



Minnesota's Best Practices for Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety

REPORT 2013-22



SEPTEMBER 2013

MnDOT Office of Traffic, Safety and Technology
1500 West County Road B2
Mail Stop 725
Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: 651-234-7003
Fax: 651-234-7370
E-mail: traffic.dot@state.mn.us

Document Information and Disclaimer (1 of 4)

The information in this Best Practices Guide is provided as a resource to assist agencies in their effort to more safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists on their systems of roads and highways. The information in this handbook is consistent with best practices in safety planning as presented in guidance prepared by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). This information is provided to agencies in an effort to reduce the number of severe crashes with pedestrians and bicyclists on their roadway systems, and it is understood that the final decision to implement any of the strategies resides with the agency. There is no expectation or requirement that agencies implement any specific safety strategies, and it is understood that actual implementation decisions will be made by agency staff based on consideration of safety, economic, social, and political issues and location-specific considerations.

This Best Practices Guide should be interpreted as follows:

- This Best Practices Guide does not set requirements or mandates.
- This Best Practices Guide contains no warrants or standards and does not supersede other publications that do.
- This Best Practices Guide is not a standard and is neither intended to be, nor does it establish, a legal standard of care for users or professionals.
- This Best Practices Guide does not supersede publications such as the following:
 - *Minnesota's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*
 - *Association of AASHTO's Green Book: A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*
 - Other AASHTO and agency guidelines, manuals, and policies
- The practices in this guide provide an overview of the current general state of the practice in Minnesota relating to the design, and operation of pedestrian- and bicycle-related facilities. However, agencies are encouraged

to modify information in this material as necessary to reflect their own experience, culture and practices.

Following any implementation or application of the best practices, agencies are encouraged to review, evaluate, and, if necessary, modify practices to make them more consistent with their actual conditions and system needs.

Each Best Practice provides the following information:

- **Description and Definition**—Information on the purpose and description of the strategy
- **Safety Characteristics**—A summary of the safety benefits of the strategy and any related research or data
- **Proven, Tried, or Experimental**—A summary of the strategy's crash reductions based on FHWA's Crash Modification Factor (CMF) Clearinghouse (www.cmfclearinghouse.org), FHWA's Pedestrian CMF Toolbox (<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/tools/crf/resources/briefs/pedissuebrief.cfm>), the NCHRP Report 500, and designation of each of the strategies as one of the following:
 - **Proven Strategies** have been widely deployed and have been subject to properly designed evaluations that show them to be consistently effective.

In an effort to help reduce the potential exposure to claims of negligence associated with motor vehicle crashes on an agency's roadway system, the following two key points should be considered:

- (1) Minnesota tort law provides for discretionary immunity for decisions made by agency officials when there is documentation of the decision and evidence of consideration of social, economic, and political issues.
- (2) Minnesota tort law also provides for official immunity for decisions made by agency staff where there is written documentation of the thought process supporting project development and implementation.



Document Information and Disclaimer (2 of 4)

- **Tried Strategies** have been implemented in a number of locations where the results of the evaluations have not been fully evaluated or are inconsistent.
- **Experimental Strategies** are ideas that have been suggested and at least one agency has considered sufficiently promising to try on a small scale in at least one location.
- **Typical Characteristics of Candidate Locations**—The appropriate use of the strategy based on roadway characteristics
 - **Typical Costs**—A summary of the typical costs for installation of the safety strategies and any applicable maintenance costs based on available past projects
 - **Design Features**—Information on the latest design of the safety strategy and the appropriate design criteria to be used during implementation
 - **Best Practice**—A short summary of the current best practice relating to the safety strategy
 - **Sources**—Related resources and cited materials

