



# Design Toolkit

Volume VI

City of Turlock Active Transportation Plan

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# Introduction

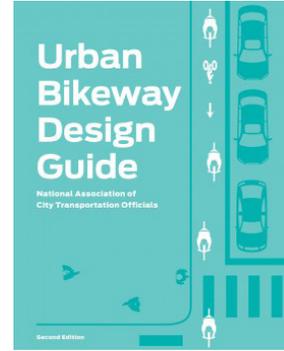
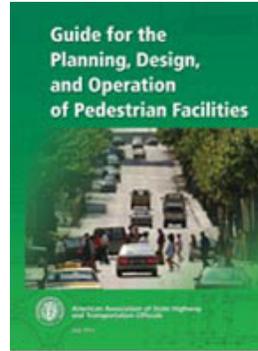
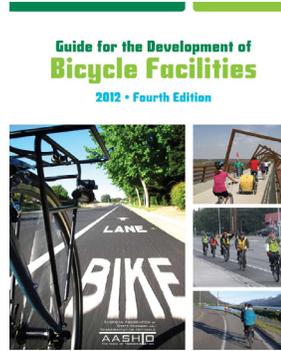
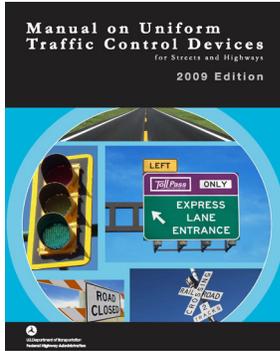
This technical handbook is intended to assist the City of Turlock in the selection and design of bicycle facilities. The following chapters pull together best practices by facility type from public agencies and municipalities nationwide. Within the design guidance, treatments are covered within a single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

## Guiding Principles

The following are guiding principles for this design manual:

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

## National Standards



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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

1 *Bicycle Facilities and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. (2011). FHWA. [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/mutcd\\_bike.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/mutcd_bike.htm)  
2 *MUTCD Official Rulings*. FHWA. <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/orsearch.asp>  
3 <http://nacto.org/cities-for-cycling/design-guide/>

# State Standards

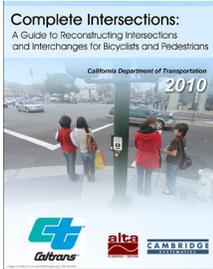


## California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) (2012)

The California MUTCD 2012 is an amended version of the FHWA MUTCD 2009 edition modified for use in California. While standards presented in the CA MUTCD substantially conform to the FHWA MUTCD, the state of California follows local practices, laws and requirements with regards to signing, striping and other traffic control devices.

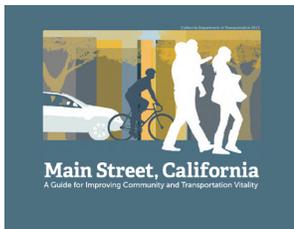
## California Highway Design Manual (HDM) (2012)

This manual establishes uniform policies and procedures to carry out highway design functions for the California Department of Transportation. The 2012 edition incorporated Complete Streets focused revisions to address the Department Directive 64 R-1.



## Complete Intersections: A Guide to Reconstructing Intersections and Interchanges for Bicyclists and Pedestrians (2010)

This California Department of Transportation reference guide presents information and concepts related to improving conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians at major intersections and interchanges. The guide can be used to inform minor signage and striping changes to intersections, as well as major changes and designs for new intersections.



## Main Street, California: A Guide for Improving Community and Transportation Vitality (2013)

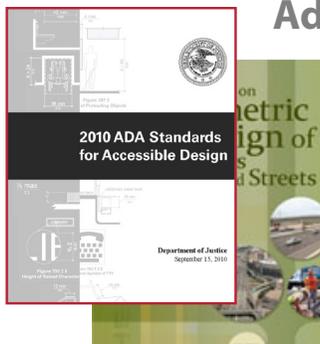
This Caltrans informational guide reflects California's current manuals and policies that improve multimodal access, livability and sustainability within the transportation system. The guide recognizes the overlapping and sometimes competing needs of main streets.



## Caltrans Memo: Design Flexibility in Multimodal Design. April 2014.

This April 2014 memorandum encourages flexibility in highway design. The memo stated that "Publications such as the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) "Urban Street Design Guide" and "Urban Bikeway Design Guide," ... are resources that Caltrans and local entities can reference when making planning and design decisions on the State highway system and local streets and roads."

# Additional US Federal Guidelines



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

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

4 <http://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>  
 5 [http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards\\_index.htm](http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm)



2700 E 1st Ave

Cherry Creek

→ Parking West Deck  
↑ Valet Parking

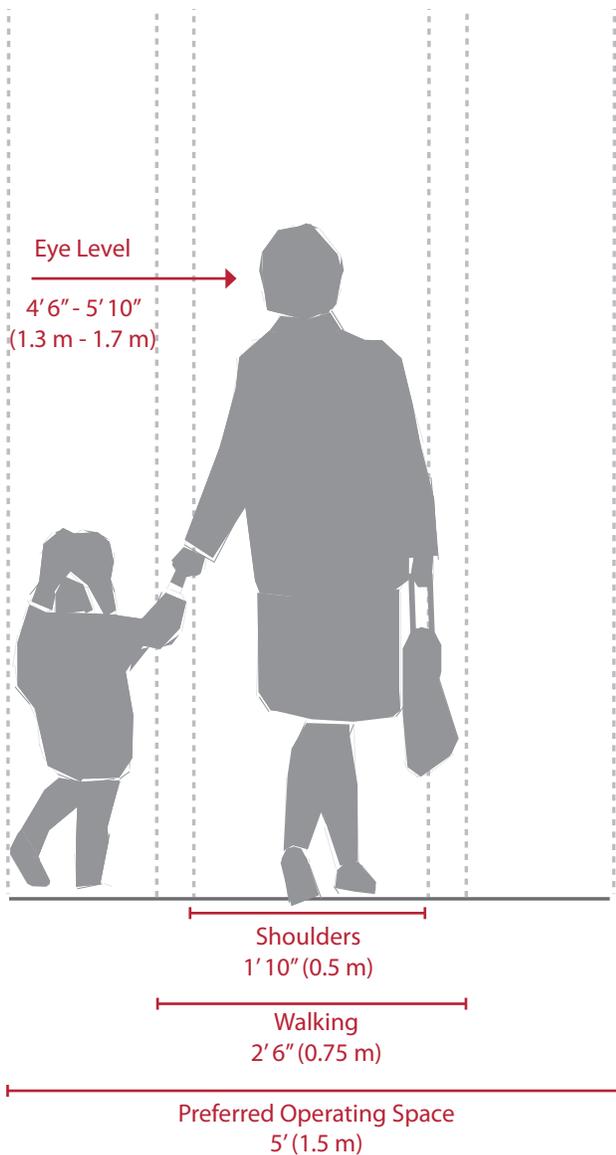
PEDESTRIANS

# 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 "dart out" intersection dash Poor judgment Sense of invulnerability
14-18	Improved awareness of traffic environment Poor judgment
19-40	Active, fully aware of traffic environment
41-65	Slowing of reflexes
65+	Difficulty crossing street Vision loss Difficulty hearing vehicles approaching from behind

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**

<b>Impairment</b>	<b>Effect on Mobility</b>	<b>Design Solution</b>
<b>Wheelchair and Scooter Users</b>	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.
<b>Walking Aid Users</b>	Difficulty negotiating steep grades and cross slopes; decreased stability.	Smooth, non-slippery travel surface.
	Slower walking speed and reduced endurance; reduced ability to react.	Longer pedestrian signal cycles, shorter crossing distances, median refuges, and street furniture.
<b>Hearing Impairment</b>	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.
<b>Vision Impairment</b>	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.
<b>Cognitive Impairment</b>	Varies greatly. Can affect ability to perceive, recognize, understand, interpret, and respond to information.	Signs with pictures, universal symbols, and colors, rather than text.

## 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.

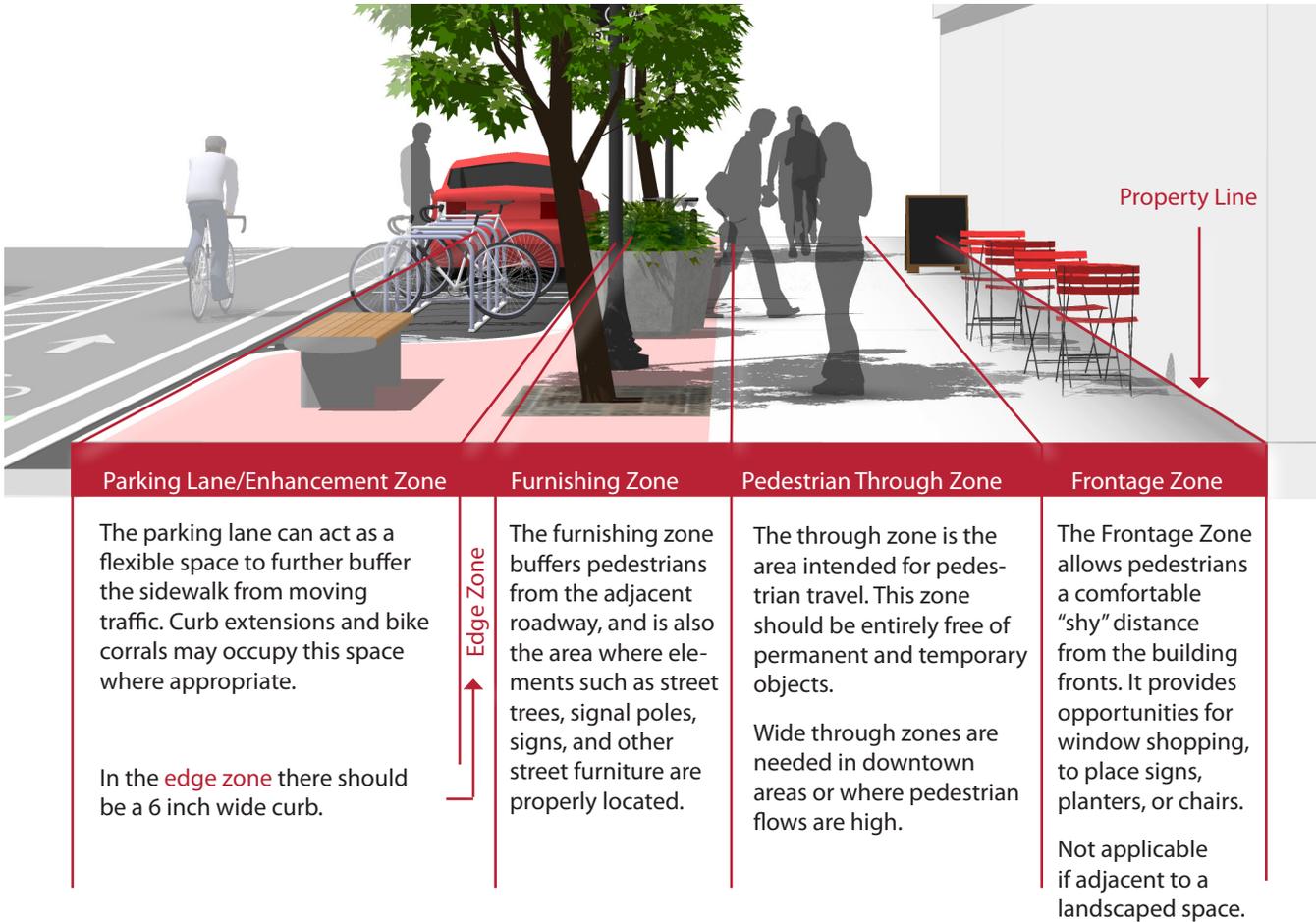
**Quality of place:** Sidewalks should contribute to the character of neighborhoods and business districts.



# Zones in the Sidewalk Corridor

## 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.



## 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

- 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.
- Caltrans. *Main Street, California*. 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

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.  
 Caltrans. *Main Street, California*. 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

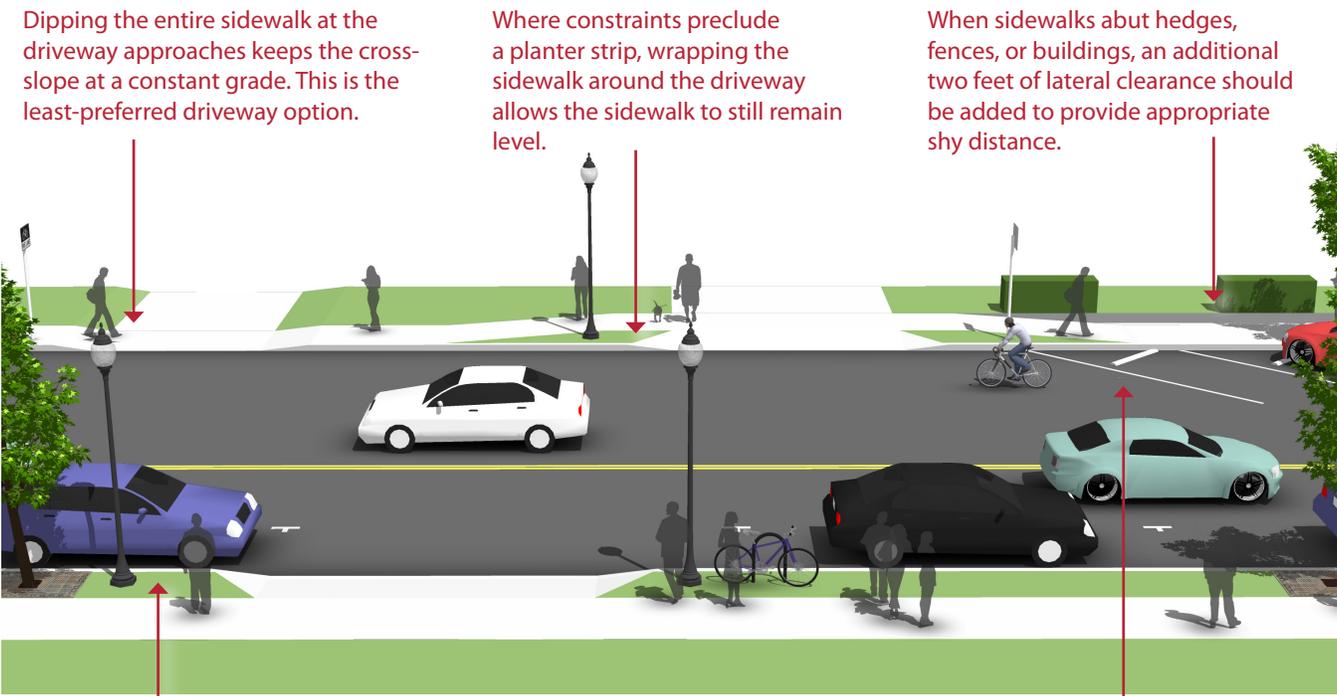
## Description

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 Amenities

## Description

A variety of streetscape elements can define the pedestrian realm, offer protection from moving vehicles, and enhance the walking experience. Key features are presented below.

## Street Trees

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

## Street Furniture

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

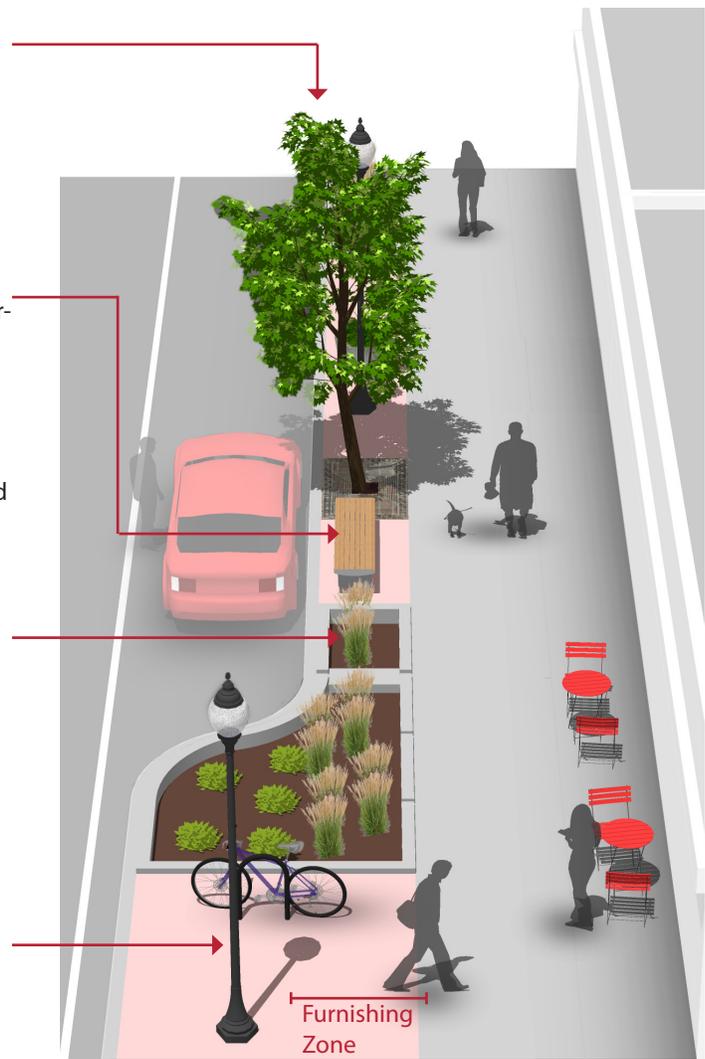
## Green Features

Green stormwater strategies may include bioretention swales, rain gardens, tree box filters, and pervious pavements (pervious concrete, asphalt and pavers).

Bioswales are natural landscape elements that manage water runoff from a paved surface. Plants in the swale trap pollutants and silt from entering a river system.

