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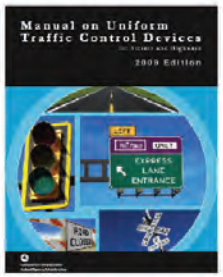
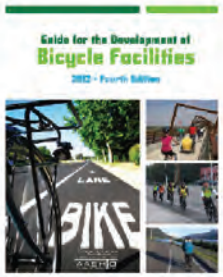
Appendix B: Design Guidelines

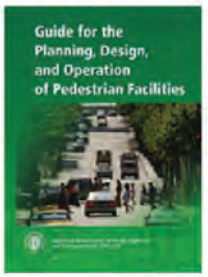
Introduction

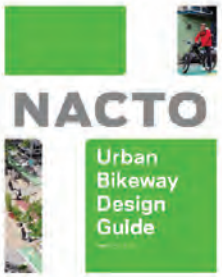
This technical handbook is intended to assist member jurisdictions in the selection and design of facilities for the Silver Comet Trail and its future conenctions. The following appendix pulls together best practices by facility type from public agencies and municipalities nationwide. Within the design chapters, treatments are covered within a single sheet tabular format relaying important design information and discussion, example photos, schematics (if applicable), and existing summary guidance from current or upcoming draft standards. Existing standards are referenced throughout and should be the first source of information when seeking to implement any of the treatments featured here.

These 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.1

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

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

Offering similar guidance for pedestrian design, the 2004 AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities provides comprehensive guidance on planning and designing for people on foot.

The National Association of City Transportation Officials' (NACTO) 2012 Urban Bikeway Design Guide3 is the newest publication of nationally recognized bikeway 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.

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

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

Guidelines4 (PROWAG) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design5 (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.

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.

State Standards

DAVID or BYRON's INPUT HERE/GDOT Referenced-material

Additional References

- In addition to the previously described national standards, the basic bicycle and pedestrian design principals outlined in this chapter are derived from the documents listed below. Many of these documents are available online and provide a wealth of public information and resources.

4 http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/
5 http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm

Additional US Federal Guidelines

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. (2001). AASHTO Policy on Geometric Design of Streets and Highways. Washington, DC. www.transportation.org
- United States Access Board. (2007). Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). Washington, D.C. http://www.access-board.gov/PROWAC/alterations/guide.htm
- United States Department of Justice. (2010). 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm

Best Practice Documents

- Alta Planning + Design and the Initiative for Bicycle & Pedestrian Innovation (IBPI). (2009). Fundamentals of Bicycle Boulevard Planning & Design. http://www.ibpi.usp.pdx.edu/media/BicycleBoulevardGuidebook.pdf
- Alta Planning + Design. (2009). Cycle Tracks: Lessons Learned. http://www.altaplanning.com/App_Content/files/pres_stud_docs/Cycle%20Track%20lessons%20learned.pdf
- Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP). (2010). Bicycle Parking Design Guidelines, 2nd Edition.

- City of Portland Bureau of Transportation. (2010). Portland Bicycle Master Plan for 2030. http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?c=44597
- Federal Highway Administration. (2005). BIKESAFE: Bicycle Countermeasure Selection System. http://www.bicyclinginfo.org/bikesafe/index.cfm
- Federal Highway Administration. (2005). PEDSAFE: Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System. http://www.walkinginfo.org/pedsafe/
- Federal Highway Administration. (2005). Report HRT-04-100, Safety Effects of Marked Versus Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/04100/
- Federal Highway Administration. (2001). Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sidewalk2/contents.htm
- King, Michael, for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. (2002). Bicycle Facility Selection: A Comparison of Approaches. Highway Safety Research Center, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. http://www.hsrc.unc.edu/pdf/2002/BicycleFacilitySelectionMKingetal2002.pdf
- Oregon Department of Transportation. (2012). Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Guide. http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BIKEPED/planproc.shtml
- Rosales, Jennifer. (2006). Road Diet Handbook: Setting Trends for Livable Streets.

Multi-Use Paths

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


General Design Practices


Trails in River and Utility Corridors


Trails in Abandoned Rail Corridors


Shared Use Paths along Roadways


Natural Surface Trails

Multi-Use Paths

General Design Practices

Description

Multi-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 path and is only recommended for low traffic situations or under certain design constraints.
- 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.
- Where there is not enough shoulder to meet off-sets at the top of a slope, consider the use of dense shrubbery (see image at right).

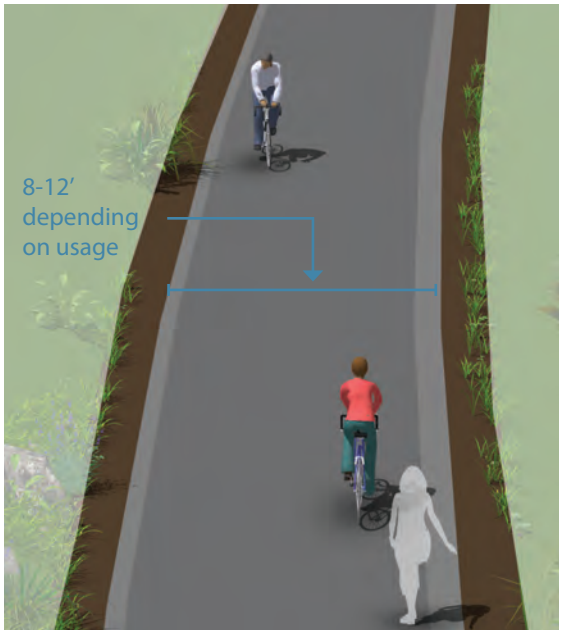
Overhead Clearance

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

Striping

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

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



Multi-Use Paths

Paths in River and Utility Corridors

Guidance

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

Access Points

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

Path Closure

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

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

Duke Energy/Progress Energy Transmission ROWs

DAVID/BYRON, ARE THERE DUKE ENERGY GUIDELINES FOR STATE OF GA?