	Strategies	Pages	Crash Reduction/ Crash Features	Proven/Tried/ Experimental	Operational Effects (Mobility)	Candidate Locations	Design Features	Construction Costs
Pedestrian Safety Strategies	Sidewalks	1-2	50 to 90% reduction in “walking in roadway” pedestrian crashes	Proven	N/A	Urban arterials & collectors	Curb ramps, cross slope, buffer zones	\$4 to \$5 per square foot
	Crosswalks and Crosswalk Enhancements	3-8	Varies	Proven/Tried	N/A	Intersections	Should be part of package including crosswalk enhancements	\$200 per crosswalk
	Medians and Crossing Islands	9-10	39 to 46%	Proven	May provide operational benefits	Wide 2-lane roads and multi-lane roadways	4 to 8 feet wide	\$15,000 to \$30,000 per 100 feet
	Curb Extensions	11-12	39 to 46%	Proven	Potential reduction in speeds	Urban arterials and collectors with curb parking	Roadway with parking or shoulder	\$5,000-\$10,000 per extension
	Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon System	13-15	60%	Tried	Additional delay for vehicles stopping for pedestrians	Mid-Block Crosswalk locations — Not at intersections	Pedestrian activated	\$80,000
	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon	16-17	78 to 100% yield to pedestrian rate	Tried	Additional delay for vehicles stopping for pedestrians	Mid-Block Crosswalk	Passive or active pedestrian activation	\$10K to \$15K
	Crosswalk Lighting	18-19	33 to 44%	Proven	N/A	Isolated crosswalks not along a continuously lit roadway	Require a power source	\$10k to \$25K per intersection
	Traffic Signals	20-22	Leading Pedestrian Interval — 60%	Tried	Increases delay and reduces mobility of major roadway	Intersections that meet signal warrants	Short cycle lengths, countdown timers, easy accessibility	New Signal - \$175,000 to more than \$300,000 per intersection

Document Information and Disclaimer (3 of 4)

	Strategies	Pages	Crash Reduction/ Crash Features	Proven/Tried/ Experimental	Operational Effects (Mobility)	Candidate Locations	Design Features	Construction Costs
Ped and Bicycle Safety Strategies	Grade Separated Crossing	23-24	80 to 90% in fatal and injury crashes	Proven	May provide operational benefits for locations with high pedestrian traffic	Limited access/high-volume roadways	Install barriers or landscaping to discourage at-grade crossing	\$500,000 to \$4 million
	Crossing Guards	25-26	NA	Tried	Higher compliance with guard	School crossings	Training required	NA
	Shared Space and Complete Streets	27-28	NA	Tried	Equal travel speeds for all users	Low speed/high pedestrian and bicycle volumes	Limited or no traffic control devices	NA
Bicycle Safety Strategies	Road Diet	29-31	30% all crashes (benefits to pedestrians)	Proven/Tried	Potential speed reduction	4-lane undivided roadways with ADT <20,000	Variations of distribution of cross section available	\$16,000 per mile for restriping \$500,000 for overlay \$5 million for reconstruction
	On-Road Bicycle Lane	32-34	-30 to +13%	Tried	NA	Urban and suburban	4 to 8 feet wide	\$16,000 per mile for restriping
	Shared (Paved) Shoulder Bicycle Lane	35-37	NA	Tried	NA	Rural roadways	4 to 10 feet wide	\$60,000 per mile for 4-foot shoulders \$100,000 per mile for 8-foot shoulders
	Bicycle Boulevards	38-40	60%	Tried	Reduces conflict with vehicles on parallel arterial	Local streets	Traffic-calming features often used	Minimal — Signs and Markings
	Bicycle Boxes	41-42	NA	Experimental	NA	Signalized intersections	14-foot-wide rectangle	\$1,000 per box (see page 7 for information on pavement marking life cycles)



Document Information and Disclaimer (4 of 4)

	Strategies	Pages	Crash Reduction/ Crash Features	Proven/Tried/ Experimental	Operational Effects (Mobility)	Candidate Locations	Design Features	Construction Costs
Pedestrian and Bicycle Considerations	Roundabouts	43-44	Lower speeds and medians for pedestrian refuge	Proven — Vehicles Tried — Pedestrians	Slows traffic entering roundabout	Arterials and major collectors	Splitter islands help pedestrians by separating entering and exiting traffic	more than \$1,000,000
	Bicycle-friendly Edgeline Rumbles	45-47	30 – 35% of Road Departure Crashes	Proven	N/A	Lower volume rural roadways	48-foot strip with 12-foot gap	\$3,000 per mile
	Speed Reduction Measures	48-51	Low-speed roads have higher crash rates and higher fraction of pedestrian crashes	Tried	Limited reduction of speed without changing driver's perceptions of roadway	School zones, speed transitions	Road diets, curb extensions and streetscaping help change driver's perceptions	Varies by strategy \$250 to more than \$1,000,000

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following sponsors and participants for their valuable input in the production of this document:

Technical Advisory Committee Members

Monica Beeman	City of St. Paul
Lisa Bender	MnDOT
Sulmaan Khan	MnDOT
Brad Estochen	MnDOT
Danny McCullough	Three Rivers Park District
Jim Grothaus	University of Minnesota
Kate Miner	Carver County
Joe Gustafson	Washington County
Mark Vizecky	MnDOT
Jeff Holstein	City of Brooklyn Park
Richard West	Ottertail County

Funding Sponsors

Minnesota Local Road Research Board
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

Writing

Howard Preston and Nikki Farrington, CH2M HILL
Charles Zegeer, Director, Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center

Graphic Design

Chrissy Ehlers, CH2M HILL

Editor

Rebecca Schlei, CH2M HILL

The contents of this handbook reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for facts and accuracy of the data presented. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Local Road Research Board or the Minnesota Department of Transportation at the time of publication. This handbook does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation.



Sidewalks (1 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES



Source: www.pedbikeimages.org/ / Dan Burden

Walking along the roadway is a pedestrian crash risk (that is, the probability of a pedestrian being struck is higher if a sidewalk is not present.) Research has found an 88 percent reduction in “walking along the roadway” pedestrian crashes with the installation of sidewalk and/or walkways on both sides of the road (McMahon, et. al.).

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

The effort of planning for a network of sidewalks should include an audit of the current sidewalk system. The audit should document the accessibility of transit stops/service, schools, public buildings, and parks, etc., to pedestrians and should include consideration of sidewalk design issues, including obstructions (e.g., fire hydrants, signposts, etc.) and compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design (see PROWAG guidelines).

For safety reasons, sidewalks should be implemented on all urban arterials and collectors, whenever possible. For urban streets without sidewalks or walkways, priorities should be established for adding new sidewalks. For example, higher priorities should be given for sidewalk installation on roads that connect pedestrian origins and destinations (for instance, connecting neighborhoods with schools and shopping areas) and for roads with higher speeds and volumes with priority at locations without shoulders.

TYPICAL COSTS

Typical costs for implementation of sidewalks vary depending on the location, amount of available right-of-way, and materials used, but are generally in the range of \$4 to \$5 per square foot for a concrete sidewalk, excluding costs for purchasing additional right-of-way. The cost for adding standard curbs and gutters is approximately \$20 to \$35 per linear foot, although the costs will vary

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

A sidewalk is a path for pedestrian travel placed along the side of a roadway, usually separated from roadway traffic lanes by curb and gutter and sometimes by a planting strip or buffer zone.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

The safety benefits of sidewalks come from the ability to provide pedestrians with their own travel space that is separated from the traffic on a roadway (FHWA-RD-01-101).

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Sidewalks are a PROVEN safety strategy. Sidewalks on both sides of a street have been found to significantly reduce occurrences of “walking along the roadway” compared to locations where no sidewalks or walkways exist.

Sidewalks (2 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

depending on the length of sidewalk, the type of base material, and whether curb ramps are needed. Asphalt curbs and walkways are less costly, but require more maintenance, when compared to concrete sidewalks.

DESIGN FEATURES

Items to consider when reviewing existing sidewalk or planning for the design of new sidewalks include the following:

- **Curb ramps**—To meet ADA requirements, curb ramps at crosswalks along a sidewalk must be installed during reconstruction of roadways. Ideally, when curb ramps are installed, a ramp should be provided for each crosswalk, instead of a single ramp at the corner. Curb ramps on each side of a crosswalk not only provide better orientation for pedestrians who are visually impaired, but also assist pedestrians who use wheelchairs with direct connection to crossing the roadway instead of directing them toward the center of the intersection. Tactile warnings on curb ramps are also important. The ADA Standards for Accessible Design require that a strip of truncated dome-type tactile warning be placed on the base of the crosswalk.
- **Sidewalk widths**—The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) recommend a minimum sidewalk width of 5 feet, which allows two people to walk comfortably side-by-side or two people to pass each other in the opposite direction. Wider sidewalks will be needed in urban areas which carry substantial volumes of pedestrians.