## Lighting

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



## Discussion

Additional pedestrian amenities such as banners, public art, special paving, along with historical elements and cultural references, promote a sense of place. Public activities should be encouraged and commercial activities such as dining, vending and advertising may be permitted when they do not interfere with safety and accessibility.

Pedestrian amenities should be placed in the furnishing zone on a sidewalk corridor. Signs, meters, tree wells should go between parking spaces.

## Additional References and Guidelines

United States Access Board. *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public-Right-of-Way (PROWAG)*. 2011.  
 NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide*. 2013.  
 Caltrans. *Main Street, California*. 2013.

## Materials and Maintenance

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

## Pedestrians at Intersections

Attributes of pedestrian-friendly intersection design include:

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

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

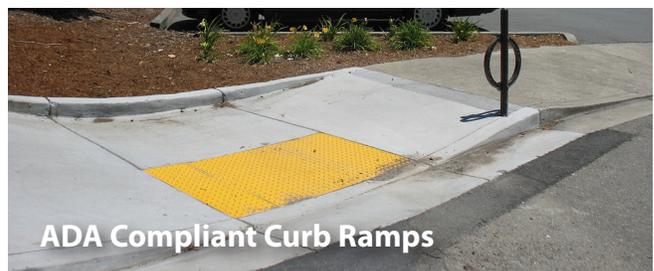
**Legibility:** Symbols, markings, and signs used at corners should clearly indicate what actions the pedestrian should take.

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

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

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

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



# Marked Crosswalks

## Description

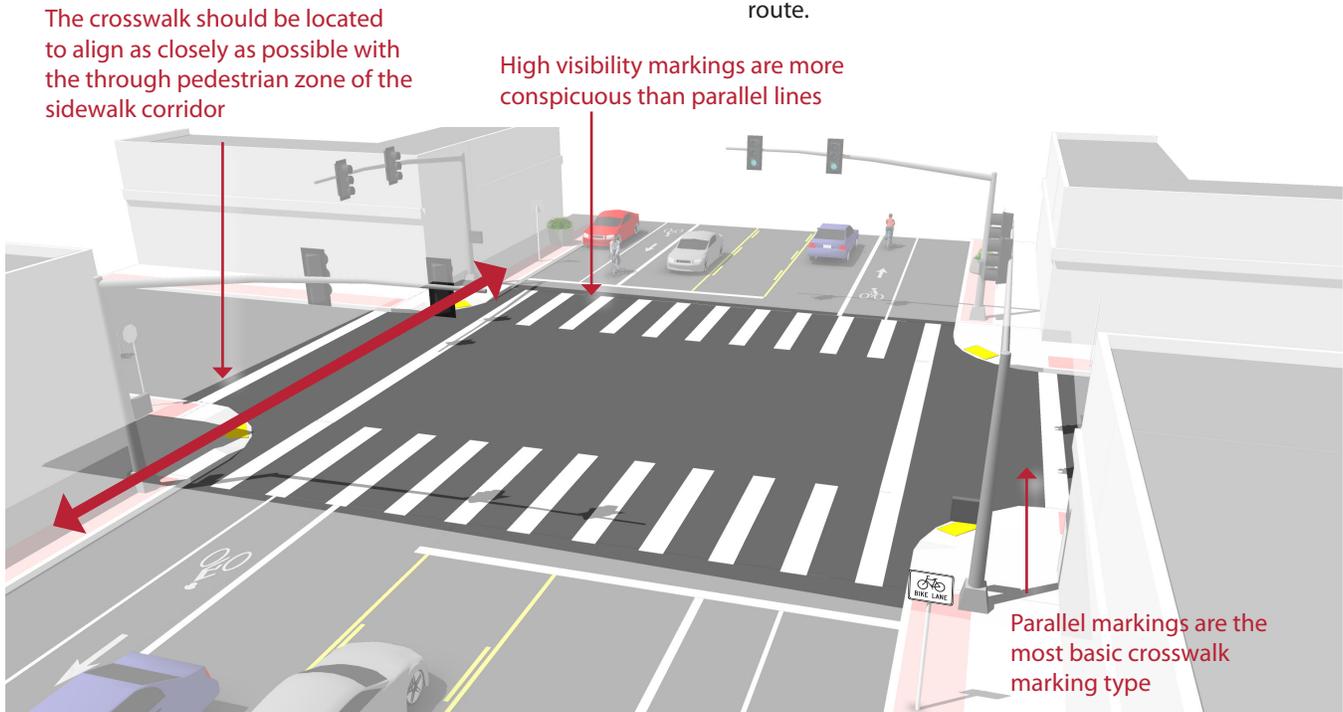
A marked crosswalk signals to motorists that they must stop for pedestrians and encourages pedestrians to cross at designated locations. Installing crosswalks alone will not necessarily make crossings safer especially on multi-lane roadways.

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

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

FHWA. *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.

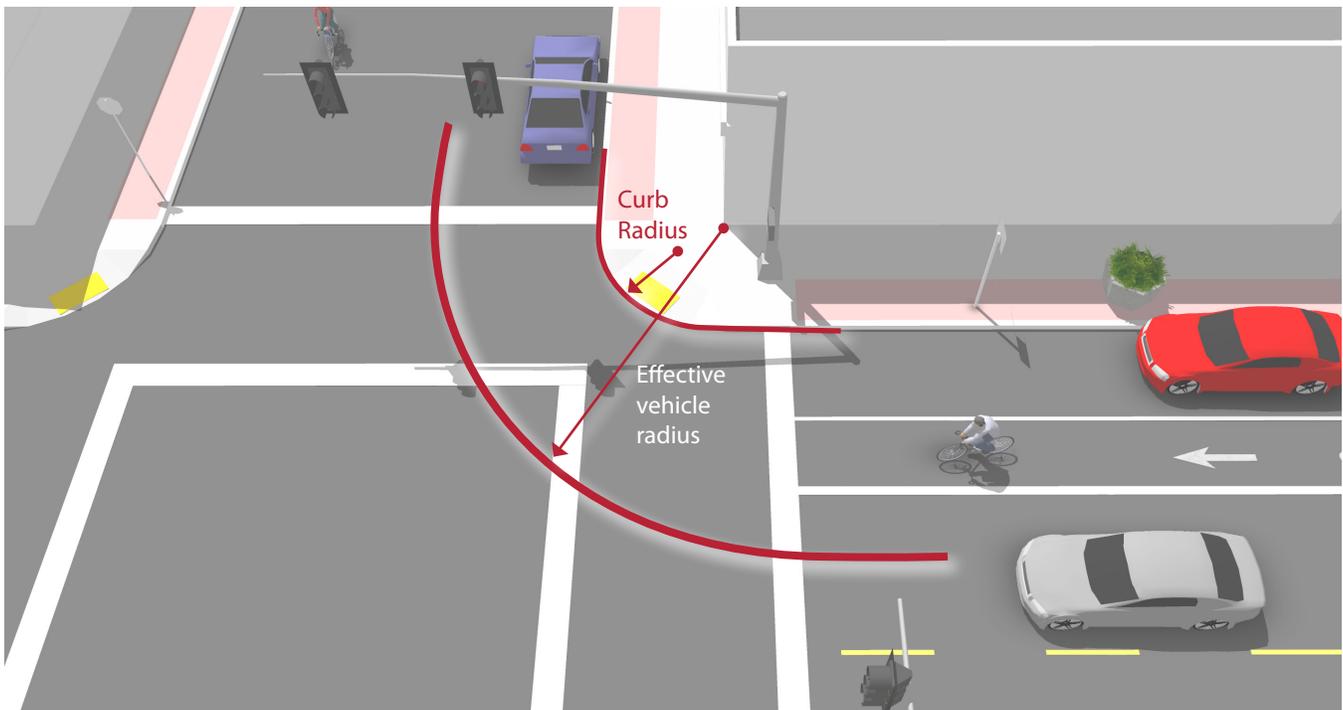
# Minimizing Curb Radii

## Description

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

## Guidance

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



## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*. 2004.
- Caltrans. *Complete Intersections*. 2010.
- NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide*. 2013.

## Materials and Maintenance

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

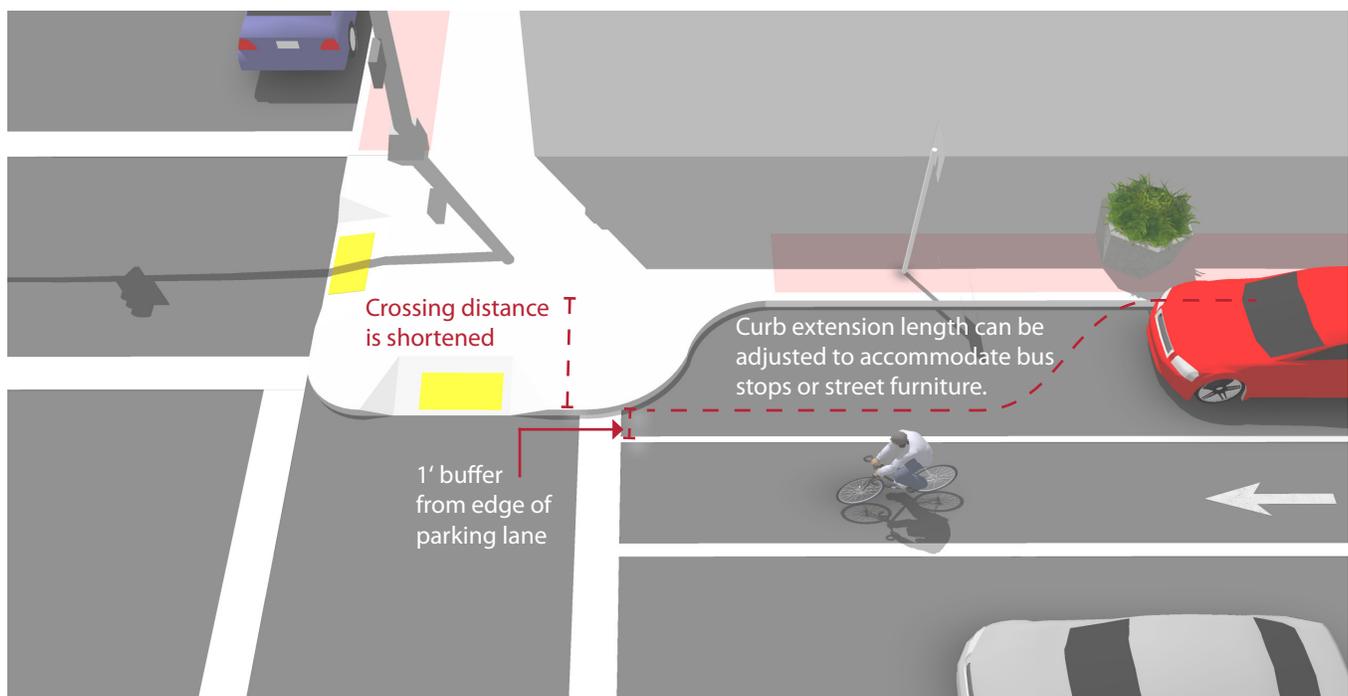
# Curb Extensions

## Description

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

## Guidance

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



## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*. 2004.  
 Caltrans. *Complete Intersections*. 2010.  
 NACTO. *Urban Street Design Guide*. 2013.

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# ADA Compliant Curb Ramps

## Description

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

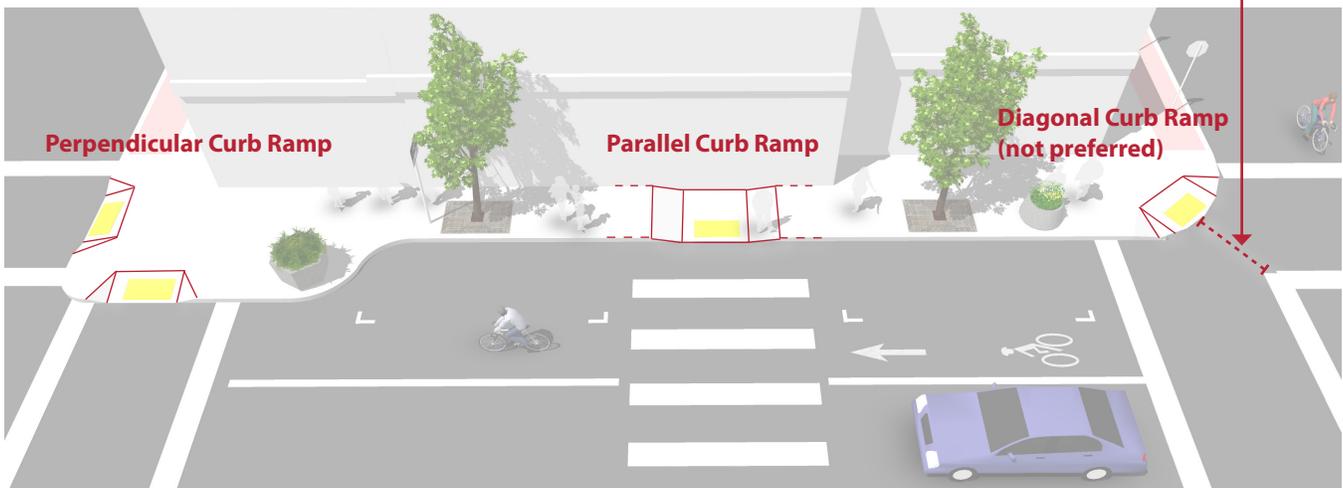
Although diagonal curb ramps might save money, they create potential safety and mobility problems for pedestrians, including reduced maneuverability and increased interaction with turning vehicles, particularly in areas with high traffic volumes. Diagonal curb ramp configurations are the least preferred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

## Guidance

- The landing at the top of a ramp shall be at least 4 feet long and at least the same width as the ramp itself.
- The ramp shall slope no more than 1:12, 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.

## Crossing Beacons and Signals

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

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 traffic.

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



# 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.

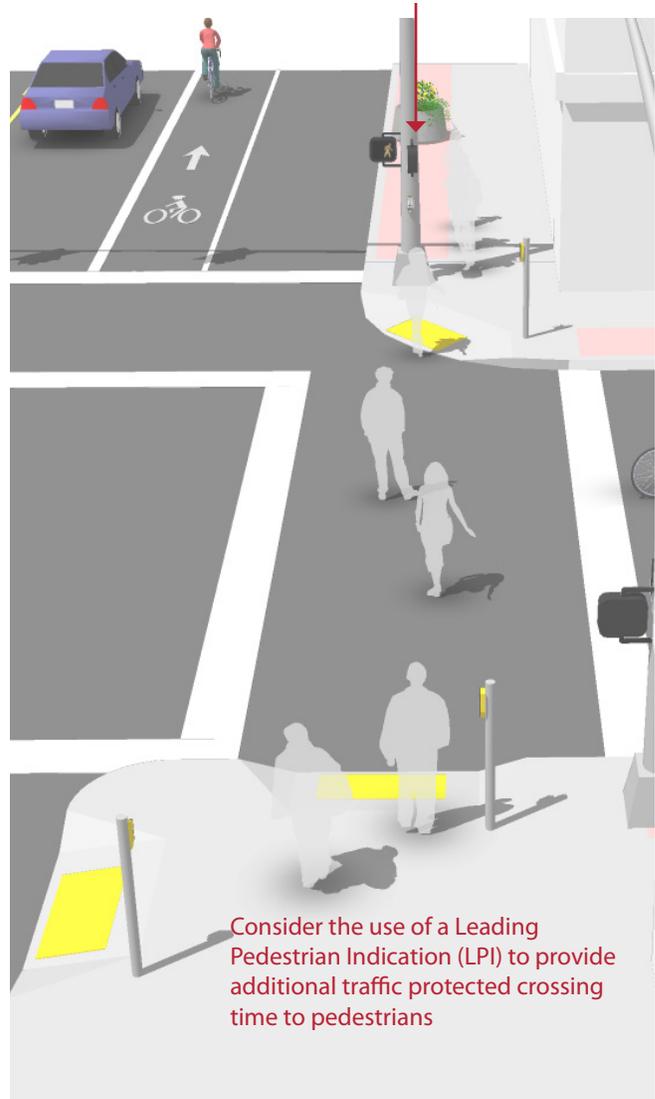
### Signal Timing

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



## 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

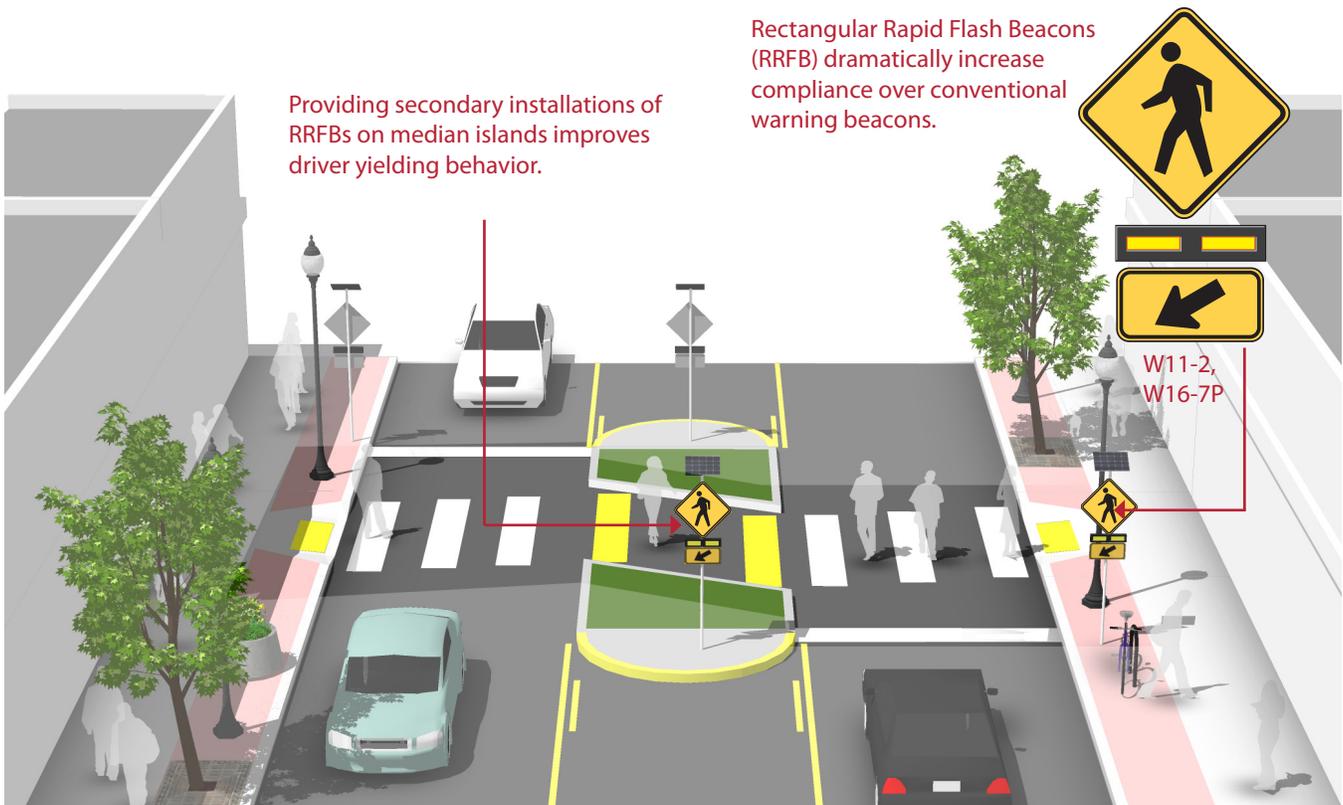
## Description

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.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.  
 FHWA. *MUTCD - Interim Approval for Optional Use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (IA-11)*. 2008.  
 Caltrans. *Complete Intersections*. 2010.

