

Bicycle-Related Changes to the 2003 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

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2003 MUTCD was published by Federal Highway Administration in November 2003

- The MUTCD is the national standard for traffic control for US road users
- States have until December 2005 to adopt either the 2003 MUTCD or an equivalent state traffic control manual

What's new for bicyclists?

Revised bike lane signs (Section 9B.04)



Bike Lane sign (R3-17)

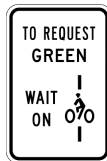


R3-17 with AHEAD plaque (R3-17a)

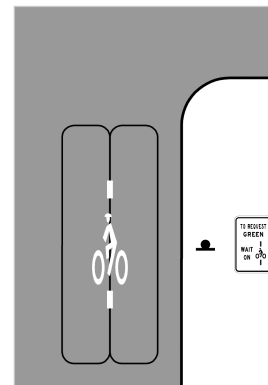


R3-17 with ENDS plaque (R3-17b)

New sign & marking for bicycle detection at signals (Section 9B.12, 9C.05)



Bicycle detector sign (R10-22) & marking

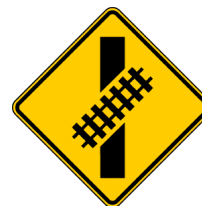


Example of detector marking at intersection

Other new signs:



Bicycle Wrong Way (R5-1b) and Ride With Traffic (R9-3c) signs (Section 9B.06)



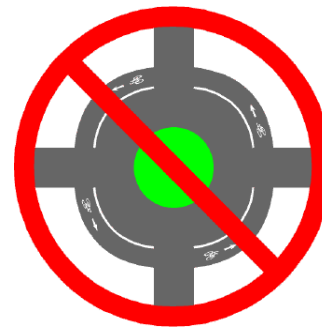
Diagonal railroad crossing sign (W10-12) (Section 8B.19)

Other important changes:



Prohibition on through bike lanes to right of right turn lanes
(Section 9C.04)

Prohibition on bike lanes within circulating roadways of roundabouts
(Section 9C.04)



- New guidance on accommodating bicyclists in temporary traffic control areas (Section 6G.05)
- Temporary signs should not be placed in bike lanes or on sidewalks (Section 6F.03)
- On streets with bike lanes, multiple right turn lanes are discouraged (Section 9C.04)
- Posts or other raised markers should not be used to separate bike lanes from other travel lanes (Section 9C.04)

Current topics under evaluation by the NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee for possible inclusion in future editions of the MUTCD:

- Improved markings for bike lanes adjacent to on-street parking to eliminate "door zone" conflicts
- Developing a "shared lane symbol" for where bike lanes can't / shouldn't be placed
- Improved guide signing for bicyclists
- Improvements in signing for US Numbered Bicycle Routes

Future initiatives for the NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee consideration:

- Beyond "Share The Road" - better signing for interaction with other road users
- Improved guidance on design of bike lanes at intersections
- Improved traffic control at path-roadway intersections
- Signs and markings for rumble strips
- Colored bike lanes
- Bicycle traffic signals
- Advance stop lines

For more information, see:

FHWA's official MUTCD website:

<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>

NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee website:

<http://members.cox.net/ncutcdbtc/>