SOURCES

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). 2004. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*. July.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2002. *An Analysis of Factors Contributing to "Walking Along Roadway" Crashes: Research Study and Guidelines for Sidewalks and Walkways*. FHWA-RD-01-101. February.
- McMahon, Patrick J.; Charles V. Zegeer, Chandler Duncan, Richard L. Knoblauch, J. Richard Stewart, Asad J. Khattak.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2005. *Pedestrian Countermeasure Policy Best Practice Report*. FHWA-SA-11-017. September.
- US Department of Justice. 2010. *Standards for Accessible Design*. Federal Register. September 15.
- Minnesota Department of Transportation. 2007. *MnDOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual*. March.

- **Continuity**—Sidewalks should be continuous, installed on both sides of the roadway, and relatively free of obstacles that could cause a tripping hazard or impede travel by children, senior citizens, and people with visual or mobility impairments.
- **Cross slope**—The cross slope of sidewalks should be less than 2 percent. Cross slopes greater than 2 percent cause pedestrians in wheelchairs to counteract the force of the cross slope, which, depending on the direction of the slope, may direct the wheelchair towards the roadway.
- **Buffer zone**—A buffer zone of 4 to 6 feet is desirable to separate the sidewalk from the street and to improve the pedestrian's level of comfort. Landscaping strips, parked cars, and bicycle lanes can provide acceptable buffers.
- **Shared Use Paths**—Consideration should be given for the need for a shared use path or trail. These differ from sidewalks in that they designate space on the path, separating bicycles and pedestrians, and are usually not adjacent to local streets. More information can be found in MnDOT's Bikeway Facility Design Manual

BEST PRACTICE

For safety reasons, sidewalks should be considered for implementation on all urban arterials and collectors, especially locations that connect pedestrian origins and destinations (for instance, connecting neighborhoods with schools and shopping areas) and for roads with higher speeds and volumes, with priority for locations without shoulders.



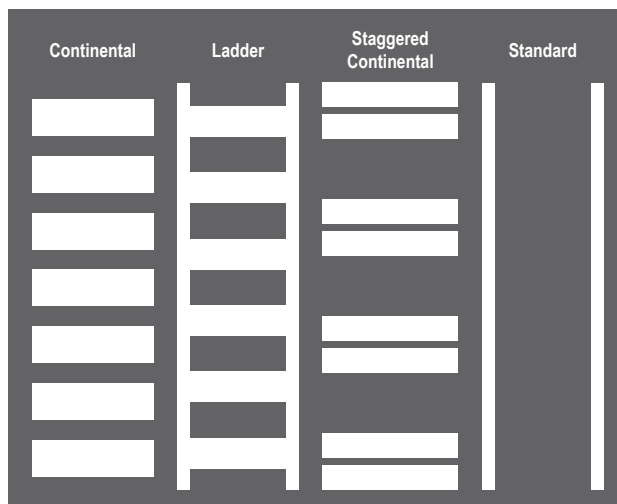
Crosswalks and Crosswalk Enhancements (1 of 6)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

A marked crosswalk is a type of pavement marking that indicates to pedestrians the recommended location to cross the roadway and also alerts approaching motorists as to where pedestrians may be crossing the street. In Minnesota, a legal crosswalk does not necessarily have to have a marked crosswalk. State laws (MN STATUTE 169.011, subd. 20 and STATUTE 169.21, subd. 2) define a legal crosswalk as the extension of the sidewalks across a road, whether it has a marked crosswalk or not. Marked crosswalks are often installed at signalized intersections, at a school zone crossing (whether signalized or not), and at unsignalized locations where engineers determine that there are enough pedestrians to justify a marked crossing. Crosswalks may be marked at midblock crossing locations as well as at intersections (see Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon System).

A variety of crosswalk enhancements may be used at marked crosswalks. For example, high-visibility crosswalks (ladder and continental styles) are much more visible to motorists than parallel-line crosswalks. An illustration of high-visibility crosswalks is provided.



An advance warning sign and signs at the crossing are typically installed where it is determined that signing is needed to supplement the markings to better alert drivers of the crosswalk placement. There are some situations, such as on multi-lane roads (roads with three or more vehicle lanes) where an advance stop or yield line with corresponding sign (“Stop here for pedestrians”) may be useful to encourage motorists to stop or yield 20 to 50 feet in advance of the marked crosswalk. Studies have shown that having such advance stop or yield lines on multi-lane roads can reduce the risk of a “multiple-threat” pedestrian crash. (Note: A multiple-threat pedestrian crash sometimes occurs when one vehicle stops for a pedestrian right at the marked crosswalk and blocks the pedestrian’s view, or sight distance, of an approaching vehicle in an adjacent lane. The approaching motorist and the crossing pedestrian do not see each other until it is too late to avoid a collision.) Having an advance yield line can improve the sight distance, because the stopping vehicle stops in advance of the crosswalk, and increases the visibility between the pedestrian and the approaching vehicle. The advance yield line allows more time and distance for a collision to be avoided.