## 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 Mid-Block Crossing

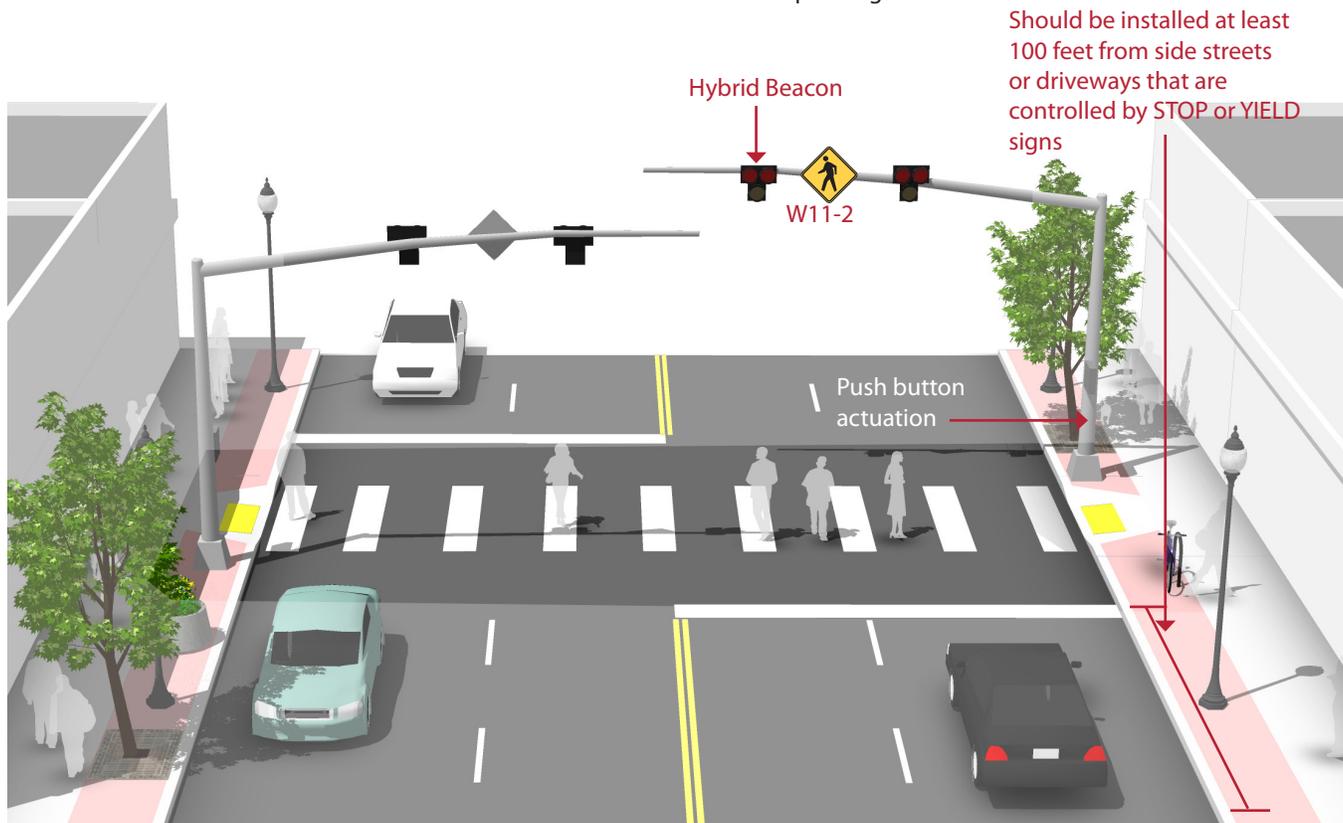
## Description

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. *Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Guide*. 2014.  
 Caltrans. *Main Street, California, 3rd Edition*. 2013. p 56  
 Caltrans. *CA-MUTCD*. 2012.  
 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.



# BICYCLISTS

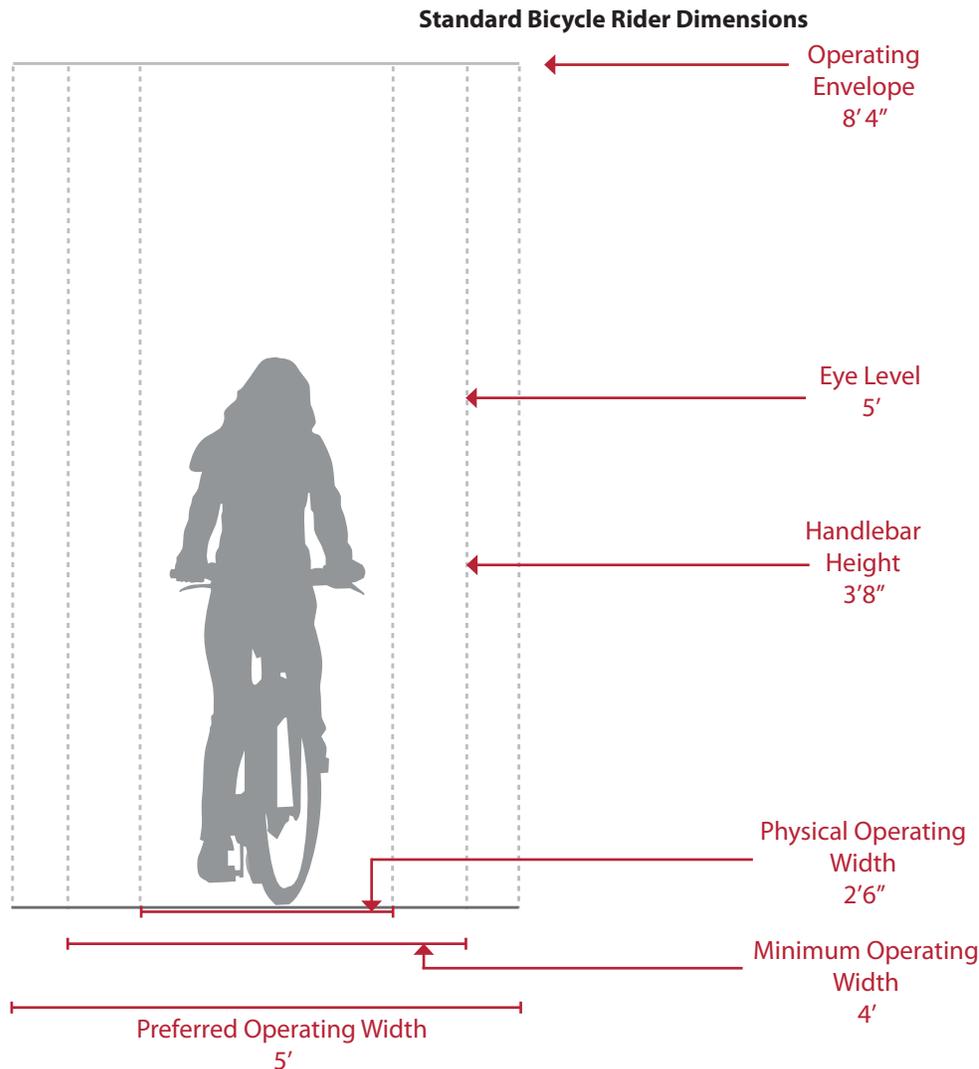
## Design Needs of Bicyclists

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

### Bicycle as a Design Vehicle

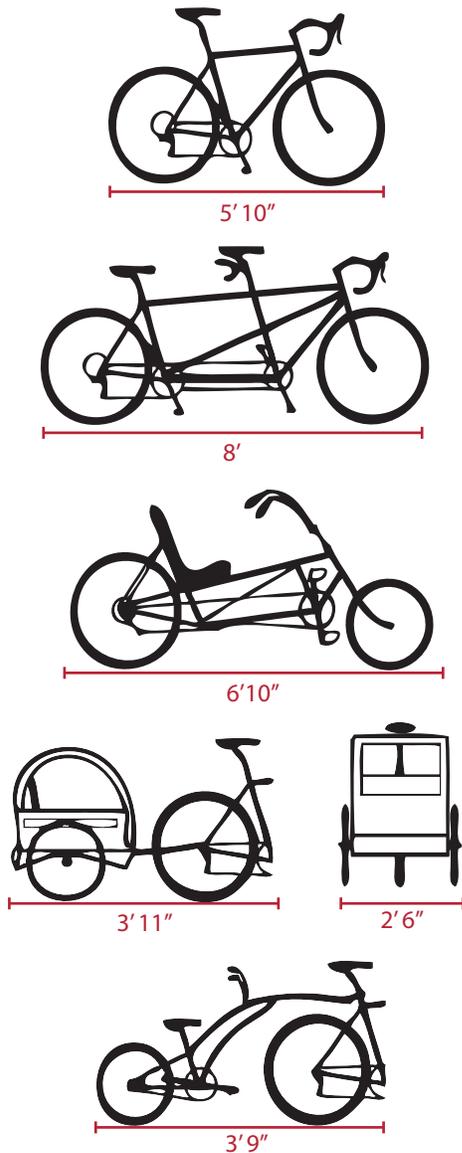
Similar to motor vehicles, bicyclists and their bicycles exist in a variety of sizes and configurations. These variations occur in the types of vehicle (such as a conventional bicycle, a recumbent bicycle or a tricycle), and behavioral characteristics (such as the comfort level of the bicyclist). The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

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



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

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



**Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Typical Dimensions**

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

**Design Speed Expectations**

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

Path designers should tailor the curvature and sight distance needs based on the typical speed of the fastest expected user. See data tables in the AASHTO *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* and the California Highway Design Manual for detailed guidance.

**Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Typical Dimensions**

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

**Bicycle as Design Vehicle - Design Speed Expectations**

Bicycle Type	Feature	Typical Speed
<b>Upright Adult Bicyclist</b>	Paved level surfacing	8-15 mph
	Downhill	20-30+ mph
	Uphill	5-12 mph
<b>Recumbent Bicyclist</b>	Paved level surfacing	11-18 mph

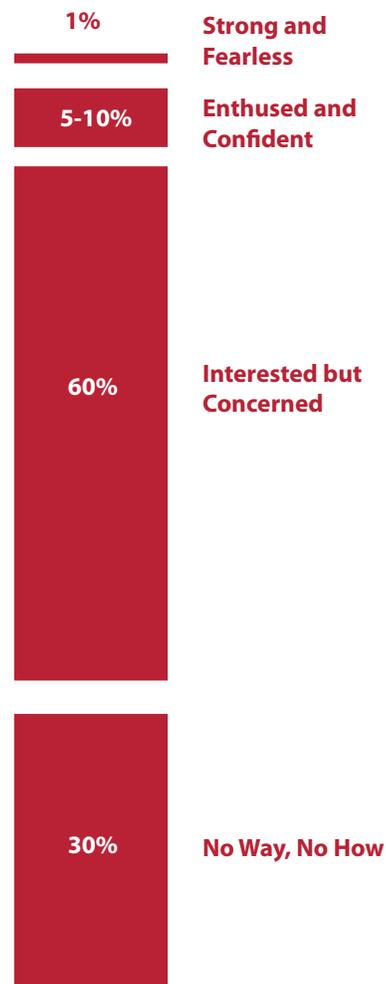
\*Tandem bicycles and bicyclists with trailers have typical speeds equal to or less than upright adult bicyclists.

## Types of Bicyclists

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

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

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

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

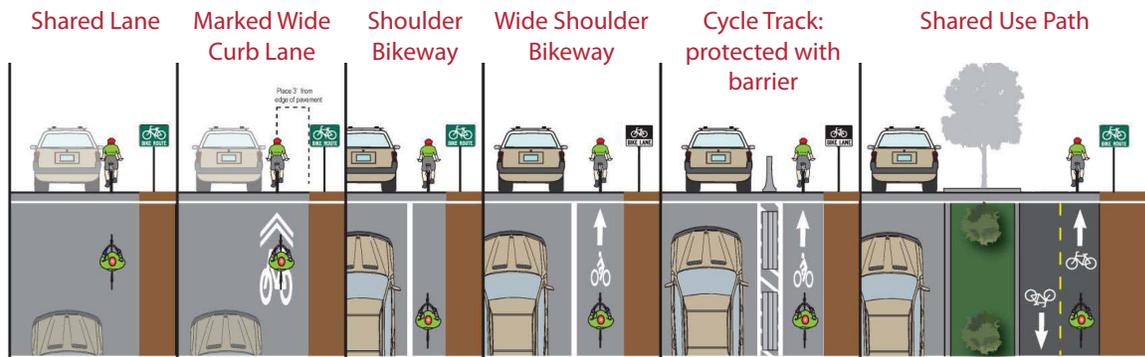
# Facility Continua

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

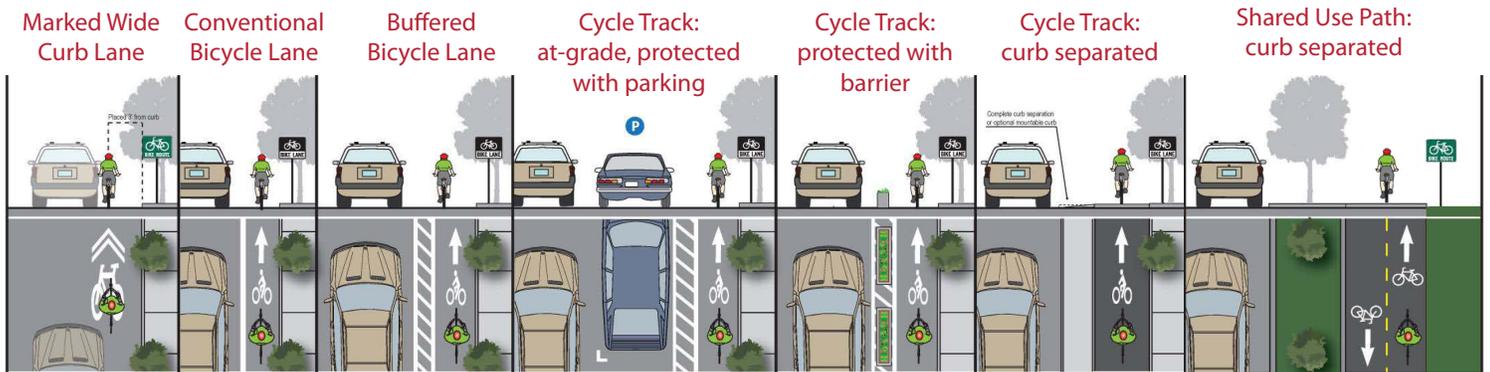
Least Protected

Most Protected

## Arterial/Highway Bikeway Continuum (without curb and gutter)



## Arterial/Highway Bikeway Continuum (with curb and gutter)



## Collector Bikeway Continuum



## Shared Roadways

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

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



# Signed Shared Roadway

## Description

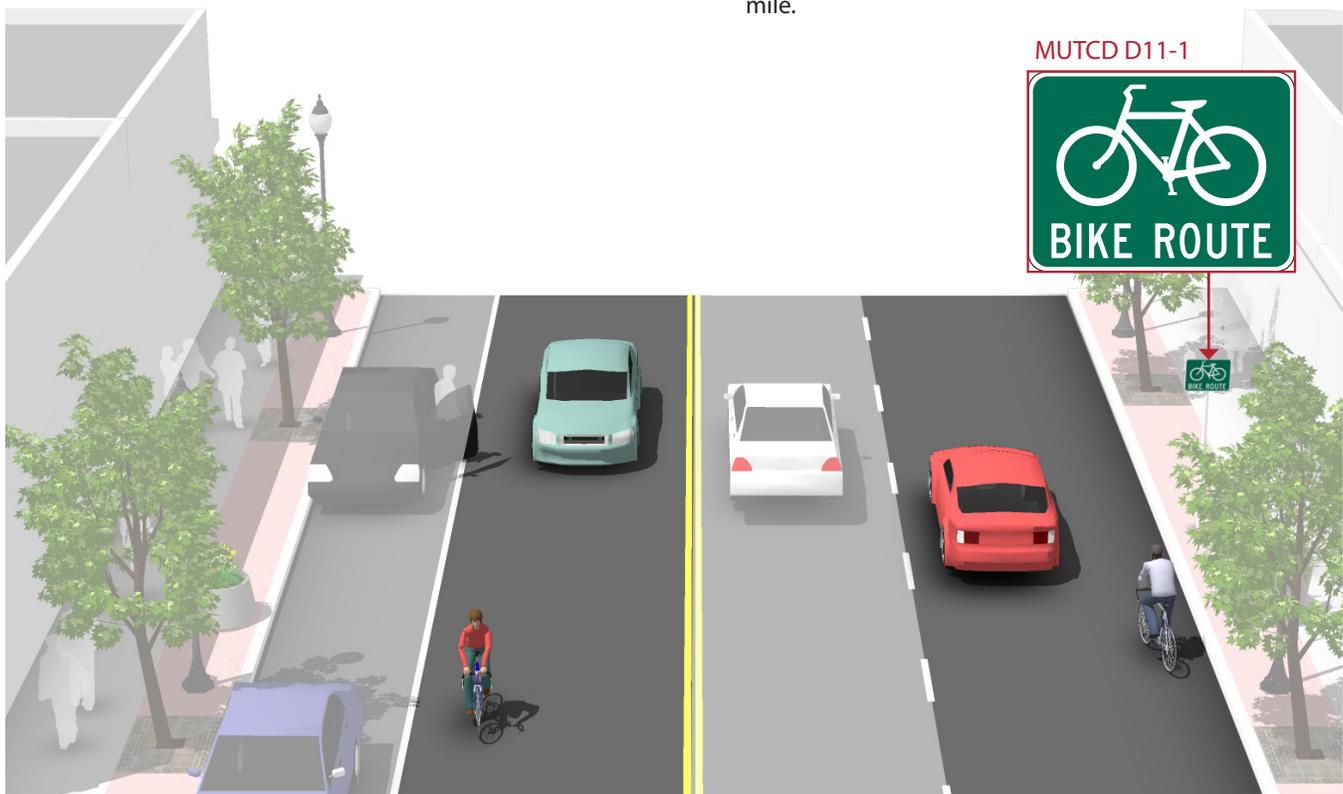
Signed shared roadways are facilities shared with motor vehicles. They are typically used on roads with low speeds and traffic volumes, however can be used on higher volume roads with wide outside lanes or shoulders. A motor vehicle driver will usually have to cross over into the adjacent travel lane 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 bicycle boulevard due to a lack of traffic calming, wayfinding, pavement markings and other enhancements designed to provide a higher level of comfort for a broad spectrum of users.

## Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.  
 Caltrans. *CA-MUTCD*. 2012.  
 Caltrans. *California HDM*. 2012.

## Materials and Maintenance

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

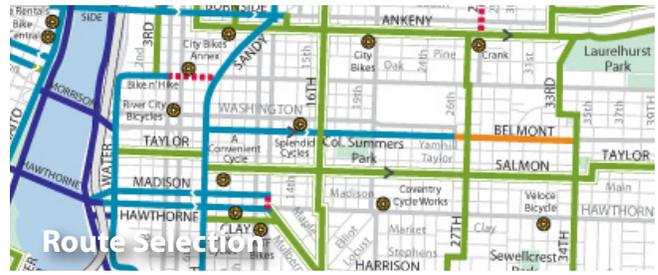


# Bicycle Boulevards on the Family Friendly Network

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

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

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



# Bicycle Boulevard Route Selection

## Description

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

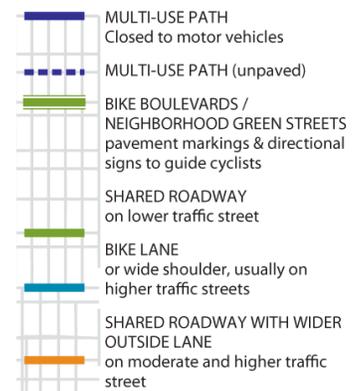
Bicycle boulevards parallel to commercial streets improve access for “interested but concerned” bicyclists and complement bike lanes on major roadways.

## Guidance

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



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



## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

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

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# Bicycle Boulevard Basic Treatments

## Description

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

## Guidance

### Pavement Markings

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

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

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

### Signs

Some cities have developed unique logos or colors for wayfinding signs that help brand their bicycle boulevards.

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

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



## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

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

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# Bicycle Boulevard Vertical Traffic Calming

## Description

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

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

## Guidance

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



Speed Hump



Offset Speed Hump



Temporary Speed Cushion



Raised Crosswalk

## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

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

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# Bicycle Boulevard Horizontal Traffic Calming

## Description

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

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

## Guidance

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



Temporary Curb Extension



Chicane



Choker or Neckdown



Pinchpoint with Bicycle Access

## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

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

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# Bicycle Boulevard Traffic Diversion

## Description

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

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

## Guidance

- Traffic diversion treatments reduce motor vehicle volumes by completely or partially restricting through traffic on a neighborhood greenway.
- Partial closures allow full bicycle passage while restricting vehicle access to one way traffic at that point.
- Diagonal diverters require all motor vehicle traffic to turn.

Median diverters (see Major Intersection Treatments) restrict through motor vehicle movements while providing a refuge for bicyclists to cross in two stages.

- Street closures create a "T" that blocks motor vehicles from continuing on a neighborhood greenway, while bicycle travel can continue unimpeded. Full closures can accommodate emergency vehicles with the use of mountable curbs (maximum of six inches high).



Partial Closure



Diagonal Diverter



Median Diverter



Full Closure

## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

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

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# Bicycle Boulevard Minor Intersection Treatments

## Description

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

## Guidance

- On the bicycle boulevard, the majority of intersections with minor roadways should stop-control cross traffic to minimize bicyclist delay. This will maximize bicycling efficiency.
- If a stop sign is present on the bicycle boulevard, a second stop bar for bicyclists can be placed closer to the centerline of the cross street than the motorists' stop bar to increase the visibility of bicyclists waiting to cross the street.
- Curb extensions can be used to move bicyclists closer to the centerline to improve visibility and encourage motorists to let them cross.



Stop Signs on Cross-Street



Bicycle Forward Stop Bar



Curb Extension

## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

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

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# Bicycle Boulevard Major Intersection Treatments

## Description

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

## Guidance

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



Bike Box



Median Island



Hybrid Beacon



Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB)

## 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.

## Additional References and Guidelines

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

## Materials and Maintenance

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

## Separated Bikeways

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

Separated bikeways can increase safety and promote proper riding by:

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



# Bike Lane without On-Street Parking

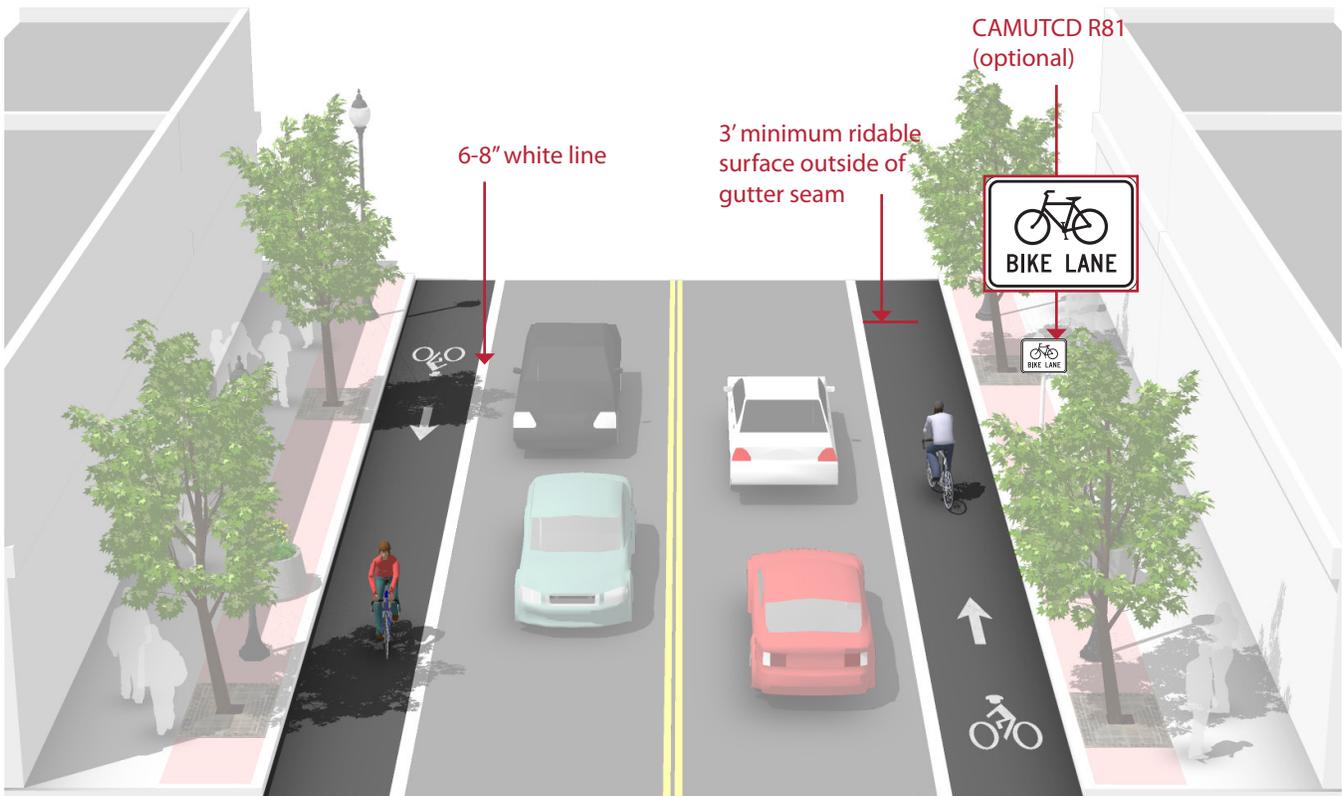
## Description

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

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

## Guidance

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



## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.  
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.  
 Caltrans. *California HDM*. 2012.

## Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of debris through routine street cleaning operations and on an as-needed basis.

## Bike Lane Adjacent to On-Street Parallel Parking

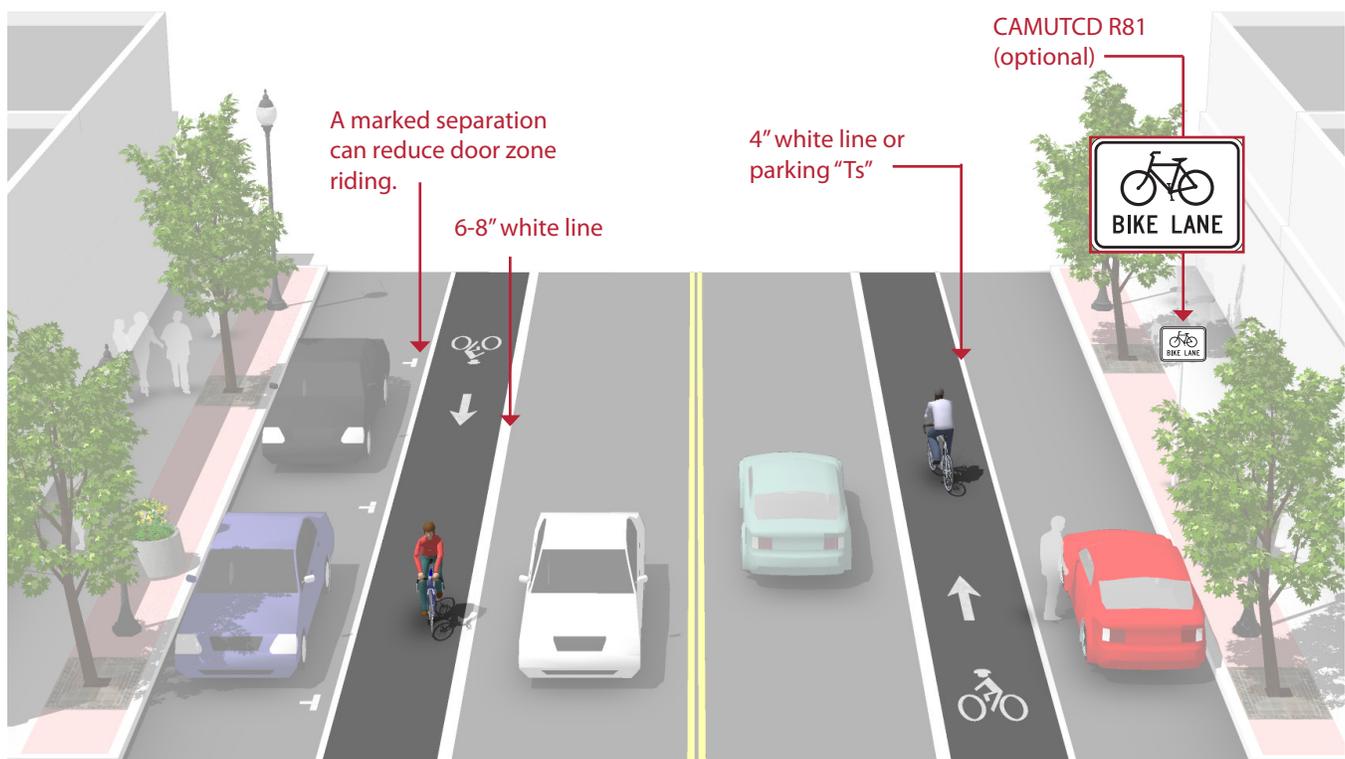
### Description

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

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. In Turlock, many bike lanes omit the white line between the bike space and the parking space. This is permitted by the CA-MUTCD 2012 section 3B.07, however new or remarked bike lanes should include the white line or parking T's.

### Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.  
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.  
 Caltrans. *California HDM*. 2012.

### Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of debris through routine street cleaning operations and on an as-needed basis.

# Bike Lanes and Diagonal Parking

## Description

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

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

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

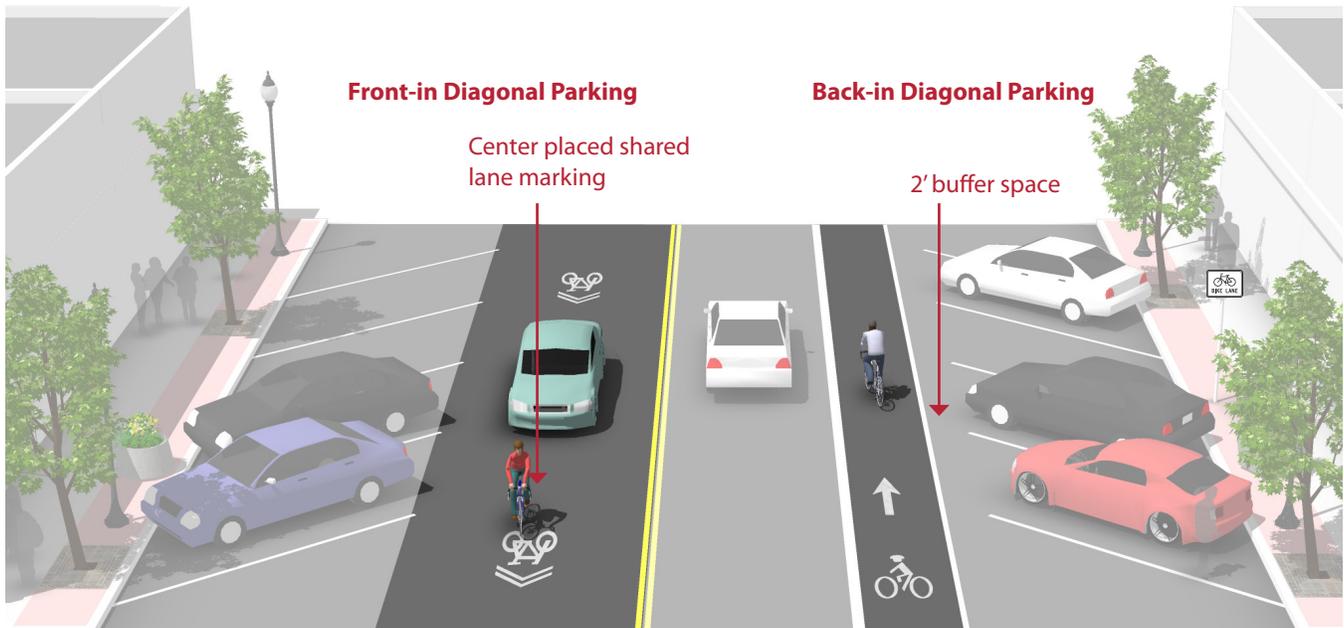
## Guidance

### Front-in Diagonal Parking

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

### Back-in Diagonal Parking

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



## Discussion

### Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.  
 Caltrans. *Main Street, California*. 2013.

### Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of debris through routine street cleaning operations and on an as-needed basis.