Description

Utility and waterway corridors often offer excellent 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.

Multi-Use Paths

Paths in Abandoned Rail Corridors

Guidance

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

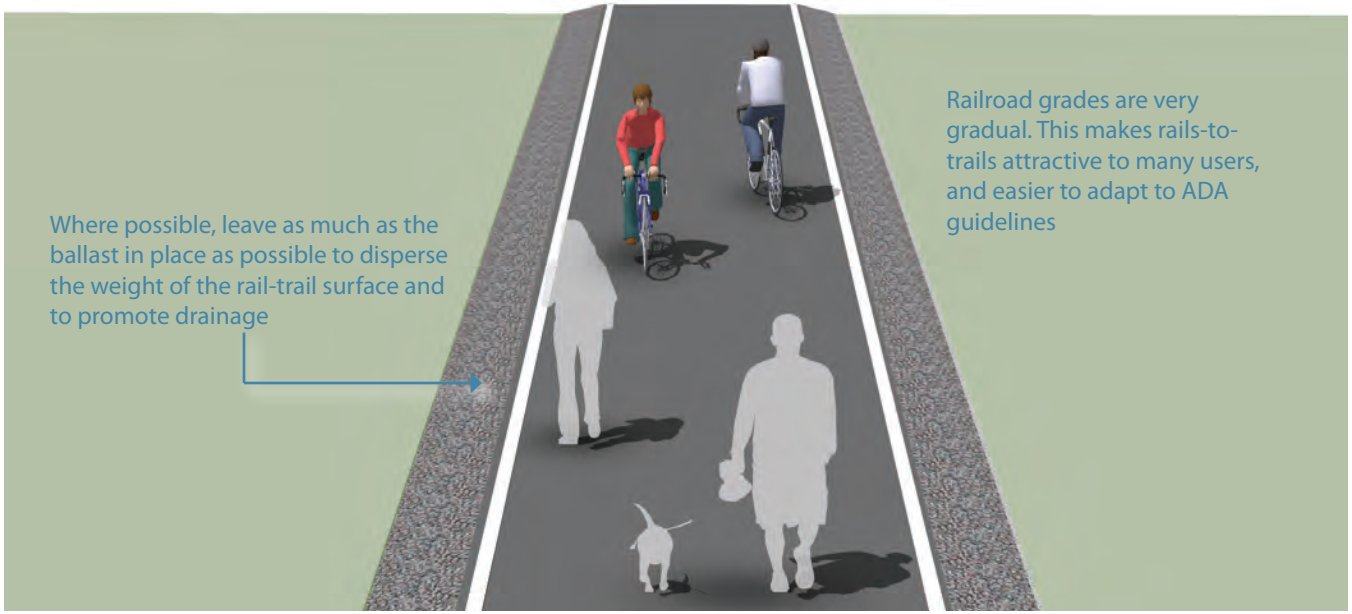
In full conversions of abandoned rail corridors, the sub-base, superstructure, drainage, bridges, and crossings are already established. Design becomes a matter of working with the existing infrastructure to meet the needs of a rail-trail.

Description

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

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

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



Multi-Use Paths

Shared Use Paths Along Roadways

Description

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.

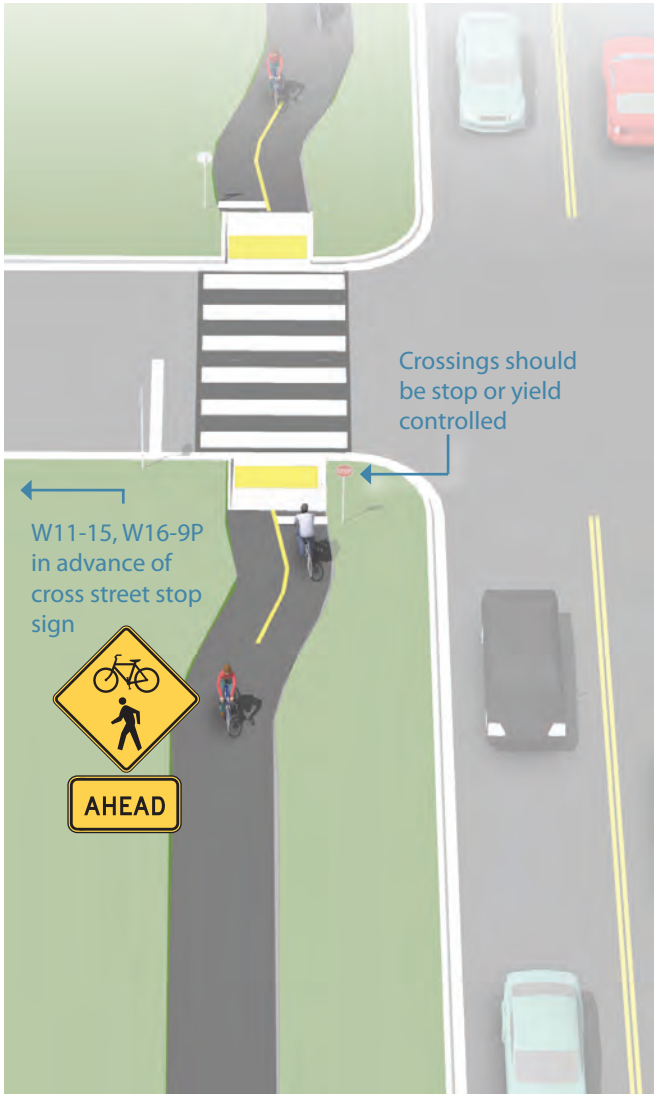
Along roadways, these facilities create a situation where a portion of the bicycle traffic rides against the normal flow of motor vehicle traffic and can result in wrong-way riding where bicyclists enter or leave the path.

