

PART 9

TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR BICYCLE FACILITIES

CHAPTER 9A. GENERAL

Section 9A.01 General

Support:

- 01 Part 9 covers signs and pavement markings specifically related to bicycle operation on roadways, separated bikeways, and shared-use paths. In jurisdictions where small, low-speed, human or electric-powered transportation devices (often referred to as a micromobility devices) are allowed to use bicycle facilities, they can be regulated by signs, pavement markings, and other traffic control devices related to bicycle operations. Part 4 contains information on highway traffic signals and bicycle signal faces. Part 6 contains information on work zones for bicycle facilities and the mitigation of impacts to bicycle travel through work zones.
- 02 Definitions and acronyms pertaining to Part 9 are provided in Sections 1C.02 and 1C.03.
- 03 When operating on a roadway, bicycles are typically defined as vehicles and the operator of a bicycle is given the same rights and duties as an operator of a motor vehicle. Bicyclists are also vulnerable road users who have little to no protection from crash forces.
- 04 Designing bicycle facilities and the traffic control devices on those facilities in a manner that encourages predictable behavior and compliance with traffic laws from all roadway users can improve safety and increase public acceptance of bicyclists from other road users. The misuse of traffic control devices for improperly designed bicycle facilities or non-uniform applications can produce ineffective or counterproductive results. Section 1D.01 provides more information on the importance of uniformity of traffic control devices.
- 05 The “Bikeway Selection Guide” (FHWA-SA-18-077), FHWA, provides information on the designs and configuration of bicycle facilities.

Support:

- 05a [Refer to FHWA's List of Known Errors for error in heading between Paragraphs 5 and 6. Refer to Section 1A.04 for more details.](#)
- 06 The operation of bicycles is generally allowed on rights-of-way open to motor vehicles, even if the bicycle-specific traffic control devices outlined in Part 9 are not present.

Guidance:

- 07 *All signs, signals, and markings, including those on bicycle facilities, should be properly maintained to command respect from all road users. When installing signs and markings on bicycle facilities, an agency should be designated to maintain these devices.*

Section 9A.02 Standardization of Application for Signing

Support:

- 01 The installation of nonstandard signing on bikeways or modifying standard signing in a manner inconsistent with Chapter 2A of this Manual to draw special attention, educate users or the community, or brand a bicycle facility can contribute to problems with public acceptance and enforcement.

Standard:

- 02 **Bicycle signs shall comply with the provisions of this Manual for standard shape, legend, and color.**
- 03 **All signs installed on bikeways shall be retroreflective, including those on shared-use paths, and bicycle lane facilities.**
- 04 **Where signs serve both bicyclists and other road users, vertical mounting height and lateral placement shall be as provided in Sections 2A.15 and 2A.16 of this Manual.**

Guidance:

- 05 *Where used on a shared-use path, no portion of a sign or its support should be placed less than 2 feet laterally from the near edge of the path, or less than 8 feet vertically over the entire width of the shared-use path (see Figure 9A-1).*
- 06 *Mounting height for post-mounted signs on shared-use paths should be a minimum of 4 feet, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the path surface (see Figure 9A-1).*

- 07 *Signs for the exclusive use of bicyclists should be located so that other road users are not confused by them.*
08 *The clearance for overhead signs on shared-use paths should be adjusted when appropriate to accommodate path users requiring more clearance, such as equestrians, or typical maintenance or emergency vehicles.*

Support:

- 08a *California regulatory and guide signs for bicycle facilities are shown in Figure 9B-1(CA) and Figure 9D-1(CA), respectively.*

Standard:

- 09 **If the sign or plaque applies to motorists and bicyclists, then the size shall be as shown for conventional roads in Tables 2B-1, 2C-1, 2D-1, and 8B-1, as applicable.**
10 **The minimum sign and plaque sizes for signs specific to bicycle-only facilities and shared-use paths shall be those shown in Table 9A-1. These sizes shall be used only for signs and plaques installed specifically for bicyclist applications.**

Option:

- 11 *Larger sizes of signs and plaques may be used on bicycle facilities when appropriate (see Section 2A.07).*
12 *Any diamond-shaped warning sign that is placed such that it is applicable only to bicyclists or pedestrians on shared-use paths or separated bicycle lanes may be 18" x 18".*

Guidance:

- 13 *Except for size, the design of signs and plaques for bicycle facilities should be identical to that provided in this Manual for signs and plaques for streets and highways.*

Support:

- 14 *Uniformity in design of bicycle signs and plaques includes shape, color, symbols, arrows, wording, lettering, and illumination or retroreflectivity.*

