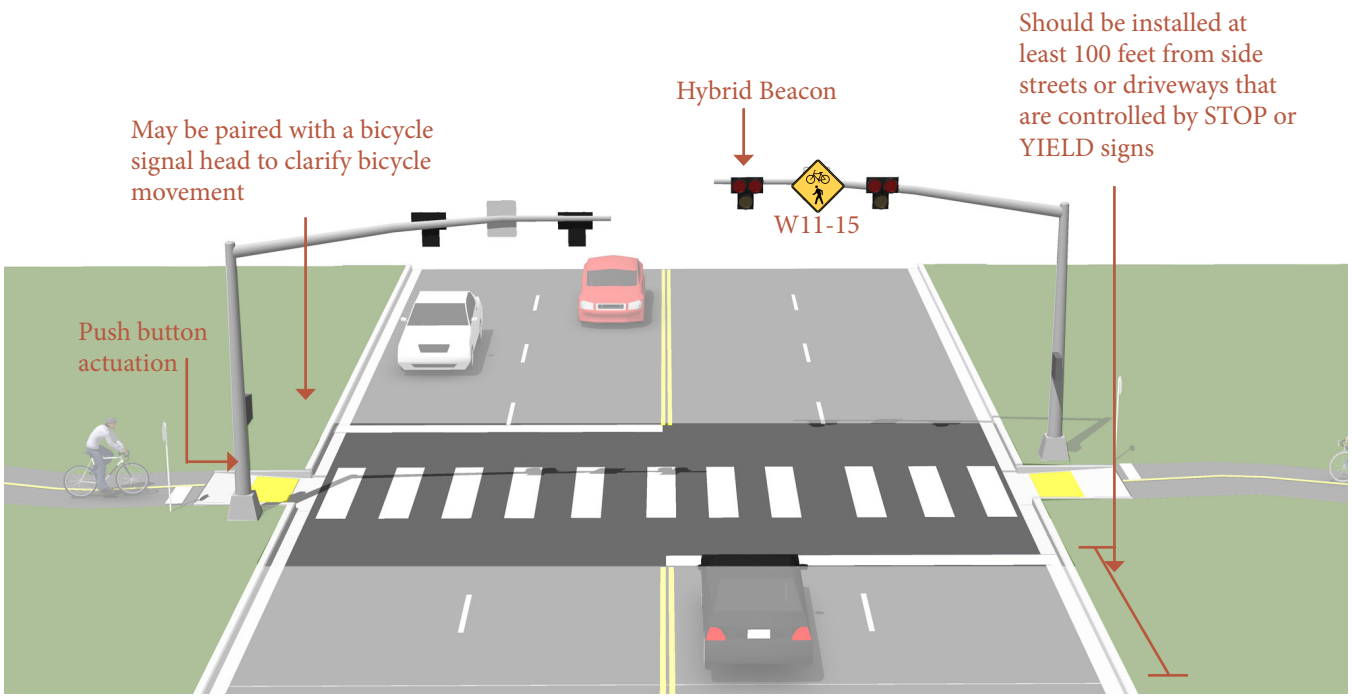
Hybrid beacon installation faces only cross motor vehicle traffic, stays dark when inactive, and uses a unique 'wig-wag' signal phase to indicate activation. Vehicles have the option to proceed after stopping during the final flashing red phase, which can reduce motor vehicle delay when compared to a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

Guidance

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

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

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



Discussion

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

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

Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. *Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Guide - Recommendations and Case Study.* 2014.
NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide.* 2012.
FHWA. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.* 2009.