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

Guidance

- 8 feet is the minimum allowed for a two-way bicycle path and is only recommended for low traffic situations or under certain design constraints.
- 10 feet is recommended in most situations and will be adequate for moderate to heavy use.
- 12 feet is recommended for heavy use situations with high concentrations of multiple users such as joggers, bicyclists, rollerbladers and pedestrians. A separate track (5' minimum) can be provided for pedestrian use.
- Bicycle lanes should be provided as an alternate (more transportation-oriented) facility whenever possible.

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



Multi-Use Paths

Natural Surface Trails

Guidance

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

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

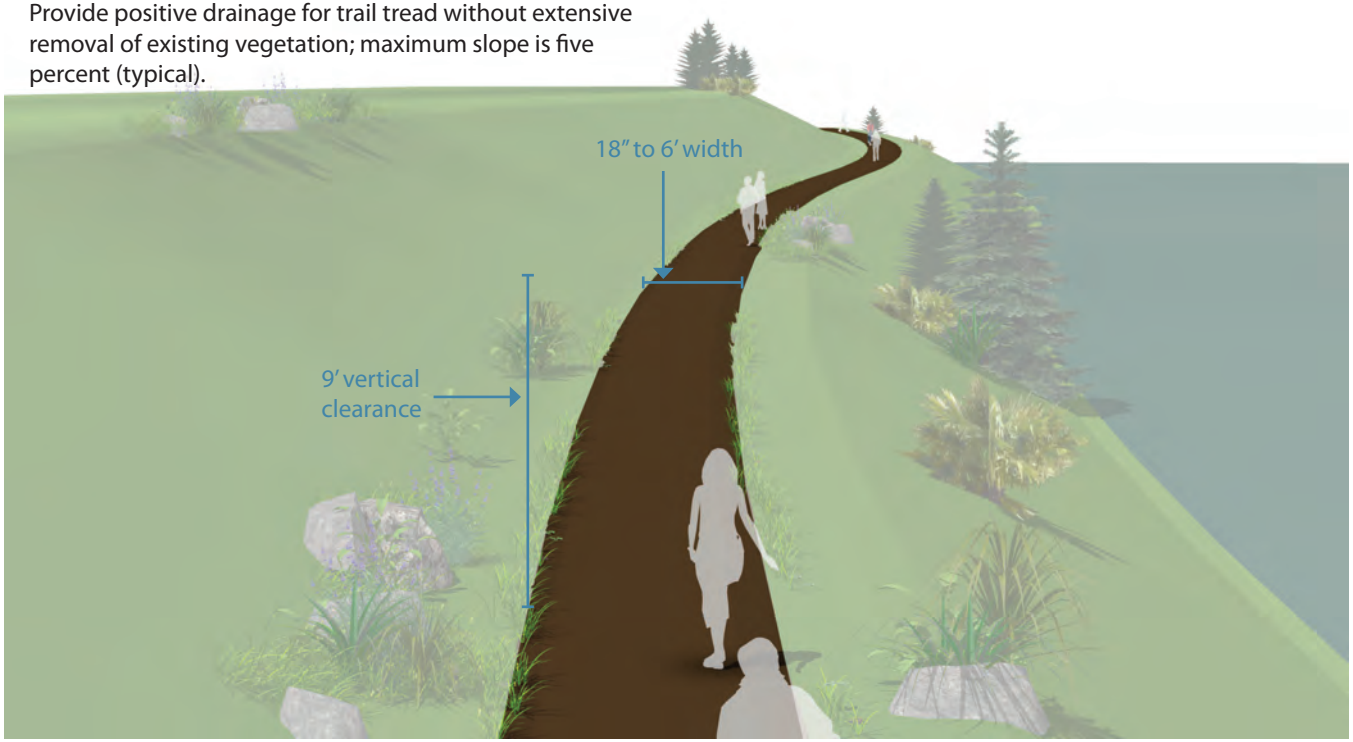
Trail surface can be made of dirt, rock, soil, forest litter, or other native materials. Some trails use crushed stone (a.k.a. "crush and run") that contains about 4% fines by weight, and compacts with use.

