



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Bicycle Technical Committee
DATE OF ACTION: June 23rd, 2005
TOPIC: Revision of W5-4a Sign
Part 9 of the MUTCD
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee

SUMMARY:

The Bicycle Technical Committee proposes that the legend of the W5-4a sign be changed from BIKEWAY NARROWS to PATH NARROWS.

DISCUSSION:

The W5-4a sign is the only sign in the MUTCD that uses the word "bikeway". "Bikeway" is broadly defined in Part 9 as a "generic term for any road, street, path, or way that in some manner is specifically designated for bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles or are shared with other transportation modes."

In practice, shared use paths are the only bikeway type on which the W5-4a is used. Use on other types of bikeways would be inappropriate or confusing. For example, where a bicycle lane narrows and minimum width cannot be maintained, jurisdictions generally end the lane or discontinue designation. Also, where a shared roadway that carries a bicycle route narrows, a W5-1 ROAD NARROWS sign would be used, since the narrowing affects all road users. Therefore, the legend PATH NARROWS would be more appropriate for the actual use of the W5-4a.

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 January 20th, 2006.

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

1. Revise Table 9B-1 as follows:

Change “BIKEWAY NARROWS” to “PATH NARROWS”.

2. Revise Section 9B.18 as follows:

Section 9B.18 Other Bicycle Warning Signs

Option:

Other bicycle warning signs (See figure 9B-3) such as ~~BIKEWAY NARROWS~~ PATH NARROWS (W5-4a) and Hill (W7-5) may be installed on ~~bicycle facilities~~ shared-use paths to warn bicyclists of conditions not readily apparent.

3. Revise Figure 9B-3 as follows:

Insert the following sign design to replace the existing W5-4a.



W5-4a
(3" C text)