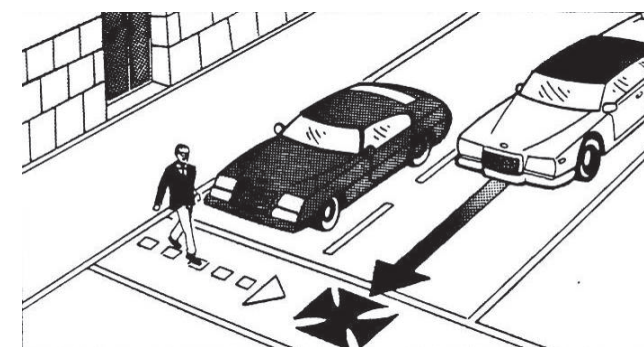


Illustration of a Multiple-threat Pedestrian Crash

Crosswalks and Crosswalk Enhancements (2 of 6)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

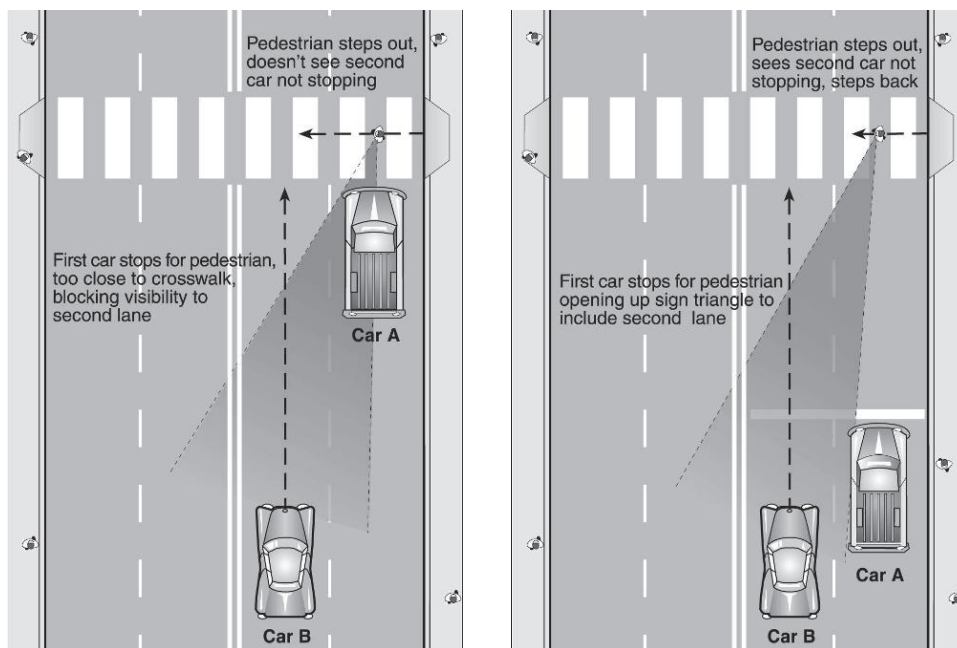


Illustration of Marked Crosswalk without the Advance Stop/Yield Line (Left) and with the Advance Stop/Yield Line (Right)

Another option to enhance pedestrian crossings is to use the signs in the street to indicate that it is the state law for motorists to stop or yield to pedestrians. Such a sign, shown below, is also given in the 2011 MN MUTCD.



2012 Minnesota Statutes – 169.21 Pedestrian, subd.2

(a) Where traffic-control signals are not in place or in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. The driver must remain stopped until the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the vehicle is stopped. No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. (b) When any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Multiple studies have reviewed the use of crosswalks at uncontrolled intersections and found that they are not a safety strategy when used without other safety enhancements. Therefore, when considering how to provide safer conditions at pedestrian crossings, it is important to consider the use of a marked crosswalk along with other crosswalk enhancements.