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

Description

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

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



Multi-Use Paths

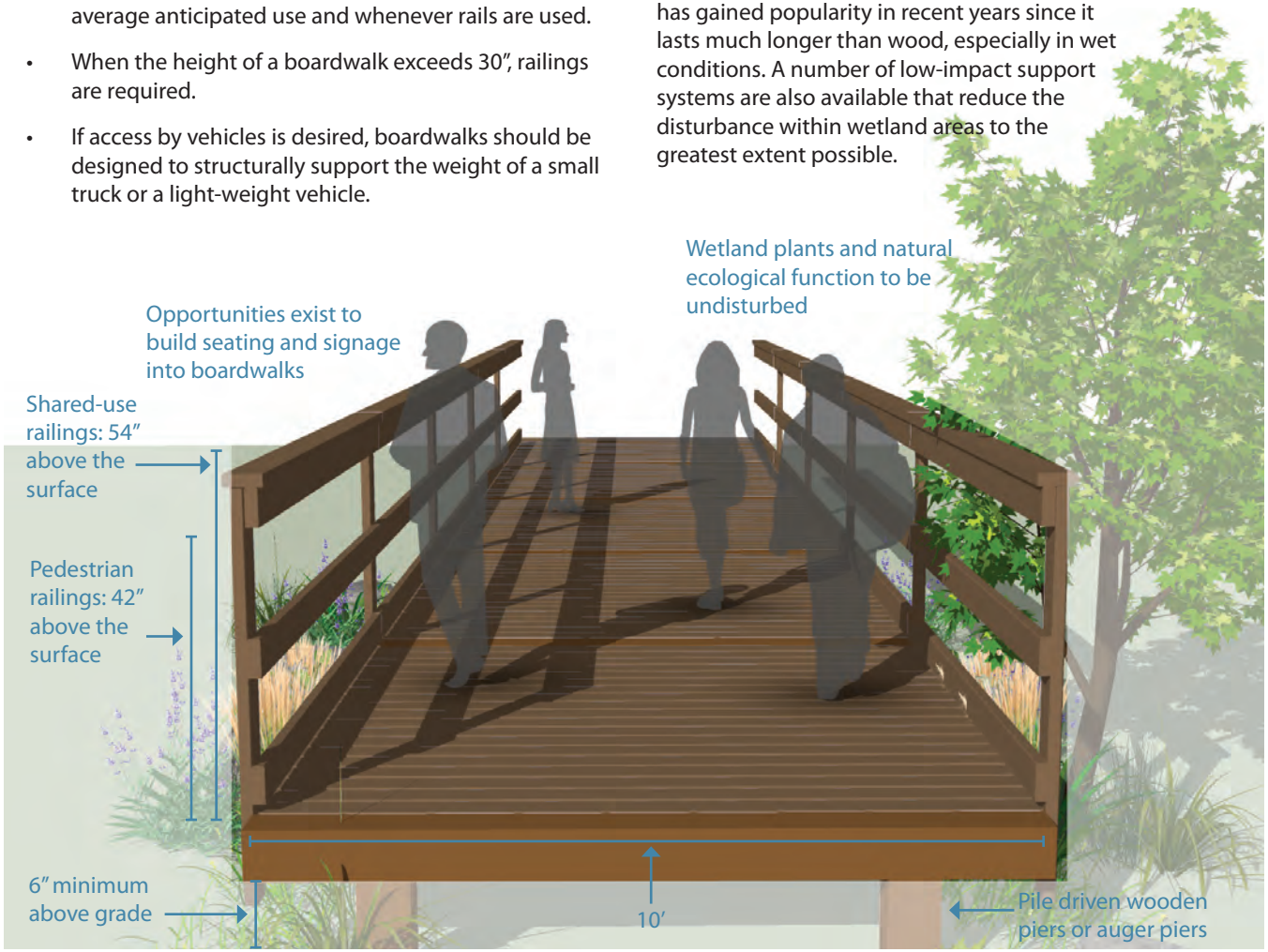
Boardwalks

Guidance

- Boardwalk width should be a minimum of 10 feet when no rail is used. A 12 foot width is preferred in areas with average anticipated use and whenever rails are used.
- When the height of a boardwalk exceeds 30", railings are required.
- If access by vehicles is desired, boardwalks should be designed to structurally support the weight of a small truck or a light-weight vehicle.

Description

Boardwalks are typically required when crossing wetlands or other poorly drained areas. They are usually constructed of wooden planks or recycled material planks that form the top layer of the boardwalk. The recycled material has gained popularity in recent years since it lasts much longer than wood, especially in wet conditions. A number of low-impact support systems are also available that reduce the disturbance within wetland areas to the greatest extent possible.



Multi-Use Paths

Trail Bridges

Guidance

- The clear width of thr bridge should allow for 2 ft of clearance on each end of the pathway.
- Bridge deck height should match that of the path surface to provide a smooth transition.
- Bicycle and shared-use paths should include a 54" guard rail where hazardous conditions exist.
- A minimum vertical clearance of 10 ft is desirable for motor vehicle access. Minimum height is 42 inches.
- Maximum opening between railing posts is 6 inches.
- A trail bridge should support 6.25 tons if motor vehicle access is permitted. (AASHTO 2002)

Description

Multi-Use Trail bridges (also 'bicycle/pedestrian bridges' or 'footbridges') are most often used to provide trail access over natural features such as streams and rivers, where a culvert is not an option. The type and size of bridges can vary widely depending on the trail type and specific site requirements. Some bridges often used for multi-use trails include suspension bridges, prefabricated span bridges and simple log bridges. When determining a bridge design for multi-use trails, it is important to consider emergency and maintenance vehicle access.

