



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Bicycle Technical Committee

DATE OF ACTION: June 25th, 2004

TOPIC: Proposed M1-8a Bicycle Route Sign,
Sign Size Options for M1-8, M1-8a, M1-9 -
Part 9 of the MUTCD

ORIGIN OF REQUEST: NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee

DISCUSSION:

The 12" x 18" M1-8 Bicycle Route sign has been in the MUTCD since 1978, and has been used successfully by many agencies to establish route guidance for bicyclists in much the same way that other M1 series numbered route signs are used to guide other road users.

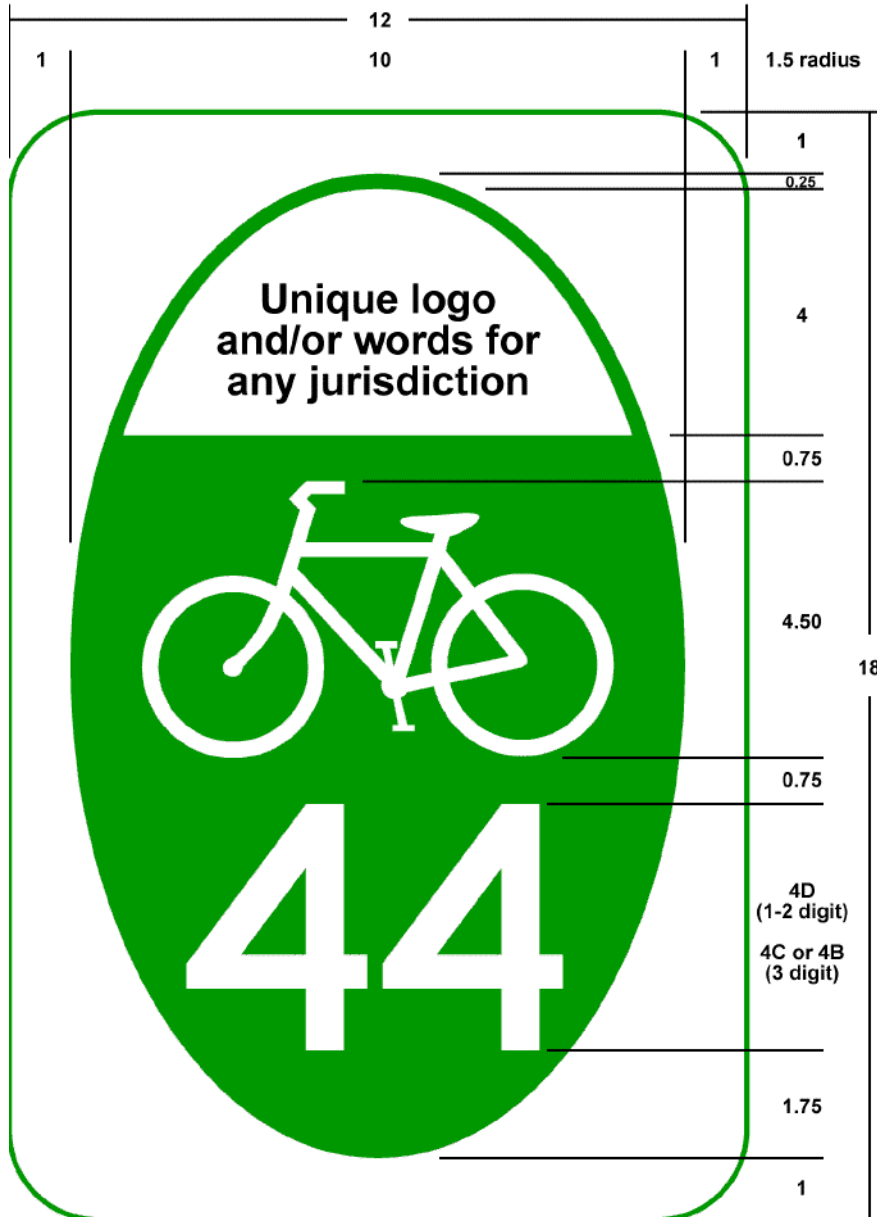
There has been a significant amount of interest in allowing agencies to develop unique or distinctive route number signs for bicycle routes, in much the same way that states use distinctive M1-5 signs for state highways. However, this could lead to route sign designs that are unclear and non-uniform. The proposed M1-8a sign retains the clear, simple, and uniform design of the M1-8, but adds a region near the top of the panel for an agency to place a unique logo, symbol, or words to identify the jurisdiction having authority over the route. The M1-8 sign will continue to remain in the MUTCD for use when agencies do not wish to use a distinctive logo, symbol, or wording.