Materials and Maintenance

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

Full Traffic Signal Crossings

Description

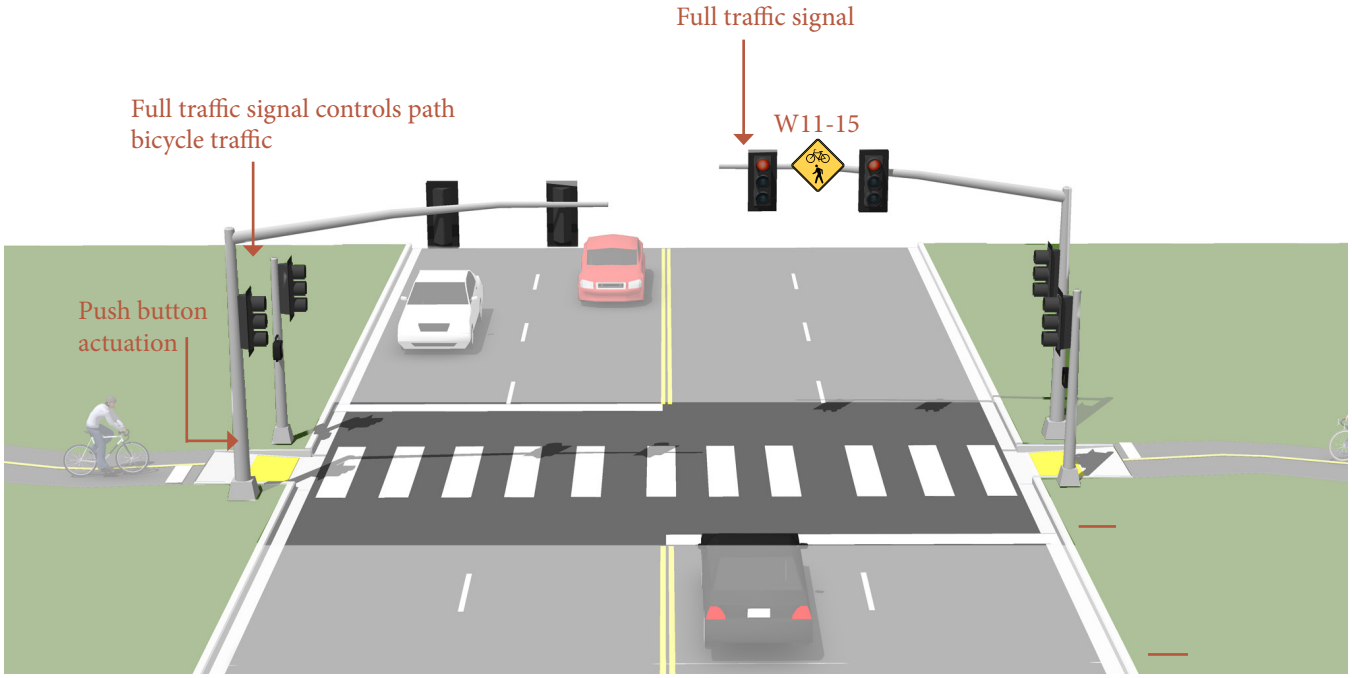
Signalized crossings provide the most protection for crossing path users through the use of a red-signal indication to stop conflicting motor vehicle traffic.

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

Guidance

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

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



Discussion

Shared use path signals are normally activated by push buttons but may also be triggered by embedded loop, infrared, microwave or video detectors. The maximum delay for activation of the signal should be two minutes, with minimum crossing times determined by the width of the street. Each crossing, regardless of traffic speed or volume, requires additional review by a registered engineer to identify sight lines, potential impacts on traffic progression, timing with adjacent signals, capacity and safety.