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


Route Users to Existing Signals


Signalized/Controlled Crossings


Overcrossings


Bollard Alternatives

Path/Roadway Crossings

Marked/Unsignalized Crossings

Guidance

Maximum traffic volumes

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

Maximum travel speed

- 35 MPH

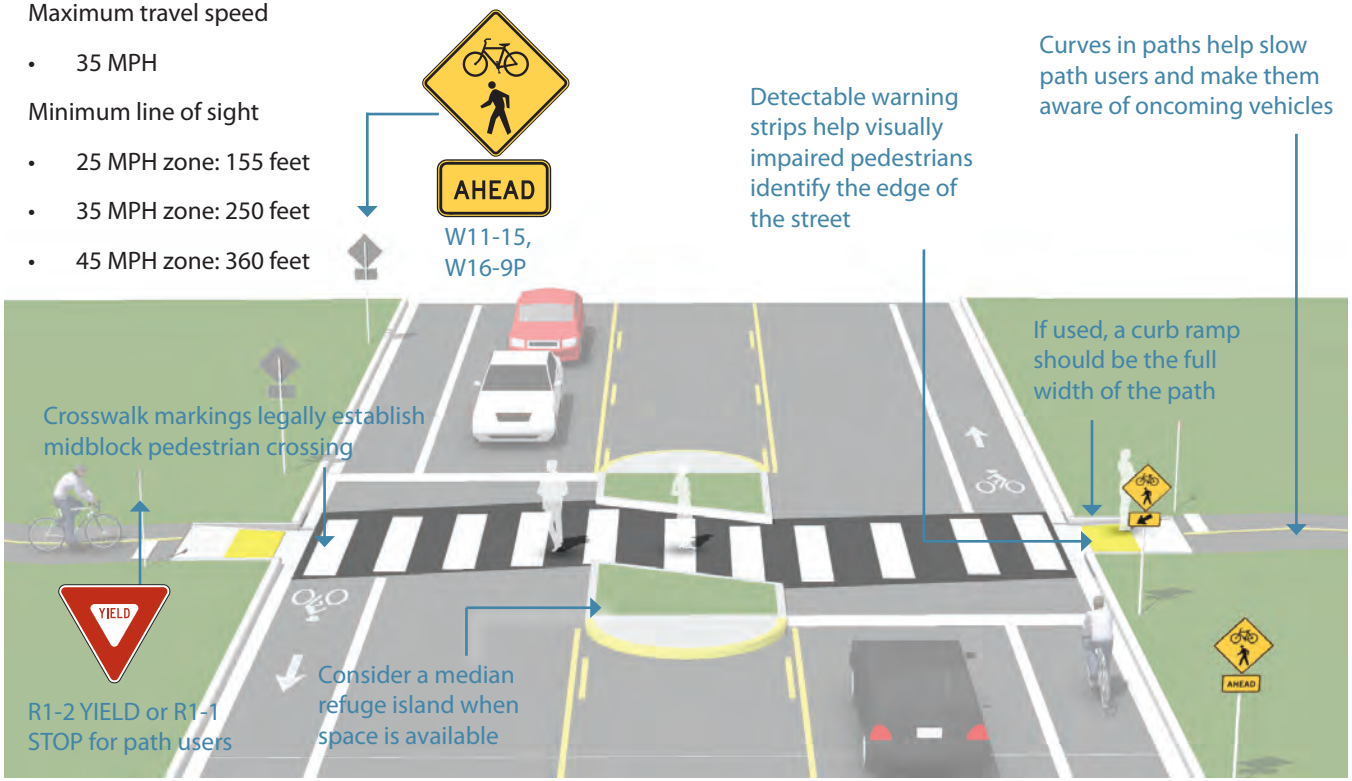
Minimum line of sight

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

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.



Path/Roadway Crossings

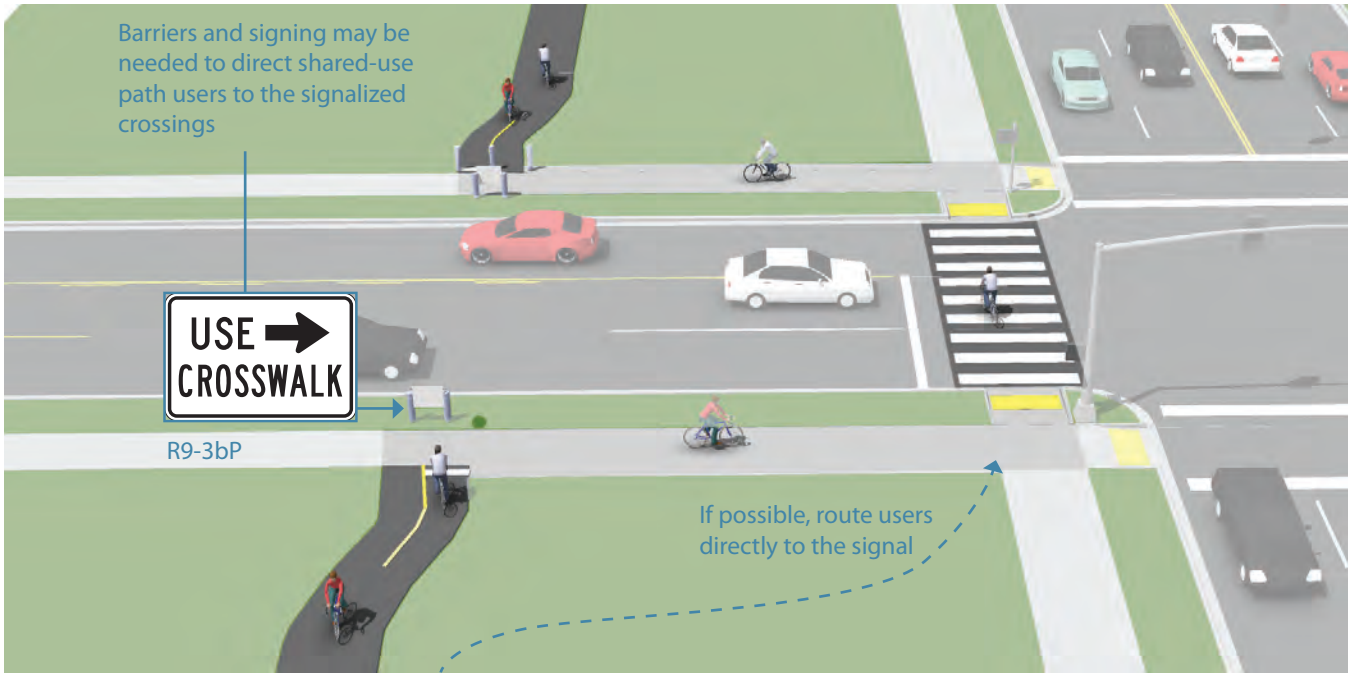
Route Users to Signalized Crossings

Guidance

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

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.



