



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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ATTACHMENT NO. 11
Item No.: 16B-BIK-02
(BTC version 1.3 - final)

NCUTCD Proposal for Changes to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Bicycle Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 16B-BIK-02
TOPIC: Warning Signs for Bicycle Merge Conditions
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: Bicycle Technical Committee
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: Chapter 9B

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

- Approved by Bicycle Technical Committee: 06/08/2016
- Concurrence by Regulatory and Warning Sign Technical Committee: 06/09/2016
- Approved by NCUTCD Council: 01/06/2017

This is a proposal for recommended changes to the MUTCD that has been approved by the NCUTCD Council. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, or options. It will be submitted to FHWA for consideration for inclusion in a future MUTCD revision. The MUTCD can be revised only through the federal rulemaking process.

SUMMARY:

The BTC proposes new signs that will alert road users that a bicycle lane is ending and that bicyclists will merge and then either share or occupy the travel lane, depending on available lane width.

DISCUSSION

The end of a bicycle lane is similar to the condition where a lane provided for slower moving traffic ends and users of that lane are expected to merge into the adjacent travel lane (see Section 2C.42 Lane Ends Signs). The Bicycle Technical Committee considered variants on existing lane drop warning signs such as the W4-2; however, many merge situations of this type do not involve a reduction in roadway width.

RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES

37 The following presents the proposed changes to the current MUTCD within the context of the
38 current MUTCD language. Proposed additions to the MUTCD are shown in blue underline and
39 proposed deletions from the MUTCD are shown in ~~red strikethrough~~. Changes previously
40 approved by NCUTCD Council (but not yet adopted by FHWA) are shown in green double
41 underline for additions and ~~green double strikethrough~~ for deletions. In some cases, background
42 comments may be provided with the MUTCD text. These comments are indicated by
43 **[highlighted light blue in brackets]**.

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45 Insert the following new Section 9B.XX:

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47 **Section 9B.XX Bike Lane Ends Warning Sign (W9-xx) and Bike Merge Sign (W9-xx)**

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49 Support:

50 01 Where a warning sign is appropriate, the Bike Lane Ends Warning sign (W9-xx) is
51 intended to alert road users that a bicycle lane is ending and that bicyclists will share or occupy
52 the travel lane after merging.

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54 Option:

55 02 The Bike Lane Ends Warning sign (see Figure 9B-X) may be used in advance of the end
56 of a bicycle lane to warn that a bicycle lane will be ending. The Bike Lane Ends Warning sign
57 may be used in lieu of the Bike Lane Ends (R3-17 and R3-17bP) regulatory sign assembly.

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59 The Bike Merge sign (see figure 9B-X) may be used where a bicycle merging maneuver may
60 occur. The Bike Merge sign (see figure 9B-X) may be used in addition to the Bike Lane Ends
61 Warning (W9-xx) sign.

62

63 Guidance:

64 03 To avoid excessive use of signs, the Bike Lane Ends Warning sign should not be used
65 where a bicycle lane is dropped on the approach to an intersection and resumes immediately
66 after the intersection.

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68 Option:

69 04 A Bicycles May Use Full Lane sign (R4-11) and/or Shared Lane Markings (see Section
70 9C.07) may be installed downstream of the merge area.

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72 05 A W16-2aP Supplemental Warning Plaque may be used to inform road users of the
73 distance to the end of the bicycle lane and/or the bicycle merge.

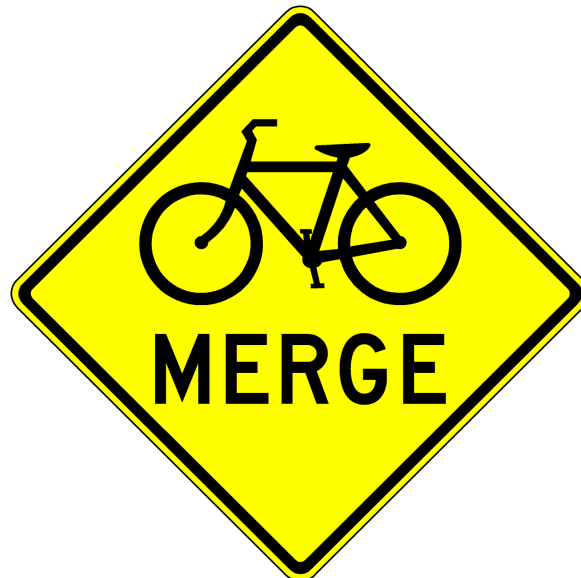
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W9-XX Bike Lane Ends Sign + W16-2a Plaque
(30" panel, 10" tall bicycle symbol, 5" D text)



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W9-XX Bicycle Merge Sign
(30" panel, 12" tall bicycle symbol, 5" D text)