Section 9A.03 Standardization of Application for Markings

Support:

- 01 *Markings indicate the separation of the lanes for road users, assist the bicyclist by indicating assigned travel paths, indicate correct position for traffic control signal actuation, and provide advance information for turning and crossing maneuvers.*

Guidance:

Option:

- 02 *Pavement marking word messages, symbols, and/or arrows, and/or colored pavement may ~~should~~ be used in bikeways where appropriate.*

Guidance:

- 03 *Consideration should be given to selecting pavement marking materials that will minimize loss of traction for bicycles under wet conditions.*

Standard:

- 04 **Pavement markings on bicycle facilities that must be visible at night or in low-light conditions shall be retroreflective unless the markings are adequately visible under provided lighting.**
05 **The colors, width of lines, patterns of lines, symbols, and arrows used for marking bicycle facilities shall be as defined in Part 3.**

- 05a ***On State highways, marking materials shall conform to Sections 84-2.02 and 84-3.02 of the Standard Specifications published by Caltrans.***

Support:

- 06 *Section 3H.06 contains information on green-colored pavement for use with certain traffic control devices for bicycles and bicycle facilities.*
07 *Section 9E.17 contains information on the use of channelizing devices to emphasize the pavement markings for bicycle facilities.*

Guidance:

- 08 *Raised pavement markers should not be used on bicycle lanes or shared-use paths.*
09 *If used around bicycle facilities, raised pavement markers should not be placed immediately adjacent to the travel path of bicyclists in a bicycle lane or on a shared-use path.*

Support:

- 10 *Using raised pavement markers creates a collision potential for bicyclists by placing fixed objects immediately*

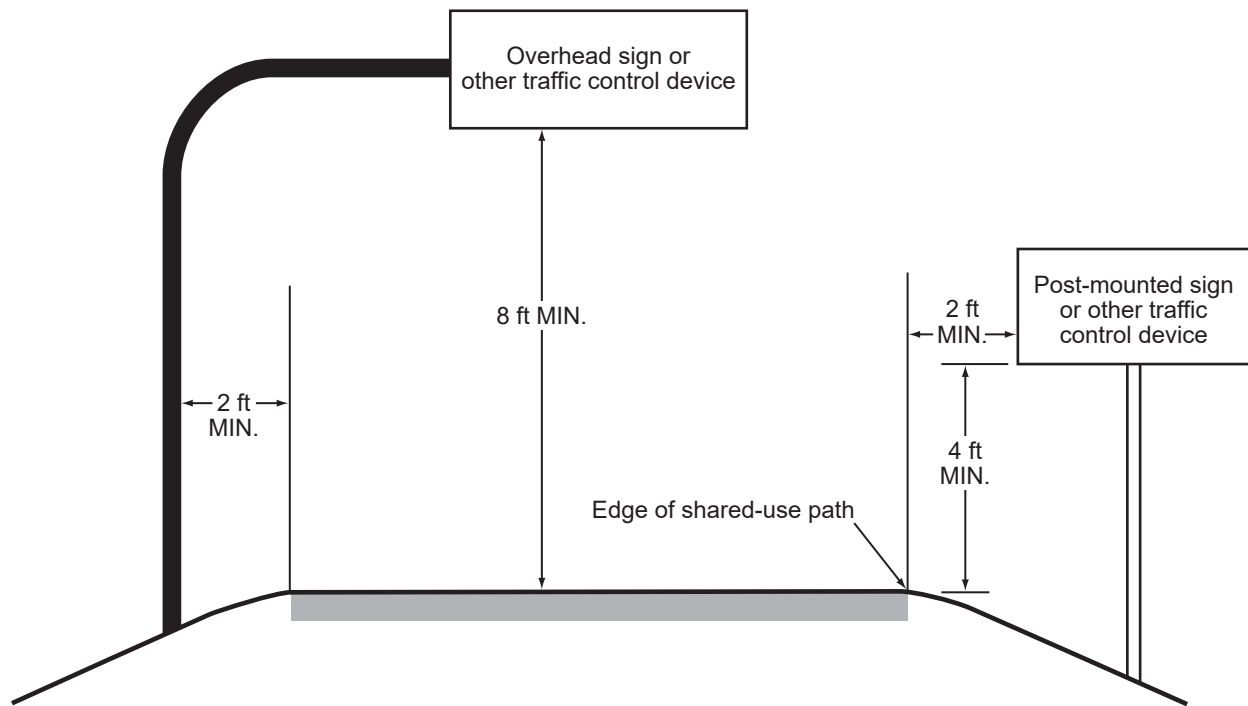
adjacent to the travel path of the bicyclist. Raised pavement markers can cause a bicyclist to lose balance and fall, and might not be visible to a bicyclist who is following another bicyclist.