Signalized/Controlled Crossings

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.

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

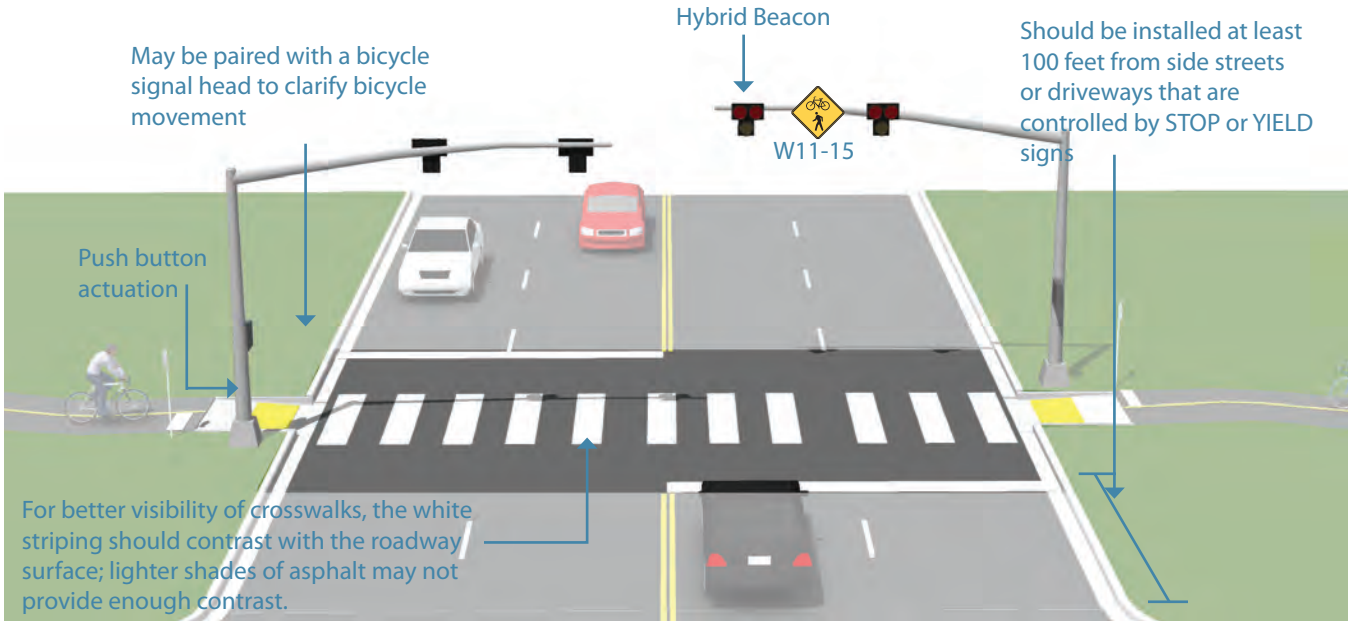
- Located more than 300 feet from an existing signalized intersection
- Roadway travel speeds of 40 MPH and above
- Roadway ADT exceeds 15,000 vehicles

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. The two types of path signalization are full traffic signal control and hybrid signals.

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.

Hybrid beacon installation (shown below) 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.