# Buffered Bike Lane

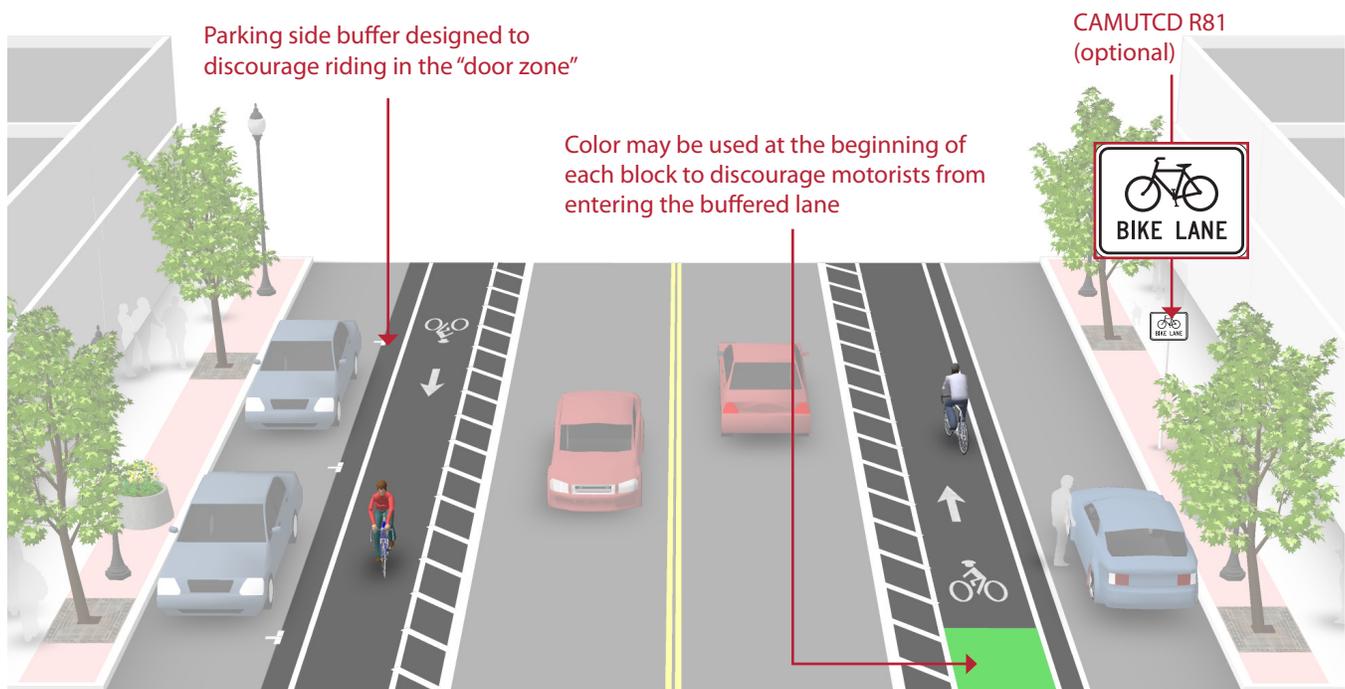
## Description

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.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012

## Materials and Maintenance

Paint can wear more quickly in high traffic areas. Bicycle lanes should be cleared of debris through routine street cleaning operations and on an as-needed basis.

# Cycle Tracks

## Guidance

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

### One-Way Cycle Tracks

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

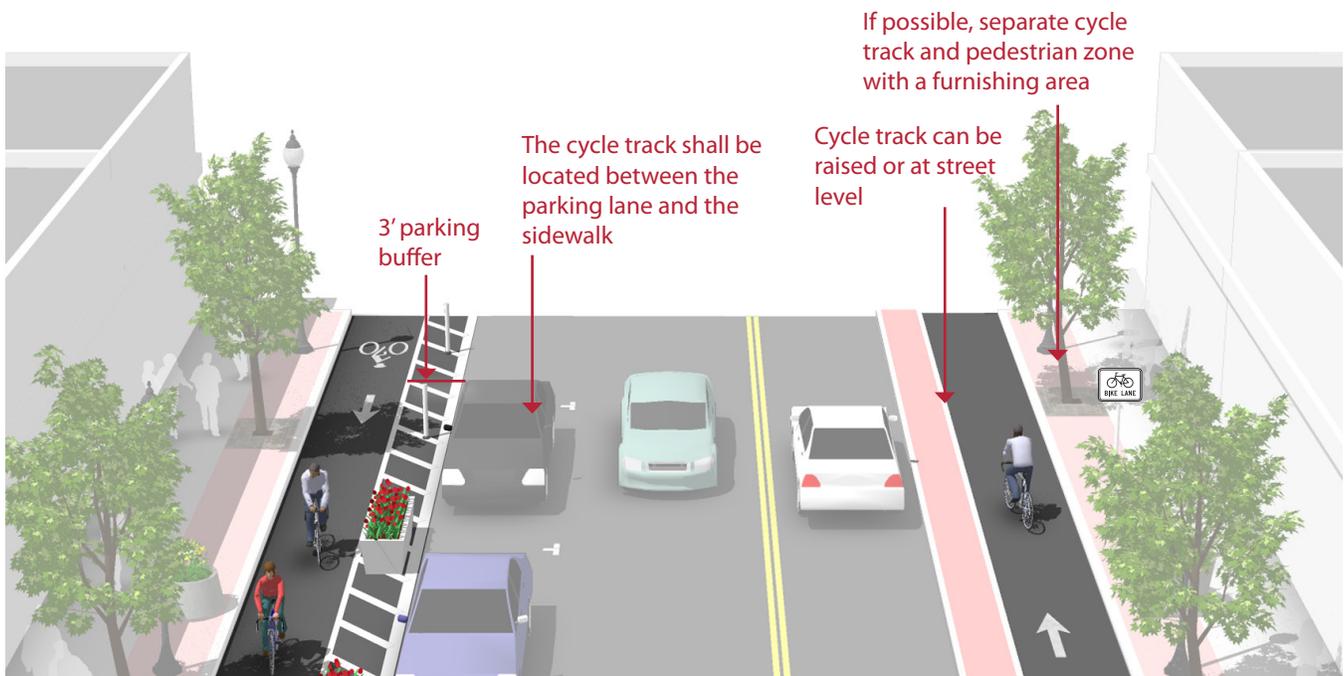
### Two-Way Cycle Tracks

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

## Description

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

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



## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.

## Materials and Maintenance

Barrier separated and raised cycle tracks may require special equipment for sweeping and maintenance.

## Separated Bikeways at Intersections

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 vehicles by heightening the level of visibility, denoting clear right-of-way and facilitating eye contact and awareness with other modes. Intersection treatments can improve both queuing and merging maneuvers for bicyclists, and are often coordinated with timed or specialized signals.

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



**Bike Box**



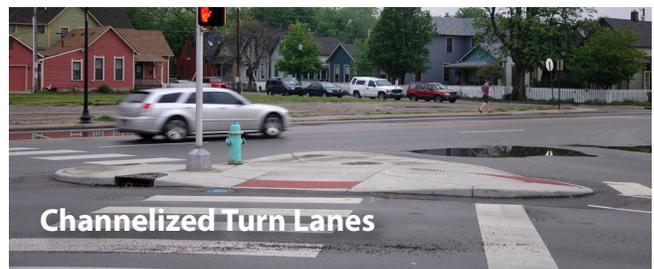
**Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas**



**Shared Bicycle/Right Turn Lane**



**Two Stage Turn Boxes**



**Channelized Turn Lanes**



**Bicyclists at Single Lane Roundabouts**

# 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.

## Colored Bike Lanes in Conflict Areas

### Description

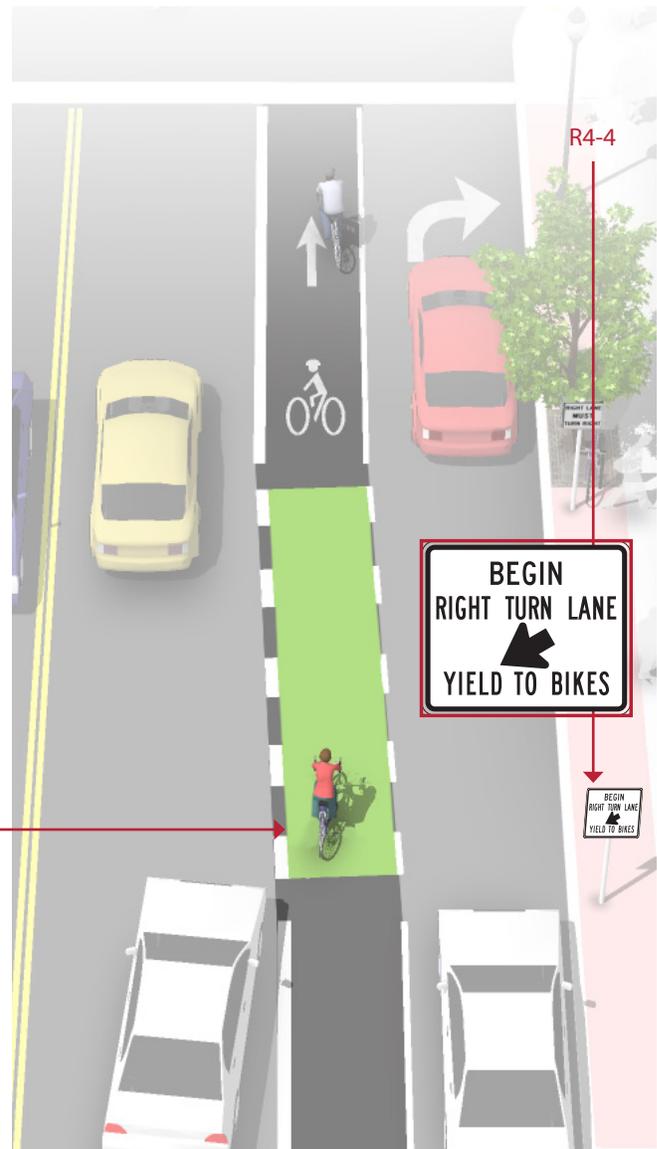
Colored pavement within a bicycle lane increases the visibility of the facility and reinforces priority of bicyclists in conflict areas.

The design (right) illustrates a through bike lane to the left of a right turn only lane with signage indicating that motorists should yield to bicyclists through the conflict area.

### Guidance

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

Normal white dotted edge lines should define colored space



### Discussion

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

### Additional References and Guidelines

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

### Materials and Maintenance

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

# Combined Bike Lane / Turn Lane

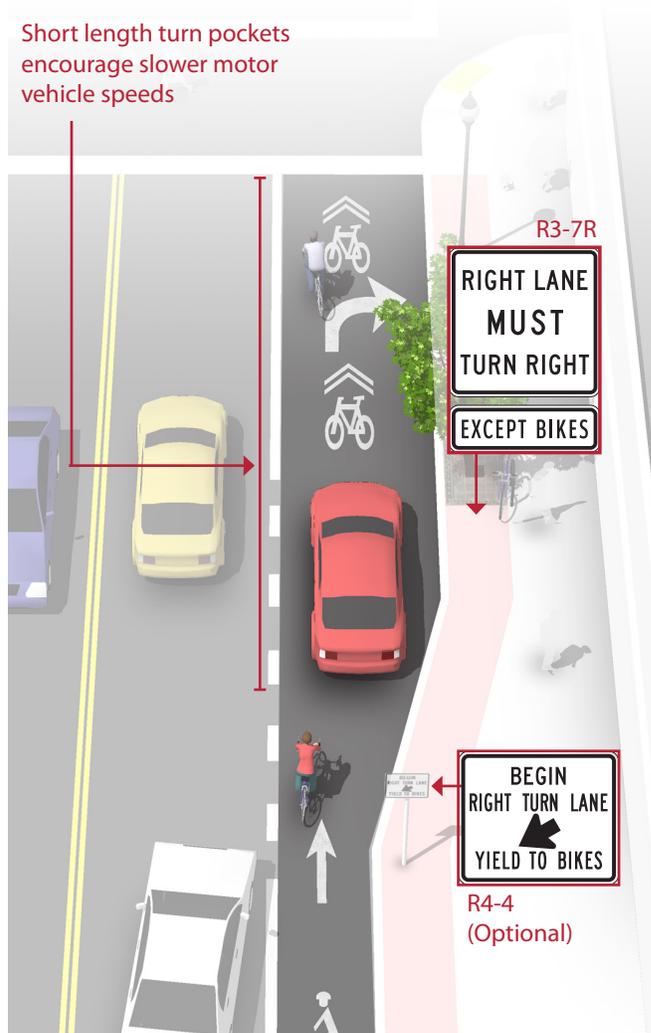
## Description

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

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

## Guidance

- Maximum shared turn lane width is 13 feet; narrower is preferable.
- Shared Lane Markings should indicate preferred positioning of bicyclists within the combine lane.
- A “RIGHT LANE MUST TURN RIGHT” sign with an “EXCEPT BIKES” plaque may be needed to make it legal for through bicyclists to use a right turn lane.
- The BEGIN RIGHT TURN LANE YIELD TO BIKES (R4-4) sign may be used where motor vehicles entering an exclusive right-turn lane must weave across bicycle traffic in bicycle lanes. The R4-4 sign should not be used when bicyclists need to move left because of a right-turn lane drop situation. Refer CA-MUTCD Section 9B.05.



## 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.  
CA-MUTCD 2014, Section 9B.05

## 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.

## Two-Stage Turn Box

### Description

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

On right side bike lanes, bicyclists are often unable to merge into traffic to turn left due to high traffic volumes and speeds. On cycle tracks, bicyclists cannot merge due to physical separation.

In both cases, the provision of two-stage left turn boxes is important to allow for access and mobility on the bike network.

### Guidance

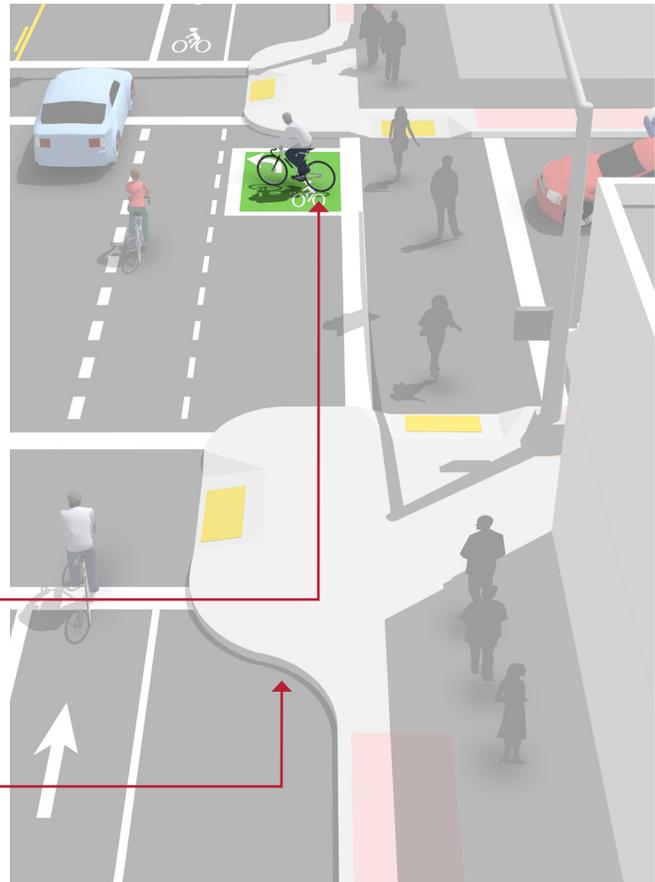
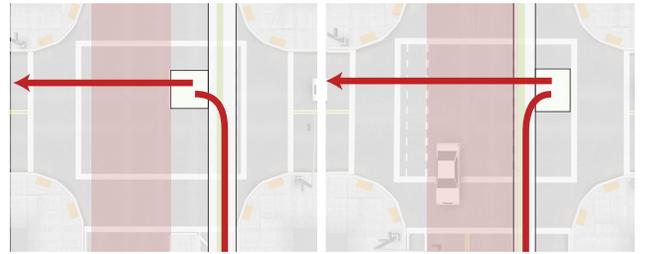
- The queue box shall be placed in a protected area. Typically this is within an on-street parking lane or cycle track buffer area.
- 6 Foot minimum depth of bicycle storage area. 8' feet preferred.
- Bicycle stencil and turn arrow pavement markings shall be used to indicate proper bicycle direction and positioning.
- A "No Turn on Red" (MUTCD R10-11) sign should be installed on the cross street to prevent vehicles from entering the turn box.

Consider using colored pavement inside the box to further define the bicycle space

Turns from a bicycle lane should be protected by a curb extension

Cycle track turn box protected by physical buffer:

Bike lane turn box protected by parking lane:



### Discussion

Two-Stage Turn boxes are considered experimental by FHWA, unless configured as a "jug handle" turn integrated into the sidewalk.

While two stage turns may increase bicyclist comfort in many locations, this configuration will typically result in higher average delay for turning 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.

# Channelized Turn Lanes

## Description

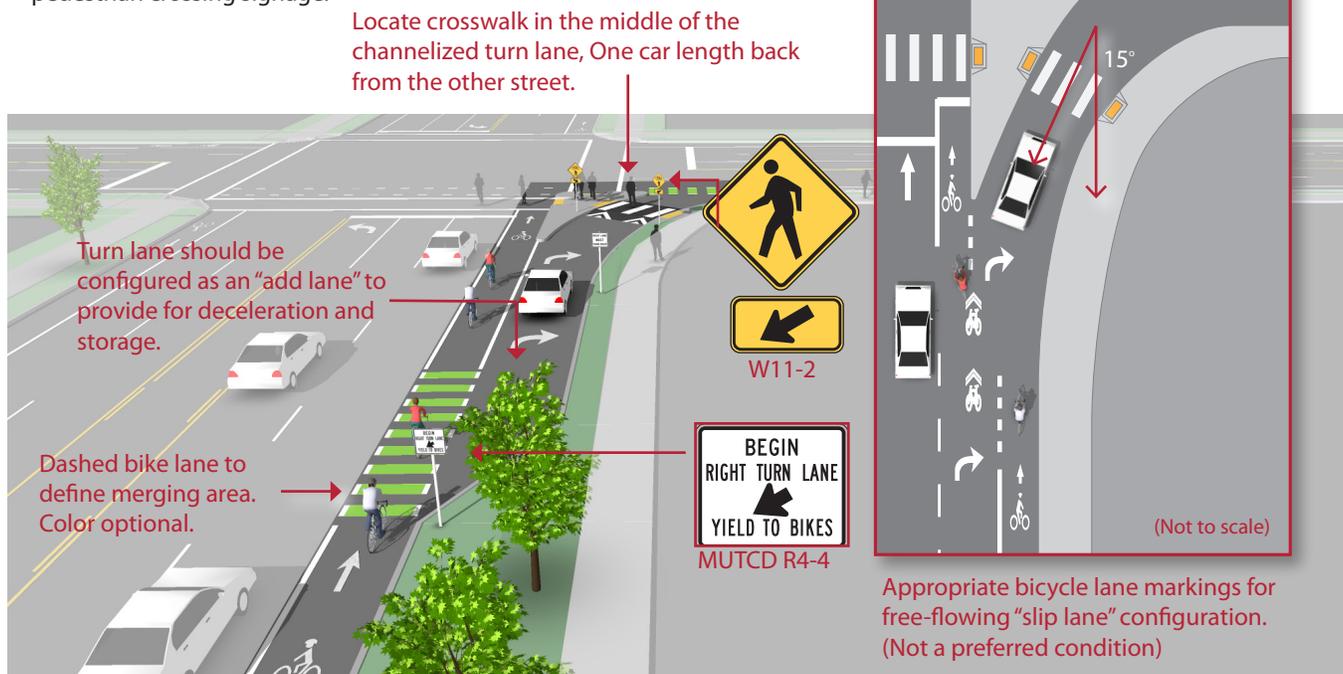
In some intersections of arterials streets, design vehicle requirements or intersection angles may result in wide turning radii at corners. Configuring the intersection as a channelized (or free-right) turn lane with a raised refuge island can improve conditions for pedestrians trying to cross the street.

