



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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3 **NOTE: This is a recommendation by NCUTCD to FHWA to add or**
4 **revise the content of the MUTCD. This proposal by itself does not**
5 **constitute official standards or guidance. Regardless of NCUTCD**
6 **approval status, any proposed change or revision has no legal or**
7 **official status until specifically approved by FHWA through either the**
8 **Interim Approval process or adoption into a new edition of the**
9 **MUTCD.**

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11 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:** Bicycle Technical Committee

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13 **TOPIC:** Review and Revision of
14 Standards in Part 9

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16 **STATUS/DATE OF ACTION:**

17 **BTC Drafts:** 02/20/2012

18 **BTC Approval:** 03/07/2012

19 **Transmitted to Sponsors:** 03/08/2012

20 **TC Revision:** 06/20/2012

21 **Council Approval:** 06/22/2012

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23 **ORIGIN OF REQUEST:** FHWA via 2009 MUTCD
24 Rulemaking

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26 **AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD:** Part 9 (all)

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28 **SUMMARY:**

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30 The NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee has reviewed all the
31 Standards in Part 9 of the 2009 MUTCD, and is proposing to revise
32 selected Standards to Part 9 to Guidance, rephrase or restate them, or
33 delete them entirely if deemed to be unnecessary.
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1 **DISCUSSION:**

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3 In the 2009 MUTCD issued by FHWA in December 2009, FHWA revised
4 the definition of Standard to disallow exceptions based on engineering
5 judgment or study. Based on docket comments and other feedback,
6 FHWA asked each NCUTCD technical committee to analyze their Parts
7 and Chapters to determine if each Standard should remain unchanged as
8 a mandatory condition or be modified to Guidance, Option, Support, or
9 deleted.

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11 Although it is very desirable for agencies to strictly comply with the
12 Standard provisions in Part 9, there may be situations where compliance
13 with certain specific Standards may be impractical or impossible.
14 Retaining these provisions, but as Guidance, should still serve to ensure
15 uniform and appropriate placement and application of traffic control device
16 while still allowing limited flexibility. Exceptions would still require
17 engineering study, judgment, or documentation.

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19 Revision 2 of the MUTCD has returned the definition of Standard to the
20 wording used in the 2003 MUTCD, by deleting the sentence "Standard
21 statements shall not be modified or compromised based on engineering
22 judgment or engineering study." However, it is still appropriate to review
23 current Standards to see if they are still needed or are appropriate as
24 Standards.

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1 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD PROVISIONS/ REVISIONS:**

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3 **Note:** Deletions from the 2009 MUTCD text are noted in ~~strikethrough red~~,
4 and insertions in underline blue.

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7 **Section 9B.01 is revised as follows:**

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9 **Section 9B.01 Application and Placement of Signs**

10 **Standard:**

11 **01** Bicycle signs shall be standard in shape, legend, and color.

12 **02** All signs shall be retroreflectorized for use on bikeways, including
13 shared-use paths and bicycle lane facilities.

14 **03** Where signs serve both bicyclists and other road users, vertical
15 mounting height and lateral placement shall be as provided in Part 2.

16 Guidance:

17 *04 Where used on a shared-use path, no portion of a sign or its support ~~shall~~*
18 *should be placed less than 2 feet laterally from the near edge of the path, or less*
19 *than 8 feet vertically over the entire width of the shared-use path (see Figure 9B-*
20 *1).*

21 *05 Mounting height for post-mounted signs on shared-use paths ~~shall~~ should*
22 *be a minimum of 4 feet, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the*
23 *elevation of the near edge of the path surface (see Figure 9B-1).*

24 ~~Guidance:~~

25 *06 Signs for the exclusive use of bicyclists should be located so that other*
26 *road users are not confused by them.*

27 *07 The clearance for overhead signs on shared-use paths should be adjusted*
28 *when appropriate to accommodate path users requiring more clearance, such as*
29 *equestrians, or typical maintenance or emergency vehicles.*

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32 **The title of Figure 9B-1 is revised as follows:**

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34 **Figure 9B-1. Recommended Sign Placement on Shared-Use**
35 **Paths**

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38 ***Specific justifications for 9B.01 & Figure 9B-1 changes:***

39 ***Setting sign installation locations as a Standard may be infeasible in***
40 ***some locations. Retaining the provisions as Guidance should***
41 ***preserve uniformity while allowing limited flexibility as needed.***

1 **Section 9B.09 is revised as follows:**

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3 **Section 9B.09 Selective Exclusion Signs**

4 Option:

5 01 Selective Exclusion signs (see Figure 9B-2) may be installed at the
6 entrance to a roadway or facility to notify road or facility users that designated
7 types of traffic are excluded from using the roadway or facility.

8 **Standard:**

9 ~~02 — If used, Selective Exclusion signs shall clearly indicate the type of~~
10 ~~traffic that is excluded.~~

11 Support:

12 ~~03~~ 02 Typical exclusion messages include:

- 13 A. No Bicycles (R5-6),
- 14 B. No Pedestrians (R9-3),
- 15 C. No Skaters (R9-13), and
- 16 D. No Equestrians (R9-14).