Path/Roadway Crossings

Bollard Alternatives

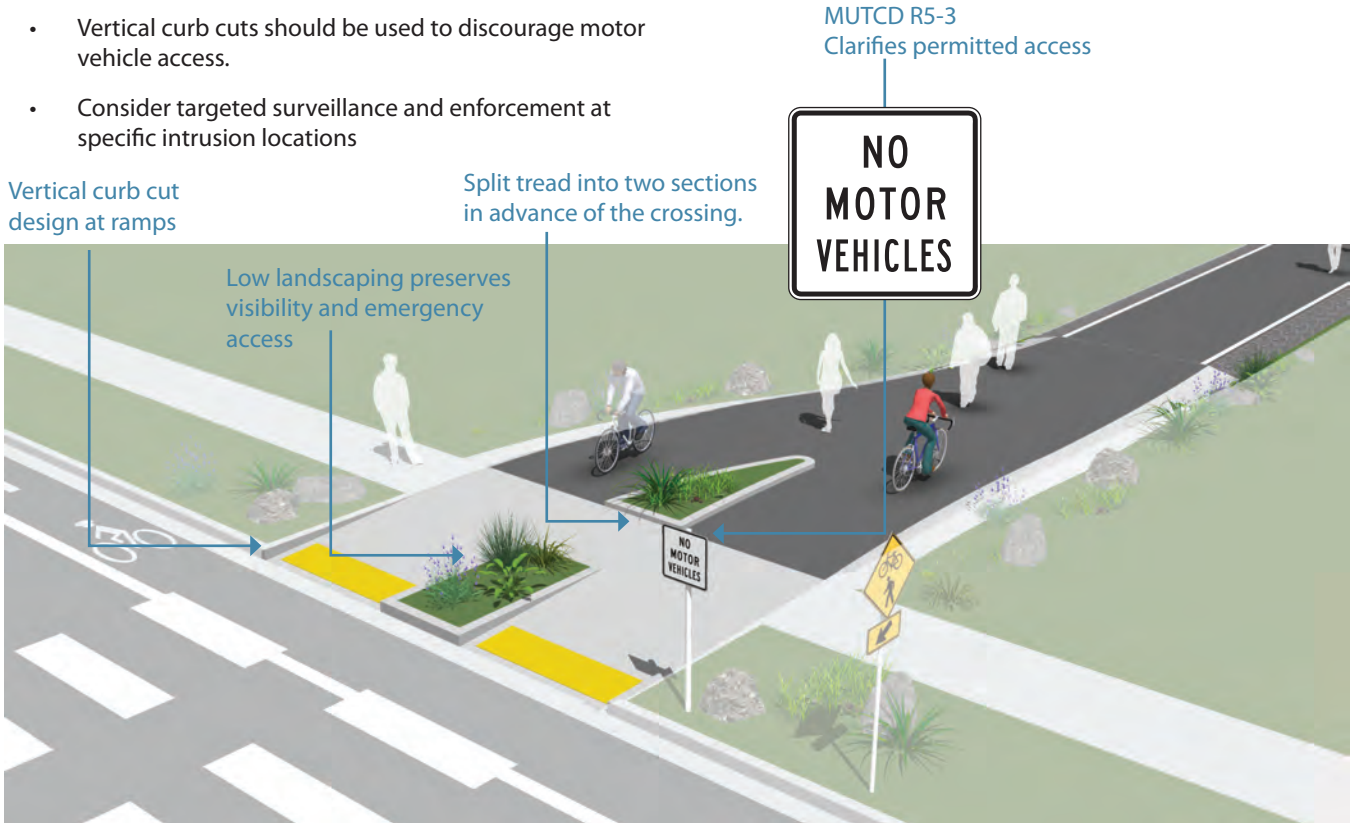
Guidance

- Bollards or other barriers should not continue to be used unless there is a documented history of unauthorirzed intrusion by motor vehicles.
- "No Motor Vehicles" signage (MUTCD R5-3) may be used to reinforce access rules.
- At intersections, split the path tread into two sections separated by low landscaping.
- Vertical curb cuts should be used to discourage motor vehicle access.
- Consider targeted surveillance and enforcement at specific intrusion locations

Description

Bollards are physical barriers designed to restrict motor vehicle access to the multi-use path. Unfortunately, physical barriers are often ineffective at preventing access, and create obstacles to legitimate trail users.

Alternative design strategies use signage, landscaping and curb cut design to reduce the likelihood of motor vehicle access.



Path/Roadway Crossings

Overcrossings

Guidance

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

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

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

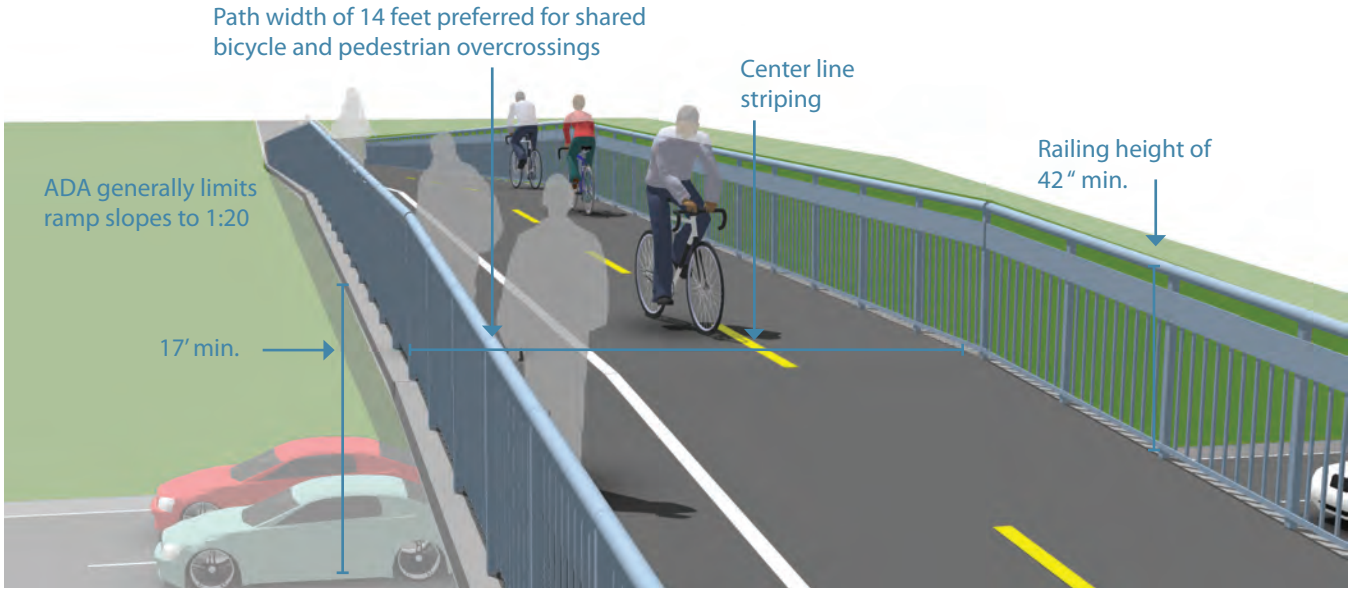
The overcrossing should have a centerline stripe even if the rest of the path does not have one.