Similar to a median refuge island, the raised refuge island can reduce crossing distances, allow staged crossing of the roadway, and improve visibility of pedestrians crossing the roadway.

To improve safety and comfort for pedestrians, measures to slow traffic at the pedestrian crossing are recommended such as provision of a raised crosswalk, signalized pedestrian walk phase, high visibility crosswalk, and/or pedestrian crossing signage.

## Guidelines

- The preferred angle of intersection between the channelized turn lane and the roadway being joined is no more than 15 degrees to allow for simultaneous visibility of pedestrians and potential roadway gaps.
- Design with a maximum 30-35 foot turning radius.
- Signage: Pedestrian crossing sign assembly (W11-2) or Yield (R1-2) to encourage yielding. Yield to Bikes (R4-4) or similar if bike lanes are present.
- Raised crossings in the channelized turn lane may slow driver speed through the turning area.



## Discussion

This design requires trucks to turn into multiple receiving lanes, and may not be appropriate on the approach to streets with one through lane.

Channelized turn lanes can be very challenging for blind pedestrians. NCHRP 674 identified the use of sound strips (a full lane rumble strip-like device) in conjunction with flashing beacons to increase yielding compliance.

## Additional References and Guidelines

TRB. *NCHRP 674 Crossing Solutions at Roundabouts and Channelized Turn Lanes for Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities*. 2011.  
 ITE. *Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares*. 2010.  
 Caltrans. *CA-MUTCD*. 2012  
 Caltrans. *Complete Intersections*. 2010.

## Materials and Maintenance

Signage and striping require routine maintenance.

# Bicyclists at Single Lane Modern Roundabouts

## Description

Roundabouts are circular intersection designed with yield control for all entering traffic, channelized approaches and geometry to induce desirable speeds. They are used as an alternative to intersection signalization.

Other circulatory intersection designs exist but they function differently than the modern roundabout. These include:

**Traffic circles** (also known as rotaries) are old style circular intersections used in some cities in the US where traffic signals or stop signs are used to control one or more entry.

**Neighborhood Traffic Circles** are small-sized circular intersections of local streets. They may be uncontrolled or stop controlled, and do not channelize entry.

## Guidelines

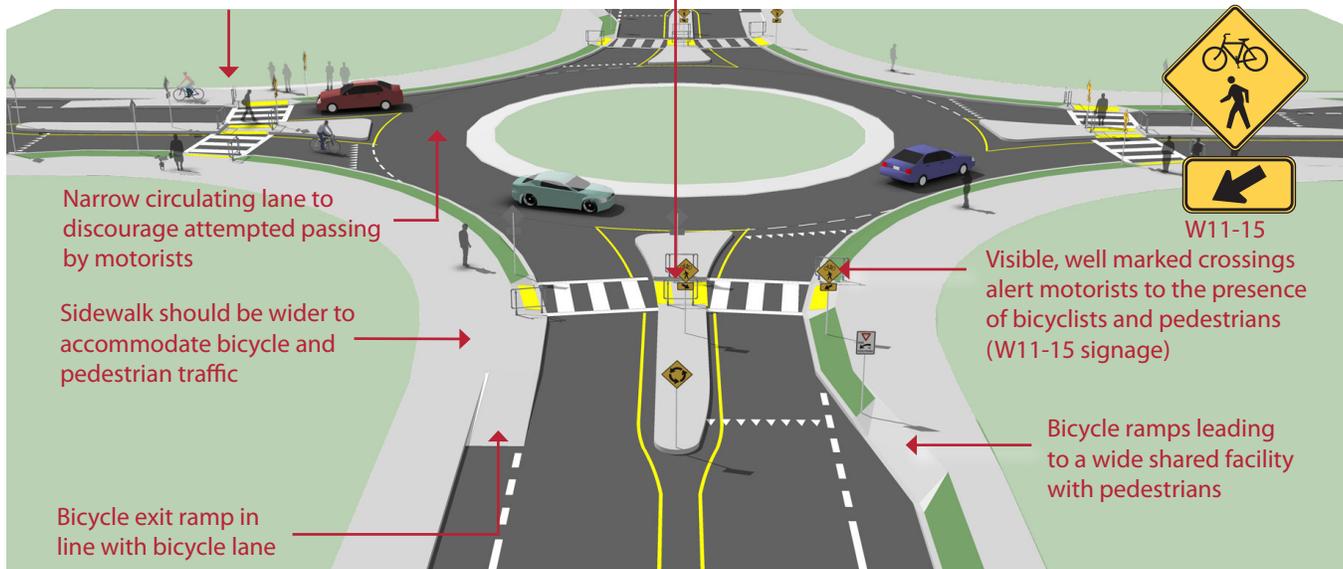
It is important to indicate to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians the right-of-way rules and correct way for them to circulate, using appropriately designed signage, pavement markings, and geometric design elements.

- 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.

Holding rails with bicycle foot rests can provide support for elderly pedestrians or bicyclists waiting to cross the street.

Crossings set back at least one car length from the entrance of the roundabout

Truck apron can provide adequate clearance for longer vehicles



## 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.

On bicycle routes a roundabout or neighborhood traffic circle is preferable to stop control as bicyclists do not like to lose their momentum due to physical effort required. At intersections of multi-use paths, pedestrian and bicycle only roundabouts are an excellent form of non-motorized user traffic control.

## Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.  
 TRB. *NCHRP 672 Roundabouts: An Informational Guide*. 2010.  
 TRB. *NCHRP Report 572 Roundabouts in the United States*. 2007.  
 Hourdos, John et al. *Investigation of Pedestrian/Bicyclist Risk in Minnesota Roundabout Crossings*. 2012  
 TRB. *NCHRP 674 Crossing Solutions at Roundabouts and Channelized Turn Lanes for Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities*. 2011.

Shaw and Moler. *Bicyclist- and Pedestrian-Only Roundabouts*. 2009. FHWA.  
 Brown, Rick. *The Case of Roundabouts: Doing Laps Around the Circle City*. 2012.

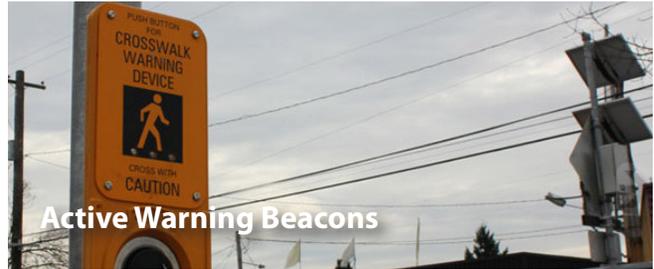
## Materials and Maintenance

Signage and striping require routine maintenance.

## Bicycles at Signals and Beacons

Designs for bicycles at signalized crossings should allow bicyclists to trigger signals and safely maneuver the crossing.

Warning beacons can be utilized at unsignalized intersection crossings. Push buttons, signage, and pavement markings may be used to supplement these facilities for both bicyclists and motorists.



# 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.

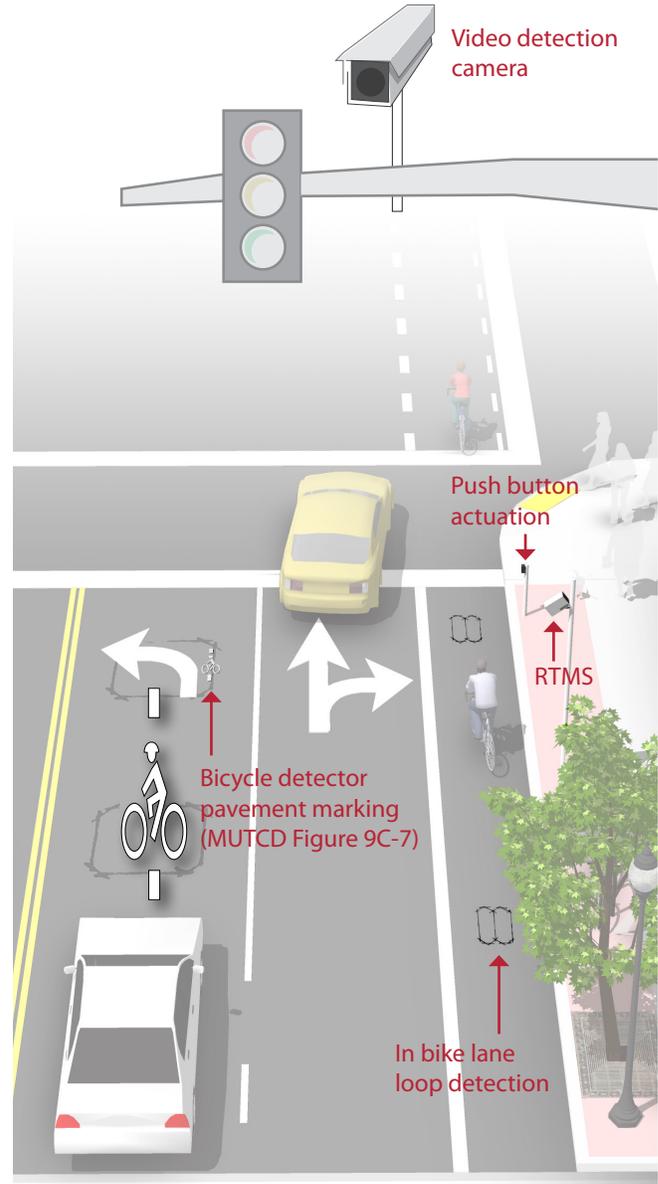
Loops that are sensitive enough to detect bicycles should be supplemented with pavement markings to instruct bicyclists how to trip them.

### 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.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.  
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.  
 Caltrans. *Policy Directive 09-06*. 2009.  
 Caltrans. *Complete Intersections*. 2010.

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# Hybrid Beacons for Bike Route Crossings

## Description

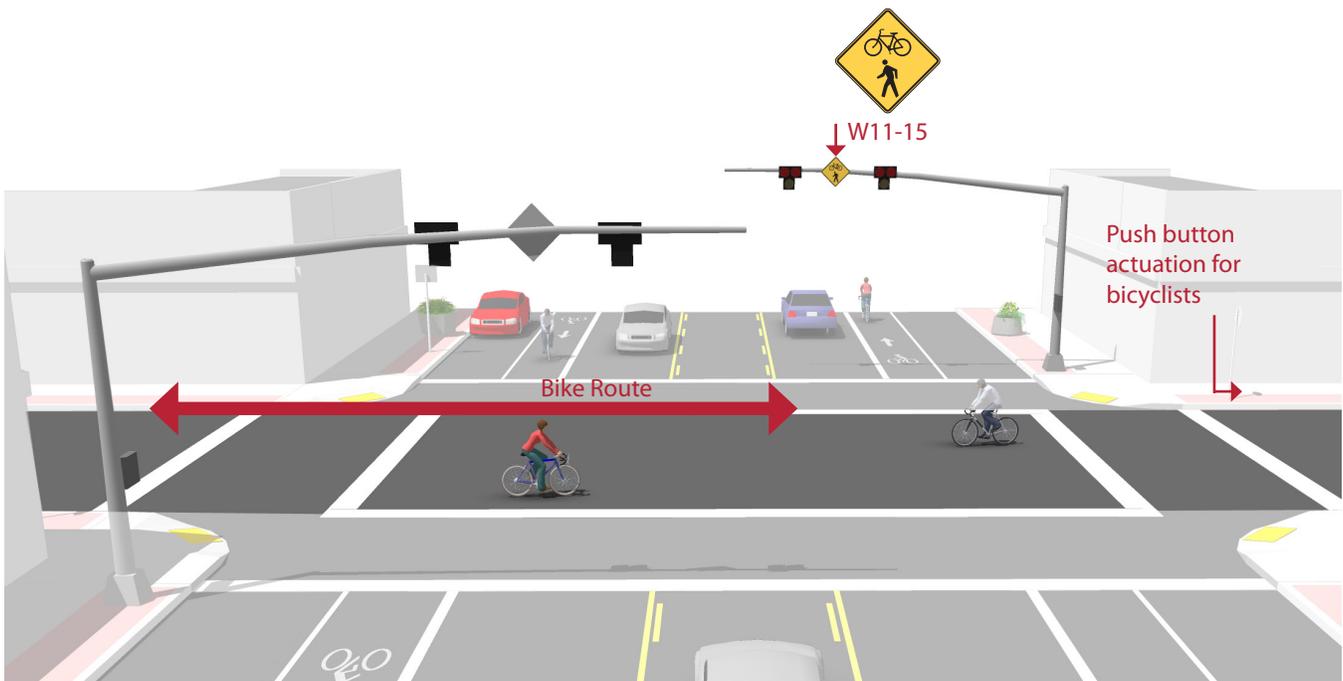
A hybrid beacon, formerly known as a High-intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK), consists of a signal-head with two red lenses over a single yellow lens on the major street, and pedestrian signal heads for the minor street. There are no signal indications for motor vehicles on the minor street approaches.

In addition to paths crossing roadways between traffic signals (i.e. midblock), hybrid beacons may be used at minor road / major road intersections where a normal traffic signal warrant is not met.

## Guidance

Hybrid beacons may be installed without meeting traffic control signal 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. *Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Guide*. 2014.  
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.  
 Caltrans. *CA-MUTCD*. 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.

## 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 an 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.

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



# 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.

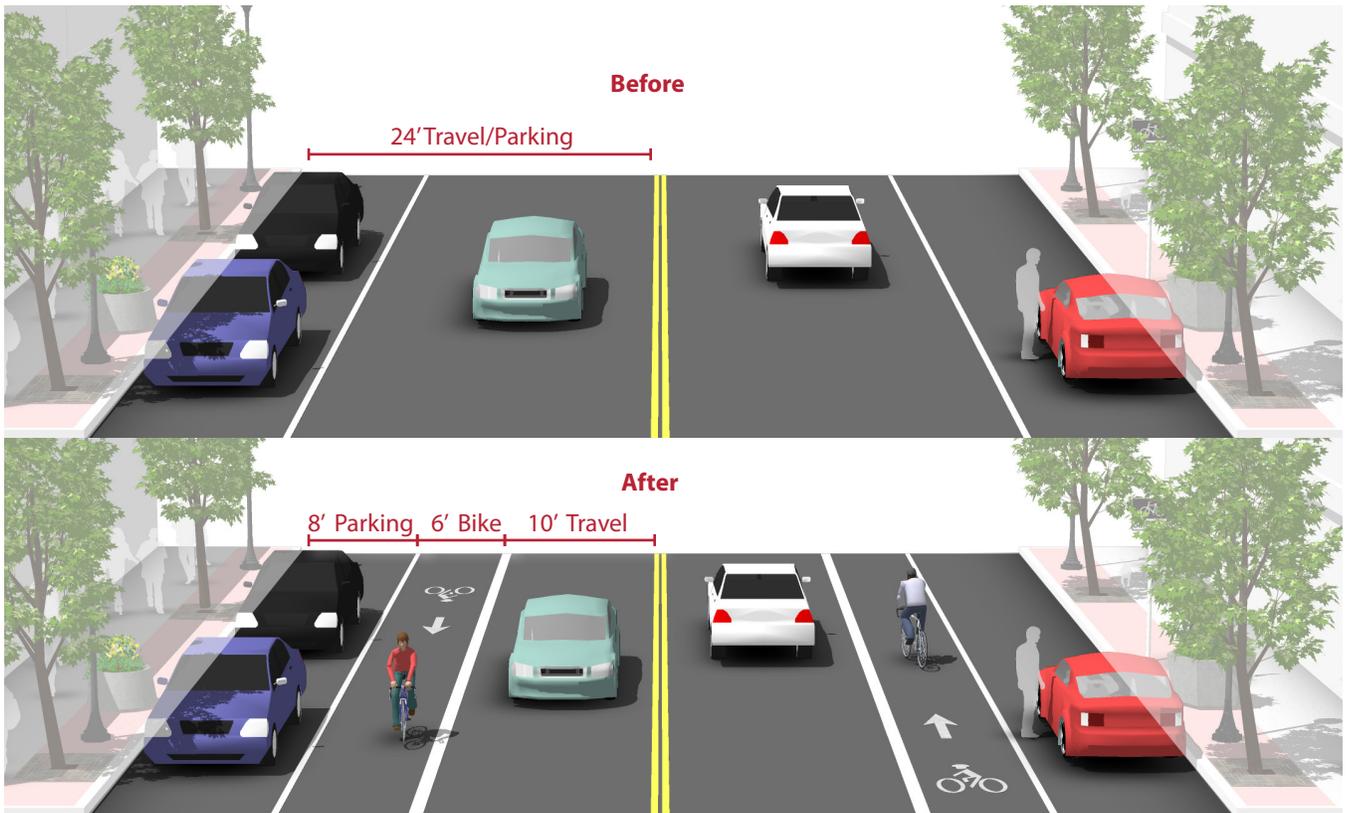
## Guidance

### 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.  
 Caltrans. *Main Street, California*. 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.