Section 9A.101(CA) Traffic Controls for Bicycle Facilities at Rail Crossings

Standard:

01 **Any bicycle facility traversing an at-grade railroad crossing shall conform to Part 8.**

Figure 9A-1. Sign Placement on Shared-Use Paths



Note: Refer to Federal accessibility standards and State accessibility guidelines for sign requirements.

Table 9A-1. Bicycle Facility Sign and Plaque Minimum Sizes (Sheet 1 of 3)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Off Roadway ^{1,5}	Roadway ^{2,5}
Stop	R1-1	9B.01	18 x 18	—
Yield	R1-2	9B.01	18 x 18 x 18	—
Bike Lane (plaque)	R3-5hP	9B.04	—	30 x 12
Except Bicycles (plaque)	R3-7bP	9B.02	—	24 x 12
Advance Intersection Lane Control with Bike Lane	R3-8x Series	9B.03	—	Varies x 36
Bike Lane	R3-17	9B.04	—	24 x 18
Ahead, Ends (plaques)	R3-17aP, R3-17bP	9B.04	—	24 x 9
Movement Restriction	R4-1,2,3,7,16	9B.24	12 x 18	—
Begin Right Turn Lane Yield to Bikes	R4-4	9B.05	—	36 x 30
Bicycle Passing Clearance	R4-19	9B.15	—	30 x 30
Bicycle Wrong Way	R5-1b	9B.06	12 x 18	12 x 18
No Motor Vehicles	R5-3	9B.07	24 x 24	24 x 24
No Bicycles	R5-6	9B.08	18 x 18	—
On Freeway (plaque)	R5-10dP	9B.17	—	24 x 6
No Parking Bike Lane	R7-9,9a	9B.09	—	12 x 18
Back-In Parking	R7-10	9B.10	—	12 x 18
No Pedestrian Crossing	R9-3	9B.08	18 x 18	—
Ride With Traffic (plaque)	R9-3cP	9B.06	12 x 12	12 x 12
Bicycles Use Pedestrian Signal	R9-5	9B.11	12 x 18	12 x 18
Bicycles Yield to Pedestrians	R9-6	9B.12	12 x 18	12 x 18
Shared-Use Path Restriction	R9-7	9B.13	12 x 18*	—
No Skaters	R9-13	9B.08	18 x 18	18 x 18
No Equestrians	R9-14	9B.08	18 x 18	18 x 18
No Snowmobiles	R9-15	9B.08	18 x 18	18 x 18
No All-Terrain Vehicles	R9-16	9B.08	18 x 18	18 x 18
Bicycles Allowed Use of Full Lane	R9-20	9B.14	—	30 x 30
Bicycles Use Shoulder Only	R9-21	9B.16	—	24 x 30
Bicycles Must Exit	R9-22	9B.17	—	24 x 30
Bicycle All Turns from Bike Lane	R9-23	9B.18	—	12 x 18
Bicycle Left Turn from Bike Lane	R9-23a	9B.18	—	12 x 18
Bicycle Left Turn Must Use Turn Box	R9-23b, R9-23c	9B.18	—	12 x 18
Bicycle All Turns	R9-24,24a	9B.19	—	24 x 6
Bicycle U and Left Turns	R9-25,25a,25b	9B.19	—	24 x 9
Bicycle U Turn	R9-26,26a,26b	9B.19	—	24 x 6
Bicycle Left Turn	R9-27,27a,27b	9B.19	—	24 x 6
Push Button for Green	R10-4	9B.20	9 x 12	9 x 12
Left Turn Yield to Bicycle	R10-12b	9B.21	—	30 x 36
Bicycle Detector	R10-22	9B.20	12 x 18	12 x 18
Bike Push Button for Green Light	R10-24	9B.20	9 x 15	9 x 15
Push Button for Warning Lights - Wait for Gap	R10-25	9B.20	9 x 12	9 x 12
Bike Push Button for Green Light (arrow)	R10-26	9B.20	9 x 15	9 x 15
Bicycle Signal	R10-40, R10-40a, R10-41, R10-41a, R10-41b, R10-41c	9B.22	12 x 21	12 x 21
Grade Crossing (Crossbuck)	R15-1	9B.23	24 x 4.5	48 x 9
Number of Tracks (plaque)	R15-2P	9B.23	13.5 x 9	27 x 18
Look	R15-8	9B.23	18 x 9	36 x 18
Horizontal Alignment	W1-1,2,3,4,5	9C.01	18 x 18	—
Large Arrow	W1-6,7	9C.01	24 x 12	—
Intersection Warning	W2-1,2,3,4,5	9C.02	18 x 18	—