Description

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

Grade-separated crossings may be needed where existing bicycle/pedestrian crossings do not exist, where ADT exceeds 25,000 vehicles, and where 85th percentile speeds exceed 45 miles per hour.

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



Path/Roadway Crossings

Undercrossings

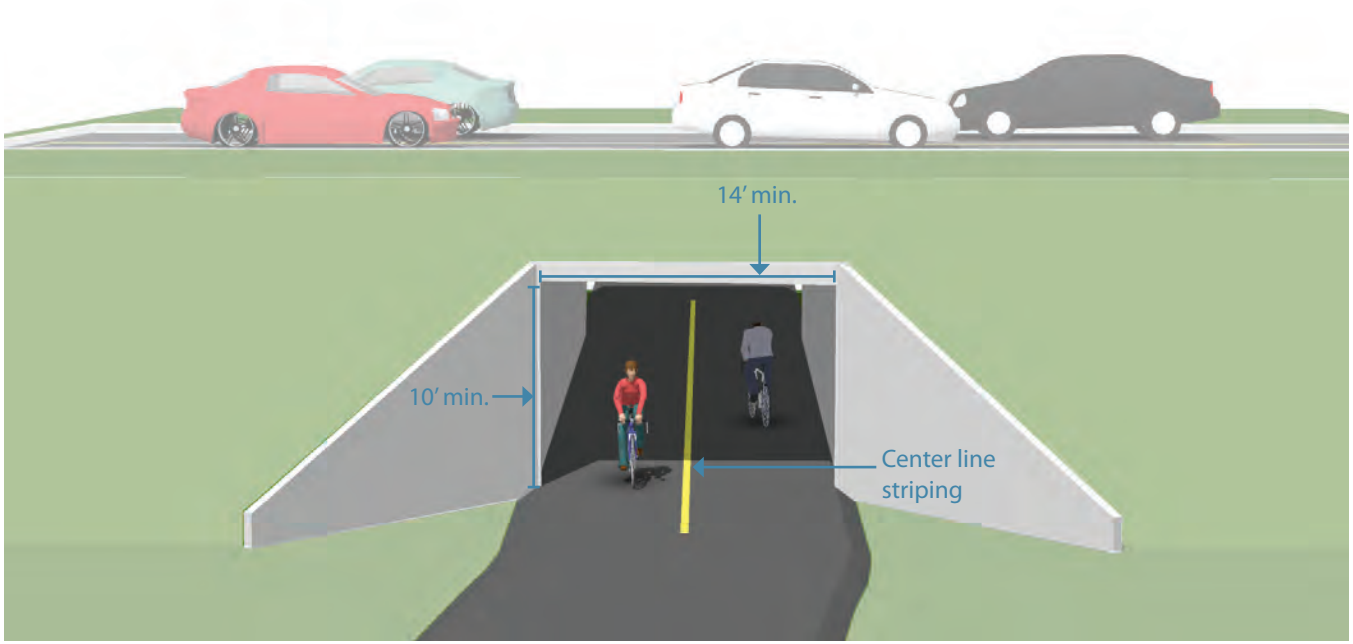
Guidance

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

Description

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

Grade-separated crossings are advisable where existing bicycle/pedestrian crossings do not exist, where ADT exceeds 25,000 vehicles and where 85th percentile speeds exceed 45 miles per hour.



Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding Sign Types

Description

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

Confirmation Signs

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

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

Turn Signs

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

Include destinations and arrows.

Decisions Signs

Mark the junction of two or more bikeways.

Inform bicyclists of the designated bike route to access key destinations.

Destinations and arrows, distances and travel times are optional but recommended.

Alternative Designs

A customized alternative design may be used to include pedestrian-oriented travel times and local logos (design at right is an example only).

Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding Sign Placement

Guidance

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

Decisions Signs

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

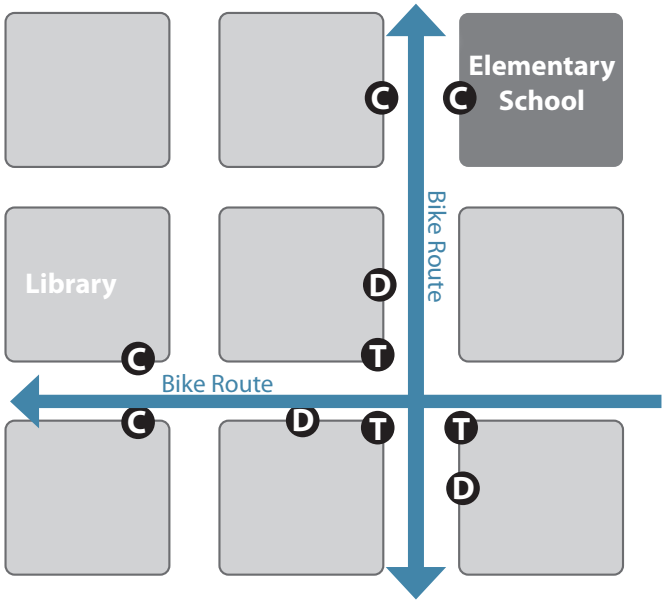
Along a route to indicate a nearby destination.

Confirmation Signs

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

Turn Signs

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




THIS TRAIL HAS BEEN INDUCTED INTO
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