**REPLY FROM DAVID KIRSCHNER - Feb 28, 2018 @ 9:54 AM**

**Re: Regarding Decorative/Artistic Buffers Separating Bikeways From Traffic Lanes**

From: [Kirschner, David (FHWA) <david.kirschner@dot.gov>](mailto:david.kirschner@dot.gov)

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Hi John –

Christopher asked that I respond to your question regarding artistic installations within the right of way.

From an MUTCD standpoint, if the feature is attempting to, or is designed to communicate with a road user i.e. regulates, warns, or provides direction or navigational information to the motorist, then it is considered a traffic control device (TCD) and must meet the requirements of a TCD in terms of application, retroreflectivity, placement, etc.

Artistic installations within a TCD, like the pavement markings defining the bike lane buffers, are prohibited in that they use colored pavement in a non-compliant manner and alter the uniform appearance of the TCD.

These alterations and non-compliant uses of color can compromise the understanding of the road user.

***This installation shown within your photo would definitely not be compliant with the MUTCD***.

Thanks

**Dave Kirschner, P.E.** Transportation Specialist, MUTCD Team

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