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

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

Undercrossings

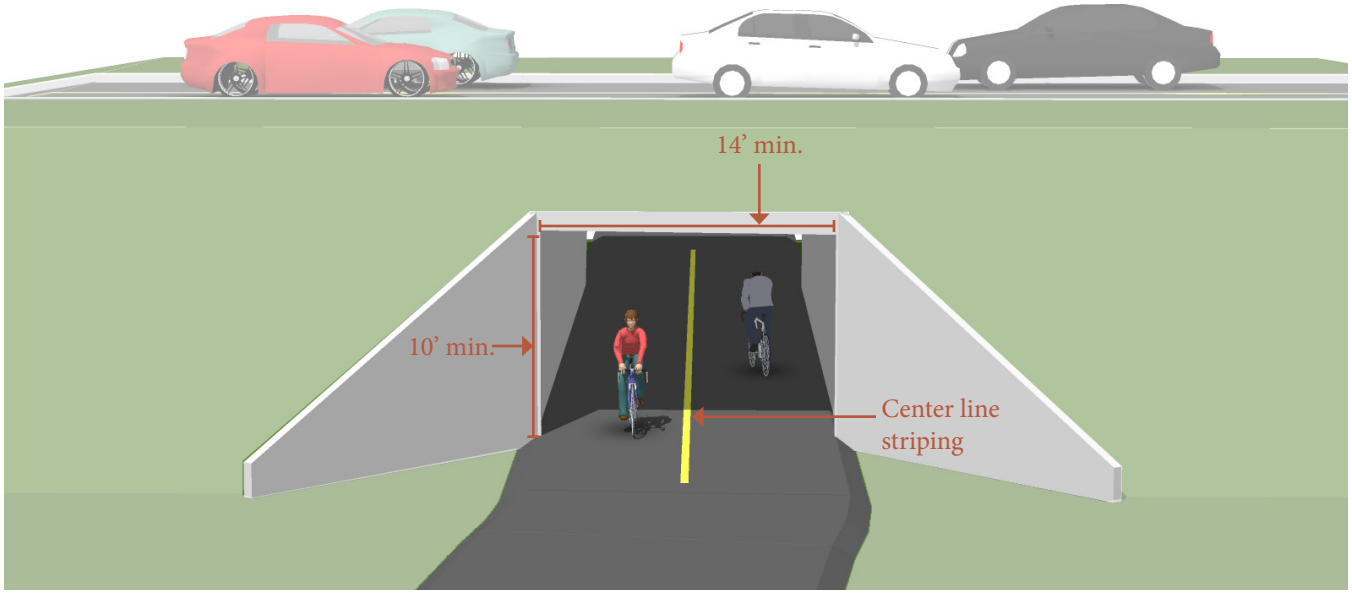
Description

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

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

Guidance

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



Discussion

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

14 foot width allows for maintenance vehicle access.

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

Overcrossings

Description

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

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

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

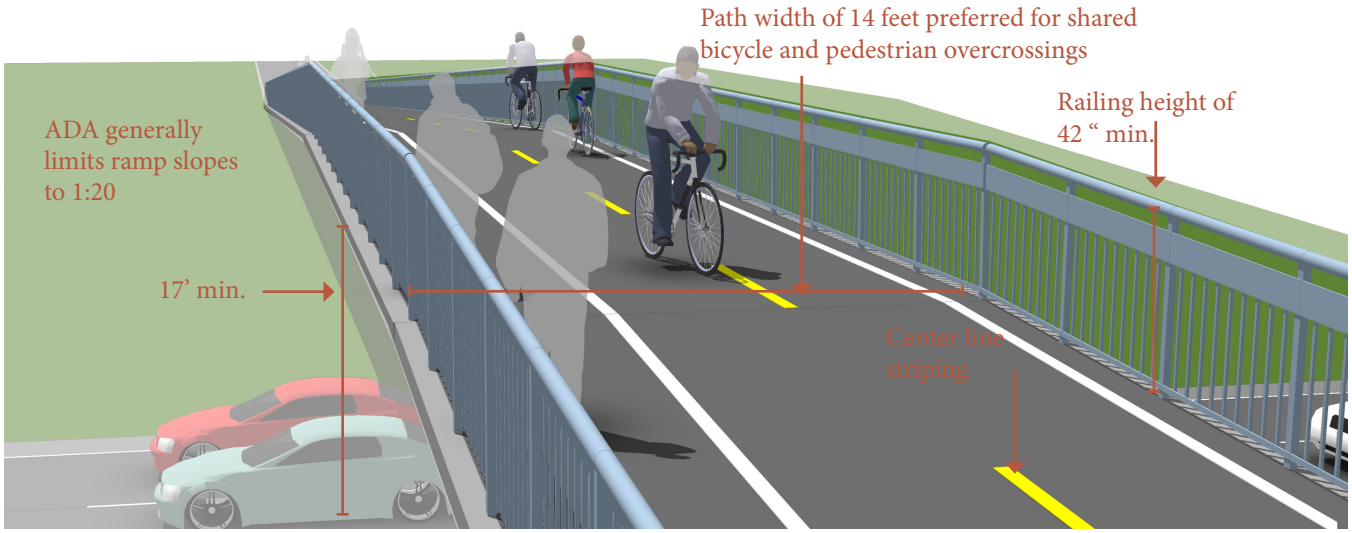
Guidance

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

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

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

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



Discussion

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

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

Additional References and Guidelines

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

Materials and Maintenance

Potential issues with vandalism.

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