Table 9A-1. Bicycle Facility Sign and Plaque Minimum Sizes (Sheet 2 of 3)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Off Roadway ^{1,5}	Roadway ^{2,5}
Stop Ahead, Yield Ahead, Signal Ahead	W3-1,2,3	9C.08	18 x 18	—
Narrow Bridge	W5-2	9C.08	18 x 18	—
Path Narrows	W5-4a	9C.08	18 x 18	—
Hill	W7-5	9C.08	18 x 18	30 x 30
Bump, Dip	W8-1,2	9C.03	18 x 18	—
Pavement Ends	W8-3	9C.03	18 x 18	—
Bicycle Surface Condition	W8-10	9C.03	18 x 18	30 x 30
Slippery When Wet (plaque)	W8-10P	9C.03	12 x 9	12 x 9
Bicycle Lane Ends	W9-5	9C.07	—	30 x 30
Bicycles Merging	W9-5a	9C.07	18 x 18	30 x 30
Grade Crossing Advance Warning	W10-1	9C.08	24 Dia.	36 Dia.
No Train Horn (plaque)	W10-9P	9C.08	18 x 12	30 x 24
Skewed Crossing	W10-12	9C.08	18 x 18	36 x 36
Bicycle	W11-1	9C.04, 9C.08	18 x 18	—
Pedestrian	W11-2	9C.08	18 x 18	—
Trail Crossing	W11-15	9C.04	18 x 18	—
Trail Crossing (plaque)	W11-15P	9C.04	18 x 12	—
Low Clearance	W12-2	9C.08	18 x 18	—
Playground	W15-1	9C.08	18 x 18	—
In Road (plaque)	W16-1P	9C.08	—	18 x 12
In Street (plaque)	W16-1aP	9C.08	—	18 x 12
XX Feet (2-line plaque)	W16-2P	9C.04	18 x 12	—
XX Ft (1-line plaque)	W16-2aP	9C.04	12 x 9	—
Downward Diagonal Arrow (plaque)	W16-7P	9C.04	12 x 9	—
Ahead (plaque)	W16-9P	9C.04	—	24 x 12
Except Bicycles (plaque)	W16-20P	9C.05	—	24 x 12
2-Way Bicycle Cross Traffic (plaque)	W16-21P	9C.06	—	24 x 12
Object Marker Type 3	OM3-L,C,R	9C.09	6 x 18	12 x 36
Destination (1 line)	D1-1, D1-1a	9D.01	Varies x 6	—
Bicycle Destination (1 line)	D1-1b, D1-1c	9D.01	Varies x 6	Varies x 6
Destination (2 lines)	D1-2, D1-2a	9D.01	Varies x 12	—
Bicycle Destination (2 lines)	D1-2b, D1-2c	9D.01	Varies x 12	Varies x 12
Destination (3 lines)	D1-3, D1-3a	9D.01	Varies x 18	—
Bicycle Destination (3 lines)	D1-3b, D1-3c	9D.01	Varies x 18	Varies x 18
Distance (1 line)	D2-1	9D.01	Varies x 6	—
Bike Route Destination and Distance (1 Line)	D2-1a	9D.01	Varies x 12	Varies x 12
Distance (2 line)	D2-2	9D.01	Varies x 9	—
Bike Route Destination and Distance (2 Lines)	D2-2a	9D.01	Varies x 15	Varies x 15
Distance (3 line)	D2-3	9D.01	Varies x 12	—
Bike Route Destination and Distance (3 Lines)	D2-3a	9D.01	Varies x 18	Varies x 18
Street Name (1 line)	D3-1	9D.01	Varies x 6	Varies x 6
Street Name (2 lines)	D3-1	9D.01	Varies x 12	Varies x 12
Bicycle Parking Area Directional	D4-3	9D.09	18 x 12	18 x 12
Bicycle-Sharing Station Directional	D4-4	9D.09	12 x 18	12 x 18
Bicycle Lockers Directional	D4-4a	9D.09	12 x 18	12 x 18
Reference Location (1-digit)	D10-1	9D.10	6 x 9	—
Intermediate Reference Location (2-digits)	D10-1a	9D.10	6 x 15	—
Reference Location (2-digits)	D10-2	9D.10	6 x 15	—
Intermediate Reference Location (3-digits)	D10-2a	9D.10	6 x 21	—