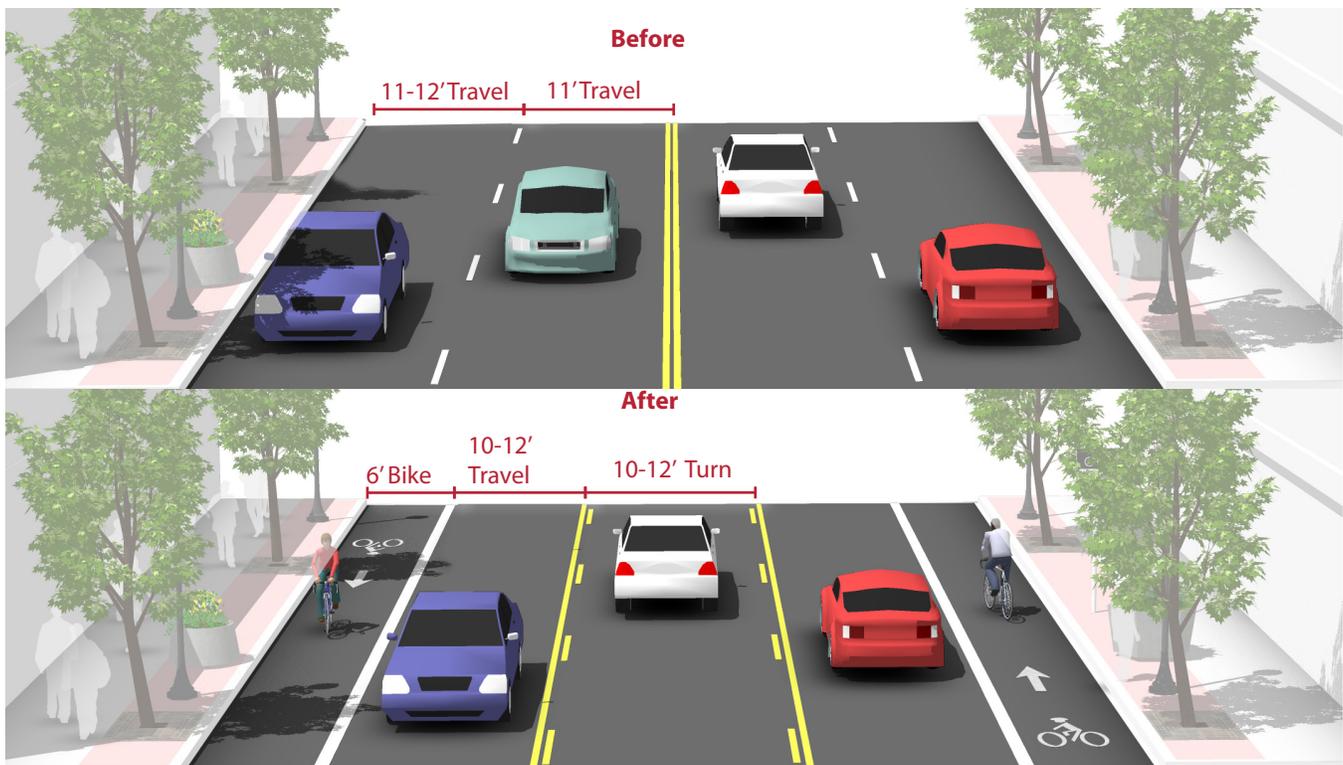
## Guidance

### 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.  
 Caltrans. *Main Street, California*. 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.

## Bicycle Parking

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



Bicycle Racks



On Street Bike Corral



## On-Street Bicycle Corral

### Description

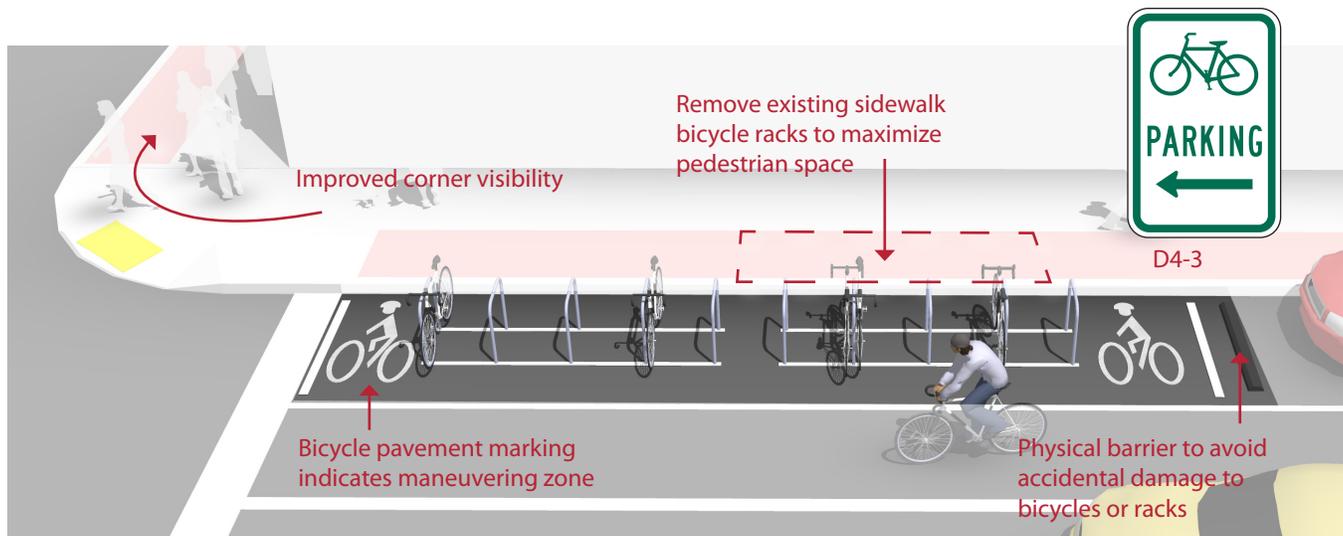
Bicycle corrals (also known as on-street bicycle parking) consist of bicycle racks grouped together in a common area within the street traditionally used for automobile parking. Bicycle corrals are reserved exclusively for bicycle parking and provide a relatively inexpensive solution to providing high-volume 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 the previous page 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.

# Bikeway Maintenance

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

### Recommended Walkway and Bikeway Maintenance Activities

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



## 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.

### 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, and in the Fall in areas where leaves accumulate .

## 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.

## Maintenance Management Plan

### Description

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

### Guidance

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



# SHARED USE PATHS

# Shared Use Paths and Off-Street Facilities

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

Key features of shared use paths include:

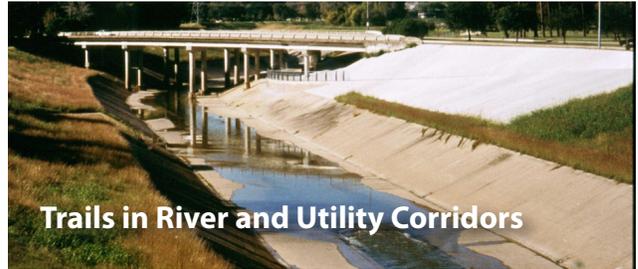
- Frequent access points from the local road network.
- Directional signs to direct users to and from the path.
- A limited number of at-grade crossings with streets or driveways.
- Terminating the path where it is easily accessible to and from the street system.
- Separate treads for pedestrians and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

The geometric design of shared use paths should be designed to support the speed and volume of expected user types. Bicyclist speeds can vary significantly depending on path grade. The table below lists typical bicyclists speeds.

**Bicycle Design Speed Expectations**

Bicycle Type	Feature	Typical Speed
<b>Upright Adult Bicyclist</b>	Paved level surfacing	8-15 mph
	Downhill	20-30+ mph
	Uphill	5 -12 mph
<b>Recumbent Bicyclist</b>	Paved level surfacing	11-18 mph

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



# General Design Practices

## Description

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

## Guidance

### Width

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

### Lateral Clearance

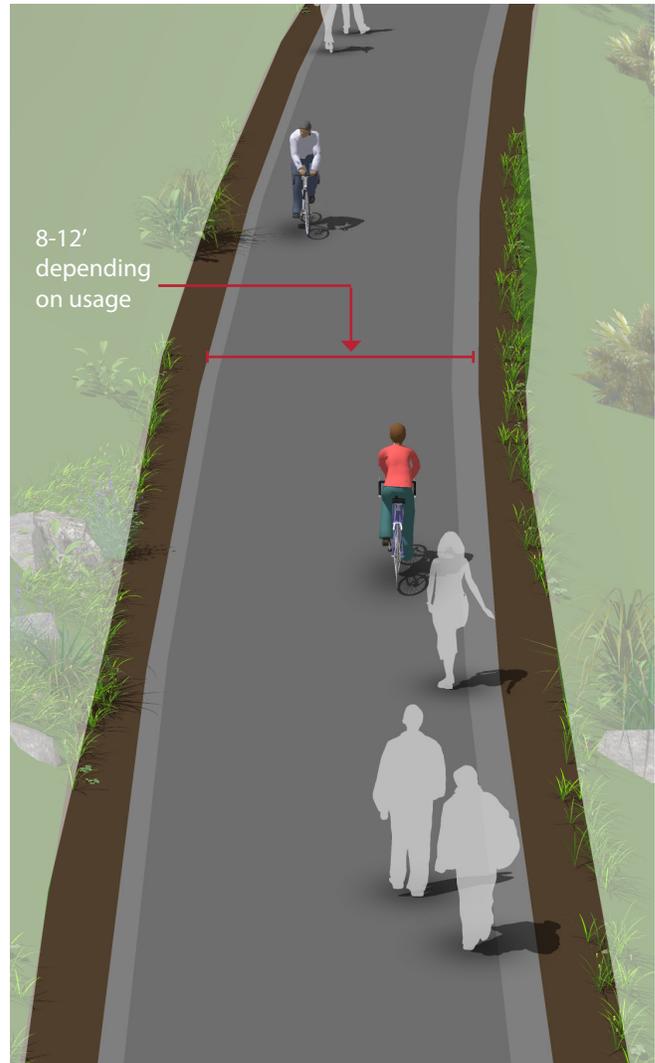
- A 2 foot or greater shoulder on both sides of the path should be provided. An additional foot of lateral clearance (total of 3') is required by the MUTCD for the installation of signage or other furnishings.
- If bollards are used at intersections and access points, they should be colored brightly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

### Overhead Clearance

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

### Striping

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



## Discussion

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

## Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.  
 Flink, C. *Greenways: A Guide To Planning Design And Development*. 1993.  
 Caltrans. *California HDM*. 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.

# Shared Use Paths in Active Rail Corridors

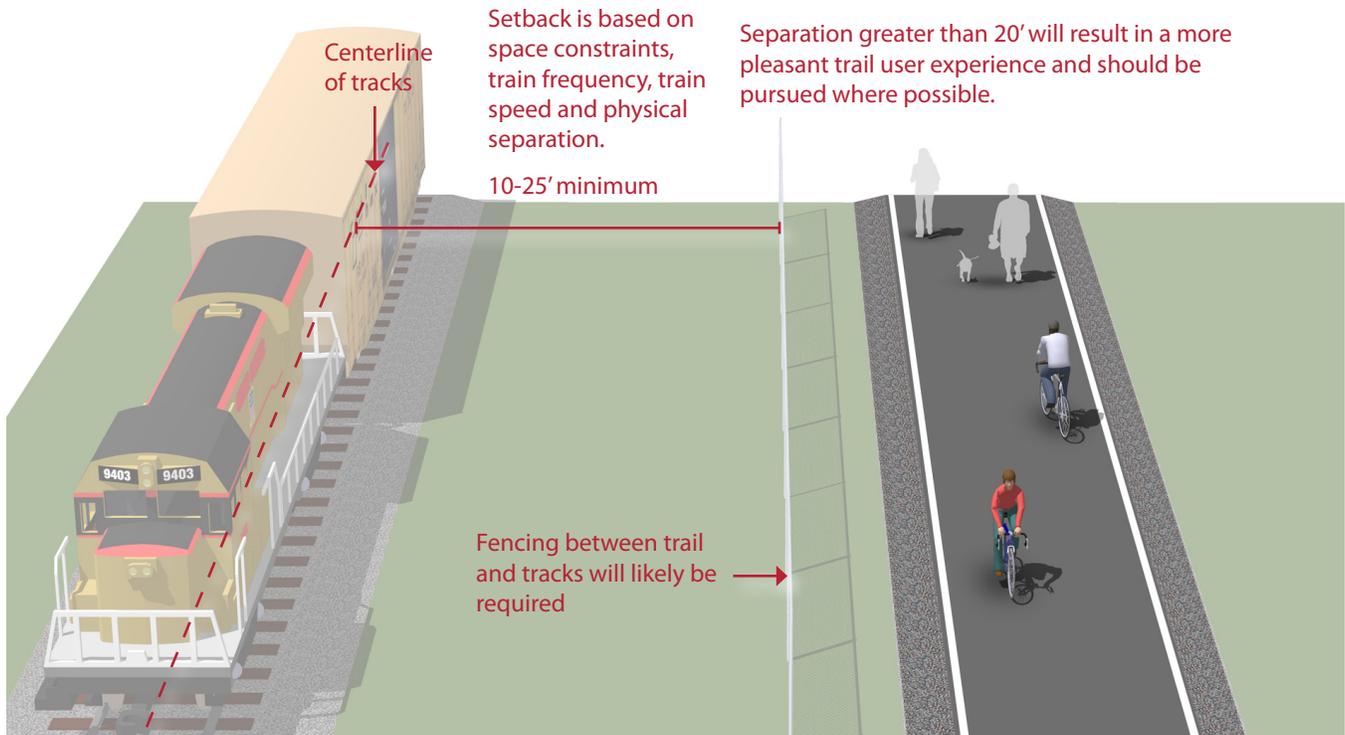
## Description

Rails-with-Trails projects typically consist of paths adjacent to active railroads. It should be noted that some constraints could impact the feasibility of rail-with-trail projects. In some cases, space needs to be preserved for future planned freight, transit or commuter rail service. In other cases, limited right-of-way width, inadequate setbacks, concerns about safety/trespassing, and numerous mid-block crossings may affect a project's feasibility.

## Guidance

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

If required, fencing should be a minimum of 5 feet in height with higher fencing than usual next to sensitive areas such as switching yards. Setbacks from the active rail line will vary depending on the speed and frequency of trains, and available right-of-way.



## Discussion

Railroads may require fencing with rail-with-trail projects. Concerns with trespassing and security can vary with the volume and speed of train traffic on the adjacent rail line and the setting of the shared use path, i.e. whether the section of track is in an urban or rural setting.

## Additional References and Guidelines

- AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012.
- Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.
- FHWA. *Rails-with-Trails: Lessons Learned*. 2002.
- California Public Utilities Commission. General Orders.

## 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.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.  
 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 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.

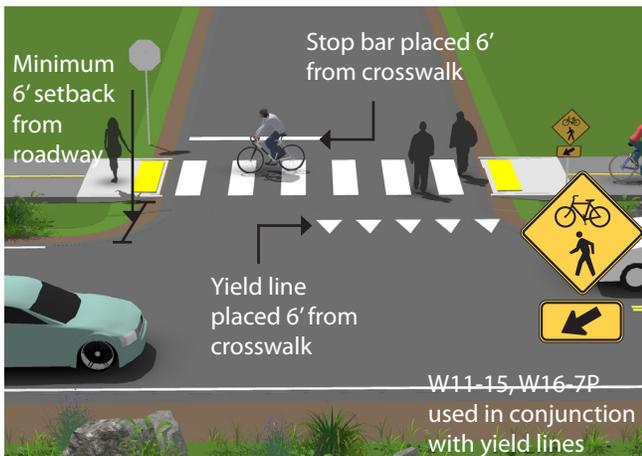
The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities cautions practitioners of the use of two-way sidepaths on urban or suburban streets with many driveways and street crossings.

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

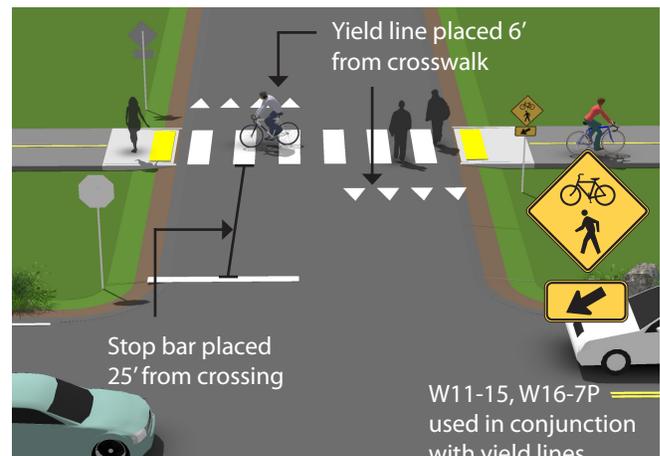
## Guidance

- 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

Sidepaths differ from Cycle Tracks because of lack of separation from pedestrians, lack of bicycle-specific accommodation at intersections, and often lack of consideration at driveways or minor street crossings. When right of way is available, cycle track installations are preferred to sidepaths.