17 Option:

18 ~~04~~ 03 Where bicyclists, pedestrians, and motor-driven cycles are all prohibited,
19 it may be more desirable to use the R5-10a word message sign that is described in
20 Section 2B.39.

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23 ***Specific justifications for 9B.09 changes:***

24 ***Not necessary to be this specific in the Standard.***

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1 **Section 9B.21 is revised as follows:**

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3 **Section 9B.21 Bicycle Route Signs (M1-8, M1-8a, M1-9)**

4 Option:

5 01 To establish a unique identification (route designation) for a State or local
6 bicycle route, the Bicycle Route (M1-8, M1-8a) sign (see Figure 9B-4) may be
7 used.

8 ~~Standard~~ Guidance:

9 02 The Bicycle Route (M1-8) sign ~~shall~~ should contain a route designation and
10 ~~shall~~ should have a green background with a ~~retroreflectorized~~ white legend and
11 border. The Bicycle Route (M1-8a) sign ~~shall contain the same information as the~~
12 ~~M1-8 sign and in addition shall~~ should include on the upper portion of the sign
13 panel a pictograph or words that are associated with the route or with the agency
14 that has jurisdiction over the route. The pictograph or legend shall should
15 incorporate a bicycle symbol or word message that clearly identifies the route as
16 a bicycle route or pathway.

17 03 If a pictograph is used on the M1-8a sign the maximum dimension (height
18 or width) of the pictograph should not exceed two times the height of the route
19 numeral, and should be contained within a green border.

20 04 If a bicycle symbol is used on the M1-8a sign, it should have a minimum
21 height of 20% of the M1-8a sign panel height.

22 ~~Guidance:~~

23 ~~03~~ 05 Bicycle routes, which might be a combination of various types of
24 bikeways, should establish a continuous routing.

25 ~~04~~ 06 Where a designated bicycle route extends through two or more States, a
26 coordinated submittal by the affected States for an assignment of a U.S. Bicycle
27 Route number designation should be sent to the American Association of State
28 Highway and Transportation Officials (see Page i for the address).

29 **Standard:**

30 ~~05~~ 07 The U.S. Bicycle Route (M1-9) sign (see Figure 9B-4) shall contain the
31 route designation as assigned by AASHTO ~~and shall have a black legend and~~
32 ~~border with a retroreflectorized white background.~~

33 Guidance:

34 ~~06~~ 08 If used, the Bicycle Route or U.S. Bicycle Route signs should be placed at
35 intervals frequent enough to keep bicyclists informed of changes in route
36 direction and to remind motorists of the presence of bicyclists.

37 Option:

38 ~~07~~ 09 Bicycle Route or U.S. Bicycle Route signs may be installed on shared
39 roadways or on shared-use paths to provide guidance for bicyclists.

40 ~~08~~ 10 The Bicycle Route Guide (D11-1) sign (see Figure 9B-4) may be installed
41 where no unique designation of routes is desired.

Note:
the
changes
shown
here in
paragraphs
02-04 were
already
approved
by
NCUTCD
in June
2011

1 ***Specific justifications for 9B.21 changes:***
2 ***The existing Standard wording on M1-9 color is not necessary, as the***
3 ***Standard Highway Signs and Markings book should adequately***
4 ***define the design of the sign. In addition, NCUTCD has***
5 ***recommended a change to the color of the M1-9 (from black to***
6 ***green), and the revised Standard will function well with either design.***
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1 **Section 9B.23 is revised as follows:**

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3 **Section 9B.23 Bicycle Parking Area Sign (D4-3)**

4 Option:

5 01 The Bicycle Parking Area (D4-3) sign (see Figure 9B-4) may be installed
6 where it is desirable to show the direction to a designated bicycle parking area.

7 The arrow may be reversed as appropriate.

8 **Standard:**

9 ~~02 — The legend and border of the Bicycle Parking Area sign shall be green~~
10 ~~on a retroreflectorized white background.~~

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13 ***Specific justifications for 9B.23 changes:***

14 ***The existing Standard wording on layout of bicycle guide signs is***
15 ***unnecessarily restrictive. Retaining the provisions as Guidance***
16 ***should preserve uniformity while allowing limited flexibility as***
17 ***needed.***

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1 **Section 9B.24 is revised as follows:**

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3 **Section 9B.24 Reference Location Signs (D10-1 through D10-3) and**
4 **Intermediate Reference Location Signs (D10-1a through D10-3a)**

5 Support:

6 01 There are two types of reference location signs:

7 A. Reference Location (D10-1, 2, and 3) signs show an integer distance point
8 along a shared-use path; and

9 B. Intermediate Reference Location (D10-1a, 2a, and 3a) signs also show a
10 decimal between integer distance points along a shared-use path.

11 Option:

12 02 Reference Location (D10-1 to D10-3) signs (see Figure 9B-4) may be
13 installed along any section of a shared-use path to assist users in estimating their
14 progress, to provide a means for identifying the location of emergency incidents
15 and crashes, and to aid in maintenance and servicing.