Table 9A-1. Bicycle Facility Sign and Plaque Minimum Sizes (Sheet 3 of 3)

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Off Roadway ^{1,5}	Roadway ^{2,5}
Reference Location (3-digits)	D10-3	9D.10	6 x 21	—
Intermediate Reference Location (4-digits)	D10-3a	9D.10	6 x 24	—
Bike Route	D11-1	9D.02	24 x 18	24 x 18
Bike Route (plaque)	D11-1bP	9D.03	18 x 6	18 x 6
Bike Route with Destination	D11-1c	9D.02	24 x 18	24 x 18
Shared-Use Path Destination (1 line)	D11-10a	9D.12	Varies x 6*	—
Shared-Use Path Destination (2 lines)	D11-10b	9D.12	Varies x 12*	—
Shared-Use Path Destination (3 lines)	D11-10c	9D.12	Varies x 18*	—
Shared-Use Path Destination and Distance (1 line)	D11-10d	9D.12	Varies x 6*	—
Shared-Use Path Destination and Distance (2 lines)	D11-10e	9D.12	Varies x 12*	—
Shared-Use Path Destination and Distance (3 lines)	D11-10f	9D.12	Varies x 18*	—
Bicycles Directional	D11-11	9D.11	18 x 18	—
Pedestrians Directional	D11-12	9D.11	18 x 18	—
Skaters Directional	D11-13	9D.11	18 x 18	—
Equestrians Directional	D11-14	9D.11	18 x 18	—
Bicycle Turn Box Guide Signs	D11-20, D11-20a	9D.13	—	12 x 18
State or Local Bicycle Route	M1-8, M1-8a	9D.05	12 x 18	18 x 24
Non-Numbered Bicycle Route	M1-8b, M1-8c	9D.06	12 x 12	18 x 18
U.S. Bicycle Route	M1-9	9D.07	12 x 18	18 x 24
Bicycle Route Auxiliary Signs (plaque)	M2-1P, M3-1P, 2P, 3P, 4P, M4-1P, 1aP, 2P, 3P, 5P, 6P, 7P, 7aP, 8P, 14P	9D.08	12 x 6	12 x 6
Bicycle Route Arrow Signs (plaque)	M5-1P, 2P, M6-1P, 2P, 3P, 4P, 5P, 6P, 7P	9D.08	12 x 9	12 x 9

* For use on shared-use paths only.

** Refer to FHWA's List of Known Errors for error in table. Refer to Section 1A.04 for more details.

Notes: 1. Includes shared-use paths and bicycle-only facilities outside of the roadway.

2. If the sign or plaque applies to motorists and bicyclists, then the size shall be as shown for conventional roads in Tables 2B-1, 2C-1, 2D-1, or 8B-1.

3. Larger signs may be used when appropriate.

4. Dimensions are shown in inches and are shown as width x height.

5. Separated bicycle lanes (see definition in Section 1C.02) can be located within the roadway or outside the roadway, and the minimum sign sizes for these facilities are shown in the off roadway and roadway columns respectively.

Table 9A-1(CA). California Bicycle Facility Sign and Plaque Minimum Sizes

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Off Roadway ^{1,5}	Roadway ^{2,5}
MEMORIAL BIKEWAY	G12-3(CA)	9D.01	Varies x 12	—
PUSH OR WAVE AT BUTTON TO TURN ON WARNING LIGHTS	R10-3k(CA)	2B.58, 9B.20	9 x 12	9 x 12
BIKE PATH EXCLUSION	R44-1(CA)	9B.07	12 x 24	—
BICYCLES MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES MUST EXIT (with Arrow)	R44B(CA)	9B.17	—	30 x 36
BIKE TURN-OUT XX FEET	SR64A(CA)	9B.101(CA)	—	30 x 30
BIKE TURN-OUT (with arrow)	SR64B(CA)	9B.101(CA)	—	30 x 30

Notes: 1. Includes shared-use paths and bicycle-only facilities outside of the roadway.

2. If the sign or plaque applies to motorists and bicyclists, then the size shall be as shown for conventional roads in Tables 2B-1, 2C-1, 2D-1, or 8B-1.

3. Larger signs may be used when appropriate.

4. Dimensions are shown in inches and are shown as width x height.

5. Separated bicycle lanes (see definition in Section 1C.02) can be located within the roadway or outside the roadway, and the minimum sign sizes for these facilities are shown in the off roadway and roadway columns respectively.

6. Other sign sizes are available, see California Sign Specifications.