



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Bicycle Technical Committee

DATE OF ACTION: 25 September 2006

TOPIC: Proposed Revisions to Section 9B.01 & Figure 9B-1

ORIGIN OF REQUEST: NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee

DISCUSSION:

The current standards and guidelines for mounting height and lateral offset for signs on shared-use paths were established in the 1988 MUTCD, and continued unchanged into the 2000 and 2003 MUTCD.

The NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee has received feedback from practitioners that the current MUTCD standards for sign height and offset can greatly restrict the ability of agencies to effectively install signs on many shared-use path locations. The maximum offsets listed in the current MUTCD seem arbitrary, and do not seem to conform with Part 2 standards & guidelines or with reasonable practice for signing on pathways. The current standards also do not provide guidance on what options are available when minimum height or offset standards cannot easily be satisfied.

The NCUTCD BTC proposes the following:

1. Delete the maximum offsets for shared-use path signs from Section 9B.01 and Figure 9B-1.
2. Revise the minimum offsets for shared-use paths to better conform with Part 2 and reasonable signing practice.
3. Clarify the application of the offsets for shared-use path signing.
4. Add minimum vertical offset information for overhead mounted signs to Figure 9B-1.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Bicycle Technical Committee recommends that the National Committee submit this proposal as developed by the NCUTCD BTC to sponsors for comment and approval.

Approved unanimously by NCUTCD Council 19 January 2007.

Note: Deleted items are shown in ~~strikethrough-red~~, and added text is shown in underline green.

1. Revise Section 9B.01 as follows:

Section 9B.01 Application and Placement of Signs

Standard:

Bicycle signs shall be standard in shape, legend, and color.

All signs shall be retroreflectorized for use on bikeways, including shared-use paths and bicycle lane facilities.

Where signs serve both bicyclists and other road users, vertical mounting height and lateral placement shall be as specified in Part 2.

~~On shared-use paths, lateral sign clearance shall be a minimum of 0.9 m (3 ft) and a maximum of 1.8 m (6 ft) from the near edge of the sign to the near edge of the path (see Figure 9B-1).~~

Where used on a shared-use path, no portion of a sign or its support shall be placed less than 0.6 m (2 ft) laterally from the nearest edge of the path, or less than 2.4 m (8 ft) vertically over the entire width of the shared-use path (see Figure 9B-1).

Mounting height for ground-mounted signs on shared-use paths shall be a minimum of 1.2 m (4 ft) ~~and a maximum of 1.5 m (5 ft)~~, measured from the bottom edge of the sign to the near edge of the path surface (see Figure 9B-1).

~~When overhead signs are used on shared-use paths, the clearance from the bottom edge of the sign to the path surface directly under the sign shall be a minimum of 2.4 m (8 ft).~~

Guidance:

Signs for the exclusive use of bicyclists should be located so that other road users are not confused by them.

The clearance for overhead signs on shared-use paths should be adjusted when appropriate to accommodate path users requiring a greater clearance such as equestrians, or typical maintenance or emergency vehicles.

2. Replace existing Figure 9B-1 with the following:

Figure 9B-1. Sign Placement on Shared-Use Paths