Currently, only one 12" x 18" size is defined in the MUTCD for the M1-8 sign, and only one 18" x 24" size is defined for the M1-9 US Bicycle Route sign. The 12" x 18" sign size can be quite appropriate for shared-use paths and low-volume rural roadways. Conversely, an 18" x 24" sign size is easier for bicyclists to detect in locations such as busy urban streets. To cover both situations, the NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee recommends that the M1-8, M1-8a, and M1-9 signs all be listed in the MUTCD in a standard 18" x 24" size for streets and highways, with an option to use a smaller 12" x 18" size for use on pathways and low-volume rural roadways.

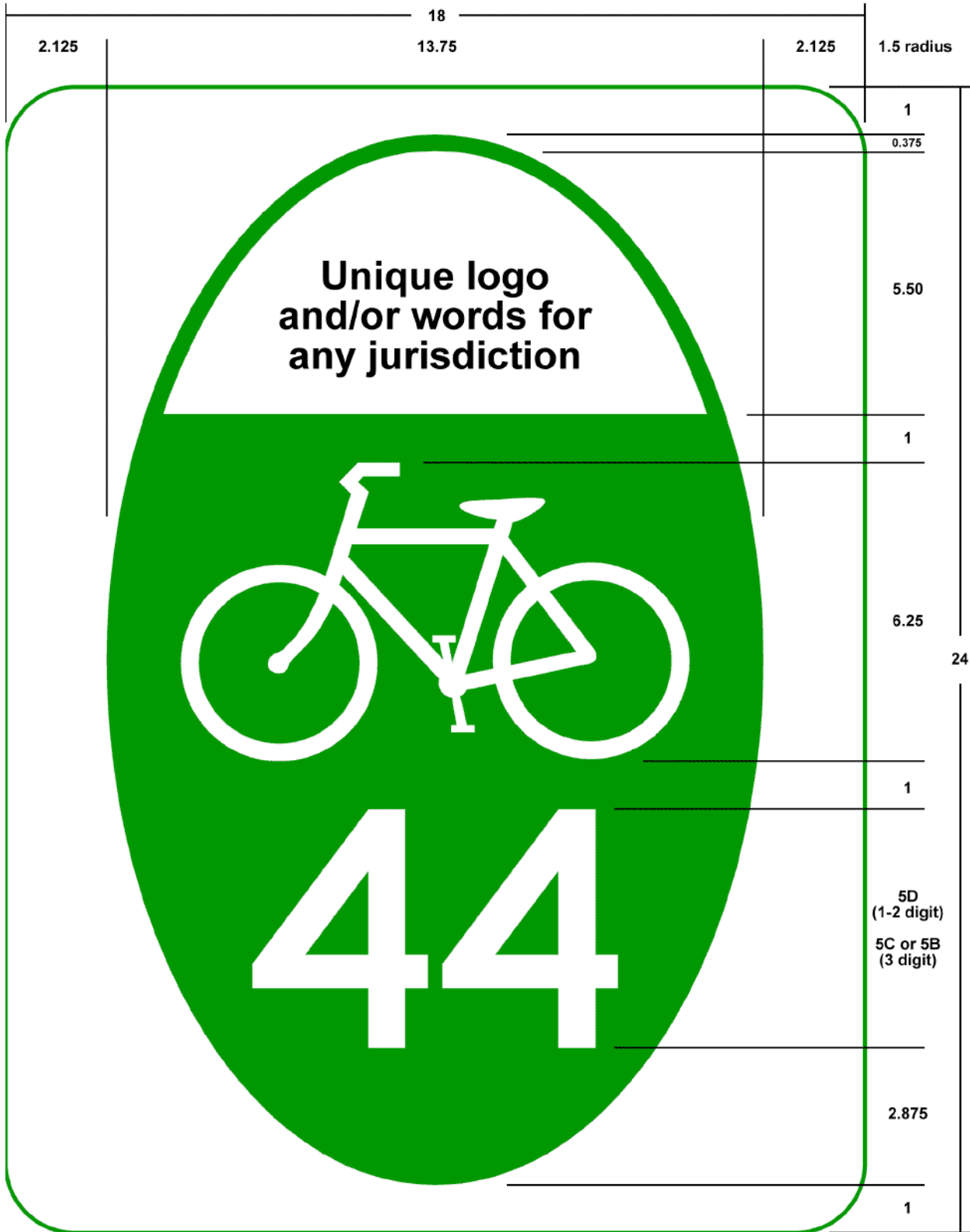
These proposed changes were also reviewed and approved by the NCUTCD Guide and Motorist Information (G/MI) Technical Committee at their meeting in June 2004.

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.



M1-8a - 12" x 18"



M1-8a - 18" x 24"

Examples of M1-8a Signs



San Francisco, California



Oakland, California