16 03 To augment the reference location sign system, Intermediate Reference
17 Location (D10-1a to D10-3a) signs (see Figure 9B-4), which show the tenth of a
18 mile with a decimal point, may be installed at one tenth of a mile intervals, or at
19 some other regular spacing.

20 ~~Standard:~~ *Guidance:*

21 04 *If Intermediate Reference Location (D10-1a to D10-3a) signs are used to*
22 *augment the reference location sign system, the reference location sign at the*
23 *integer mile point ~~shall~~ should display a decimal point and a zero numeral.*

24 ~~05—If placed on shared-use paths, reference location signs shall contain~~
25 ~~4.5-inch white numerals on a green background that is at least 6 inches wide~~
26 ~~with a white border. The signs shall contain the word MILE in 2.25-inch~~
27 ~~white letters.~~

28 ~~06~~ 05 *Reference location signs ~~shall~~ should have a minimum mounting height of*
29 *2 feet, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near*
30 *edge of the shared-use path, and ~~shall~~ should not be governed by the mounting*
31 *height requirements prescribed in Section 9B.01.*

32 Option:

33 ~~07~~ 06 Reference location signs may be installed on one side of the shared-use
34 path only and may be installed back-to-back.

35 ~~08~~ 07 If a reference location sign cannot be installed in the correct location, it
36 may be moved in either direction as much as 50 feet.

37 *Guidance:*

38 ~~09~~ 08 *If a reference location sign cannot be placed within 50 feet of the correct*
39 *location, it should be omitted.*

40 ~~10~~ 09 *Zero distance should begin at the south and west terminus points of*
41 *shared-use paths.*

42 Support:

43 ~~11~~ 10 Section 2H.05 contains additional information regarding reference
44 location signs.

1 ***Specific justifications for 9B.24 changes:***
2 ***The existing Standard wording on layout and mounting of reference***
3 ***location signs for bicycle facilities is unnecessarily restrictive, as the***
4 ***Standard Highway Signs & Markings book and other MUTCD***
5 ***sections adequately address these items. Retaining some of the***
6 ***provisions as Guidance should preserve uniformity while allowing***
7 ***some flexibility as needed.***

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1 Section 9B.26 is revised as follows:

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3 Section 9B.26 **Object Markers**

4 **Standard:**

5 **01 Obstructions in the traveled way of a shared-use path shall be marked**
6 **with retroreflectorized material or appropriate object markers as described**
7 **in Section 2C.63.**

8 Option:

9 ~~01~~ **02** Fixed objects adjacent to shared-use paths may be marked with Type 1,
10 Type 2, or Type 3 object markers (see Figure 9B-3) ~~such as those described in~~
11 ~~Section 2C.63.~~ If the object marker is not intended to also be seen by motorists, a
12 smaller version of the Type 3 object marker may be used (see Table 9B-1).

13 **Standard:**

14 ~~02—Obstructions in the traveled way of a shared-use path shall be marked~~
15 ~~with retroreflectorized material or appropriate object markers.~~

16 ~~03—All object markers shall be retroreflective.~~

17 ~~04—On Type 3 object markers, the alternating black and retroreflective~~
18 ~~yellow stripes shall be sloped down at an angle of 45 degrees toward the side~~
19 ~~on which traffic is to pass the obstruction.~~

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22 ***Specific justifications for 9B.26 changes:***

23 ***The first Standard paragraph is moved to the front for emphasis. The***
24 ***remaining Standards are deleted, as the design of object markers is***
25 ***adequately described in the Standard Highway Signs and Markings***
26 ***book and elsewhere.***

1 **Section 9C.02 is revised as follows:**

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3 **Section 9C.02 General Principles**

4 *Guidance:*

5 *01 Bikeway design guides (see Section 9A.05) should be used when designing*
6 *markings for bicycle facilities.*

7 **Standard:**

8 ~~**02 — Markings used on bikeways shall be retroreflectorized.**~~

9 *Guidance:*

10 ~~*02 03*~~ *Pavement marking word messages, symbols, and/or arrows should be*
11 *used in bikeways where appropriate. Consideration should be given to selecting*
12 *pavement marking materials that will minimize loss of traction for bicycles under*
13 *wet conditions.*

14 **Standard:**

15 ~~**03 04**~~ **Markings used on bikeways shall be retroreflectorized.** The colors,
16 **width of lines, patterns of lines, symbols, and arrows used for marking**
17 **bicycle facilities shall be as defined in Sections 3A.05, 3A.06, and 3B.20.**

18 *Support:*

19 ~~*04 05*~~ *Figures 9B-7 and 9C-1 through 9C-9 show examples of the application of*
20 *lines, word messages, symbols, and arrows on designated bikeways.*

21 *Option:*

22 ~~*05 06*~~ *A dotted line may be used to define a specific path for a bicyclist crossing*
23 *an intersection (see Figure 9C-1) as described in Sections 3A.06 and 3B.08.*

24
25 ***Specific justifications for 9C.02 changes:***

26 ***The Standard statements are retained, but are consolidated into one***
27 ***paragraph.***