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.

## 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



Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon Crossing



Full Traffic Control Signal Crossing

# Marked/Unsignalized Crossings

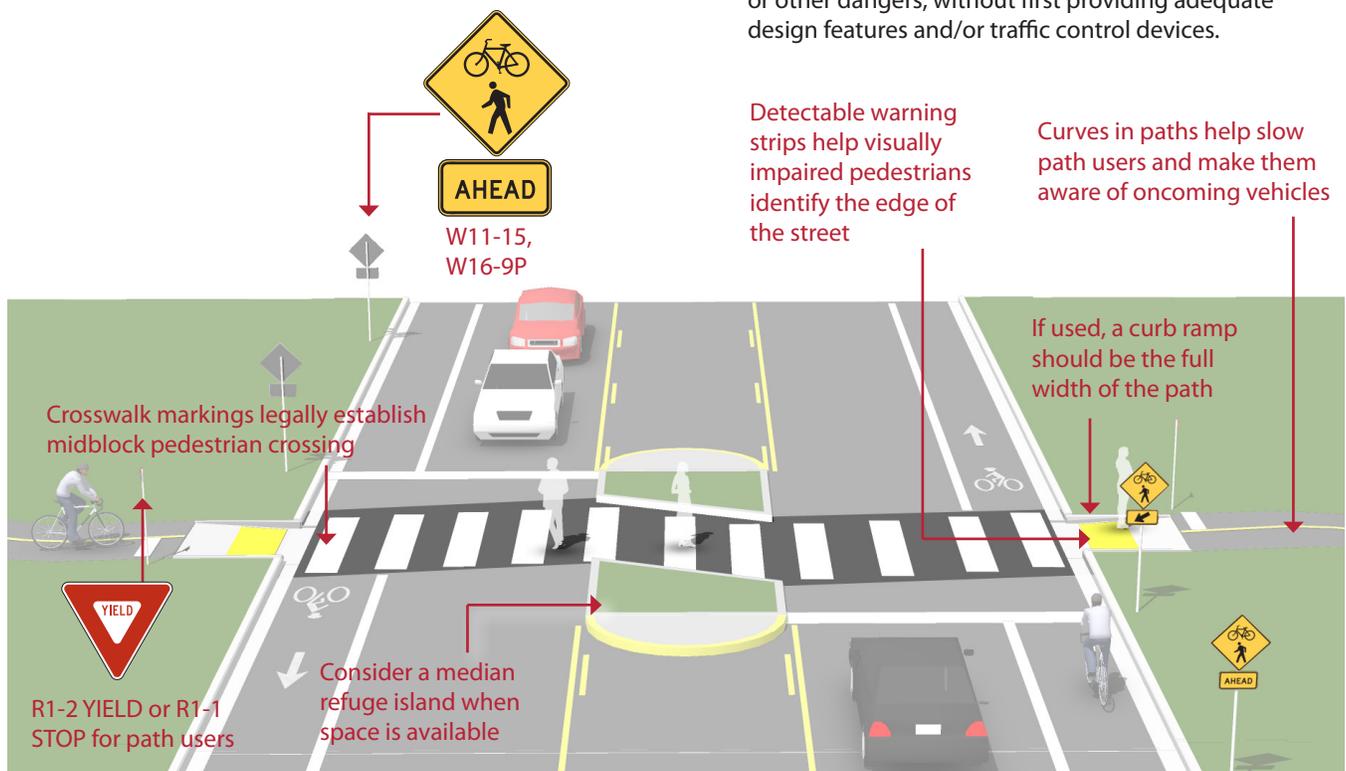
## Description

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

- Refer to the FHWA report, “Safety Effects of Marked vs. Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations” for specific volume and speed ranges where a marked crosswalk alone may be sufficient.
- Where the speed limit exceeds 40 miles per hour, marked crosswalks alone should not be used at unsignalized locations.
- Crosswalks should not be installed at locations that could present an increased risk to pedestrians, such as where there is poor sight distance, complex or confusing designs, a substantial volume of heavy trucks, or other dangers, without first providing adequate design features and/or traffic control devices.



## Discussion

The assignment of right of way at path crossings requires a detailed understanding of user volumes, travel speeds, and approach sight distance. Installing unwarranted controls on path approaches can lead to a loss of respect for traffic control at more critical locations. Good engineering judgment should be used for deciding which treatment to use.

In conventional intersection design, right of way is assigned to the higher volume or higher speed approach. In many cases, path volumes will exceed that of minor crossed streets, and right of way may be assigned to the path traffic. In crossings with appropriate sight distances, “YIELD” control of the path or road can be an effective solution for users as it encourages caution without being overly restrictive. For further discussion see chapter 5 in the *AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*.

## Additional References and Guidelines

AASHTO. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. 2012. Ch 5.  
 Caltrans *CA-MUTCD*. 2012  
 Caltrans. *California HDM*. 2012.

## Materials and Maintenance

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

# Active Warning Beacons

## Description

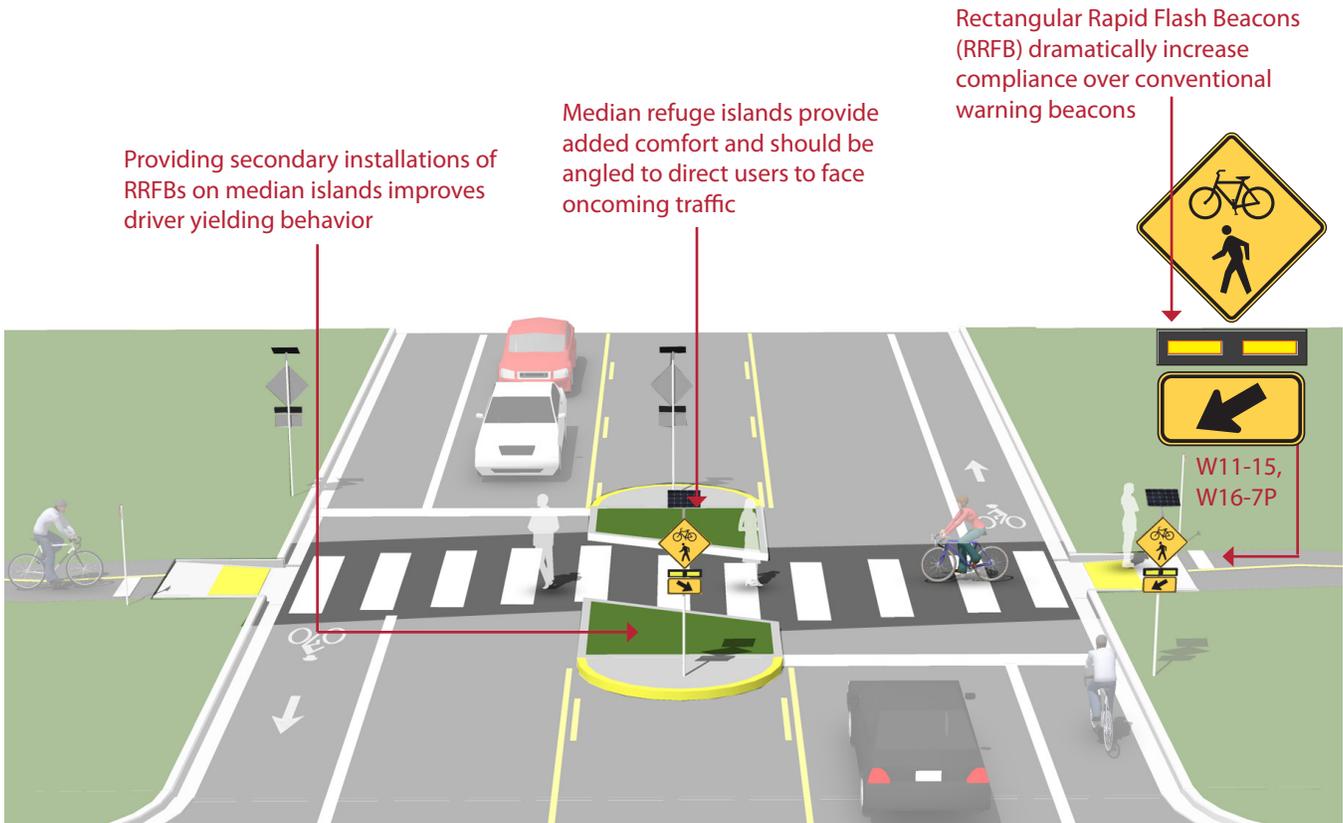
Enhanced marked crossings are unsignalized crossings with additional treatments designed to increase motor vehicle yielding compliance on multi-lane or high volume roadways.

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.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.  
 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. Signage and striping need to be maintained to help users understand any unfamiliar traffic control.

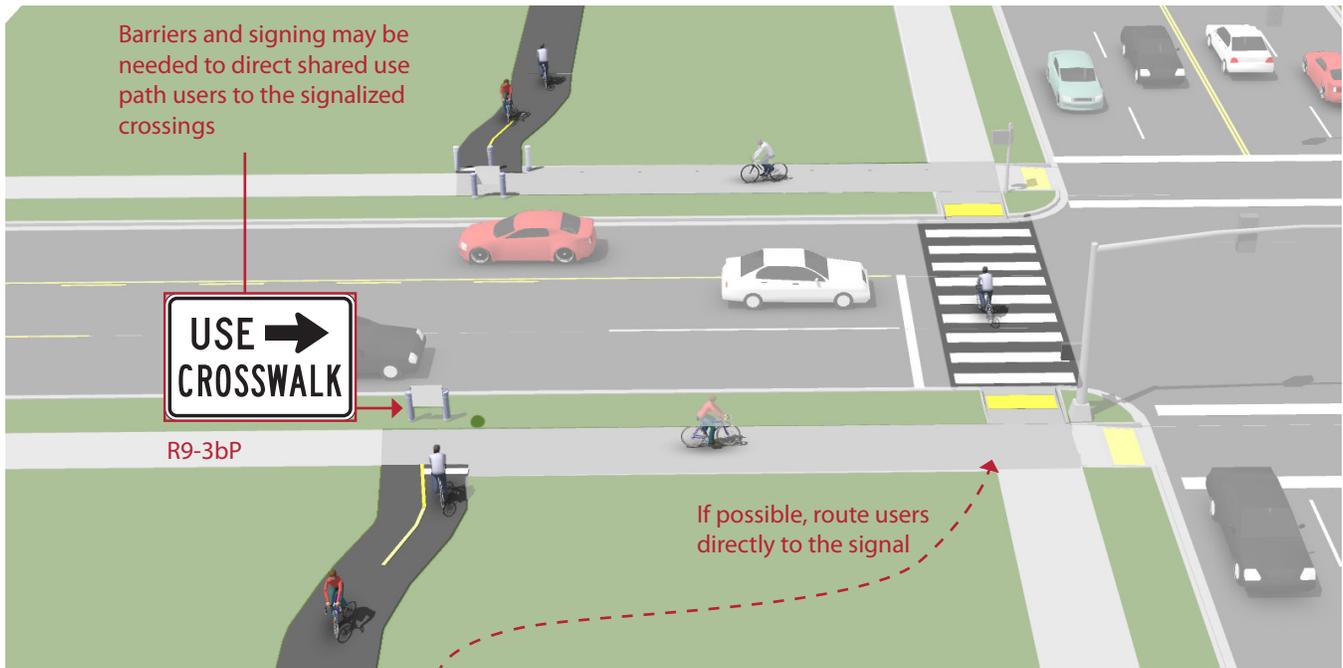
# Route Users to Signalized Crossings

## 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 jaywalking 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.

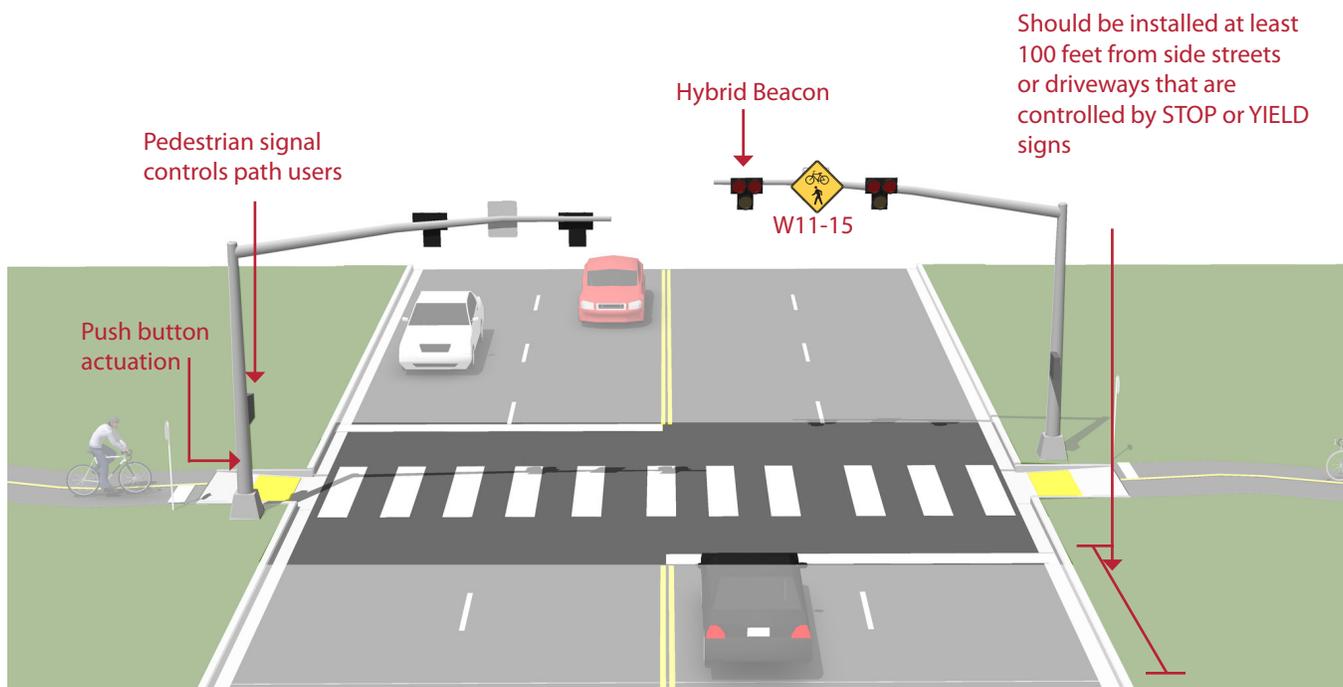
Hybrid beacon installation faces only cross motor vehicle traffic, stays dark when inactive, and uses a unique 'wig-wag' signal phase to indicate activation. Vehicles have the option to proceed after stopping during the final flashing red phase, which can reduce motor vehicle delay when compared to a 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*. 2014.  
 NACTO. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*. 2012.  
 Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 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.

# Full Traffic Signal Crossings

## Description

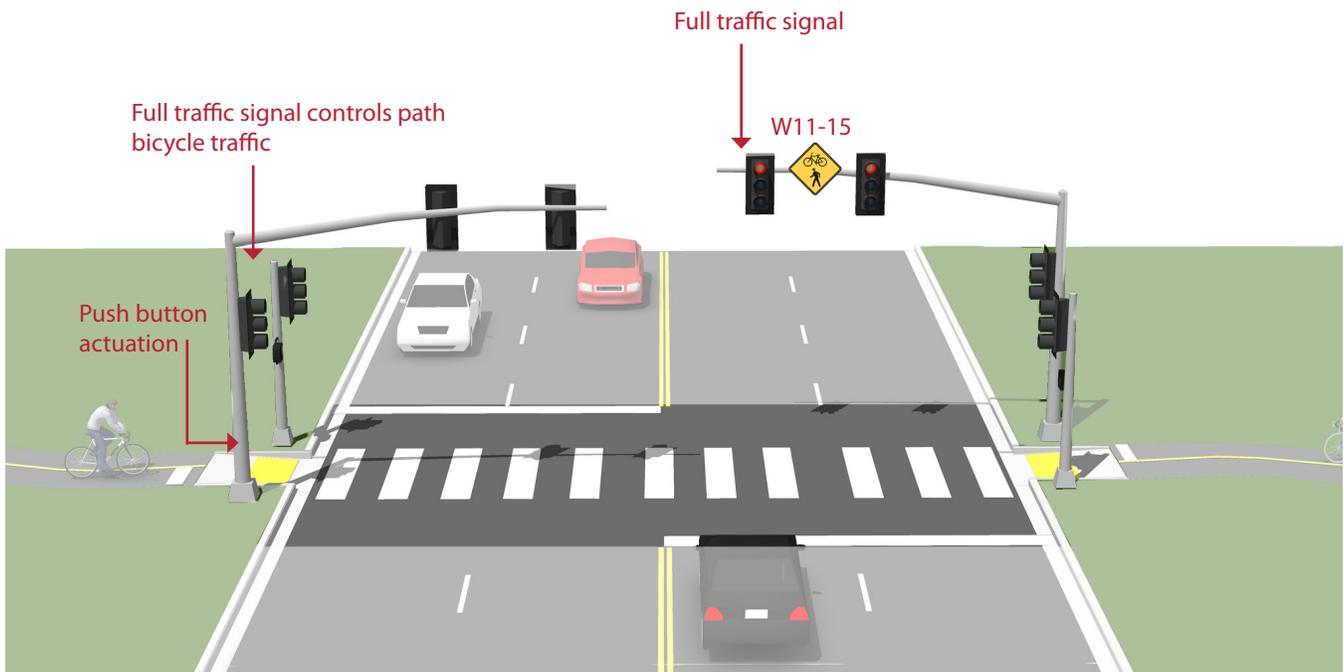
Signalized crossings provide the most protection for crossing path users through the use of a red-signal indication to stop conflicting motor vehicle traffic.

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

Caltrans CA-MUTCD. 2012.  
 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.