In addition to high-visibility crosswalk markings, advance yield lines, and pedestrian signing (“Stop here for pedestrians” signs in the street, for example), there are other possible crosswalk enhancements, including but not limited to the following:

- Overhead lighting (page 18)
- Raised crosswalks (page 3)
- Raised median islands (page 9)
- Pedestrian hybrid beacons (page 13)
- Curb extensions (page 11)
- Rectangular rapid flashing beacons (page 16)

It should be noted that like any warning traffic control device, crosswalks may not work as effectively if they are overused or placed at locations with low pedestrian activity.

Crosswalks and Crosswalk Enhancements (3 of 6)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

The addition of marked crosswalks alone, without other more substantial roadway treatments, has not been found to reduce pedestrian crash rates, and may present an increased crash risk on multi-lane roads with vehicle volumes above 12,000 vehicles per day (unless other safety enhancements—such as traffic and pedestrian signals or raised medians—are also installed). Therefore, when providing pedestrian crossings, it is important to also consider crosswalk enhancements.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Crosswalks with vehicle stop lines should be considered at all signalized intersections where an engineering study finds that pedestrians would benefit. Crosswalks clearly indicate to motor vehicle drivers where they should stop; the crosswalks then delineate a path for pedestrians.

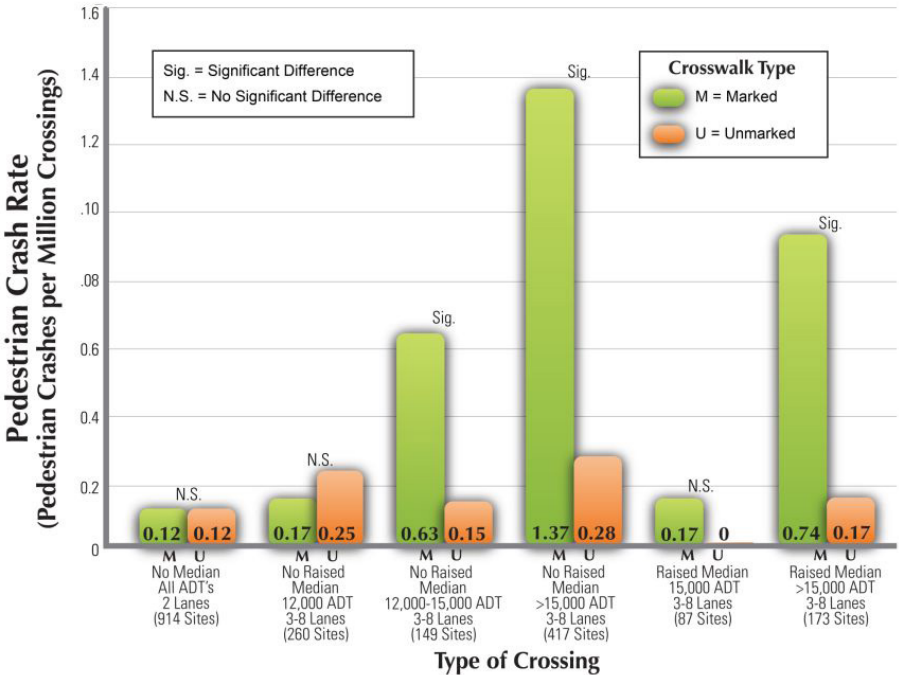
Marked crosswalks at uncontrolled intersections without related enhancements are unlikely to increase pedestrian safety. Marked crosswalks have been found to be as safe as unmarked crosswalks on two-lane roads and multi-lane roads that have average daily traffic (ADT) rates below 12,000 vehicles per day. However, on the multi-lane roads (three or more vehicle lanes) with higher volumes (above 12,000 ADT), other crosswalk enhancements should be considered.

MnDOT’s Crosswalk Installation Decision flowchart, published in the *Guidance for Installation of Pedestrian Crosswalks on Minnesota State Highways*, can be used to determine the appropriate application of crosswalks at a given location.

TYPICAL COSTS

The following are typical approximate costs for installing crosswalk facilities:

- Standard (parallel-line) crosswalk: \$100 to \$200 each
- Ladder crosswalk: \$300
- High-visibility crosswalk: \$600 to \$5,000
- Patterned, stamped, or stained concrete crossings can cost up to \$3,000
- Typical signing and markings for a parallel-line crosswalk costs approximately \$2,000
- Maintenance of the markings must also be considered.



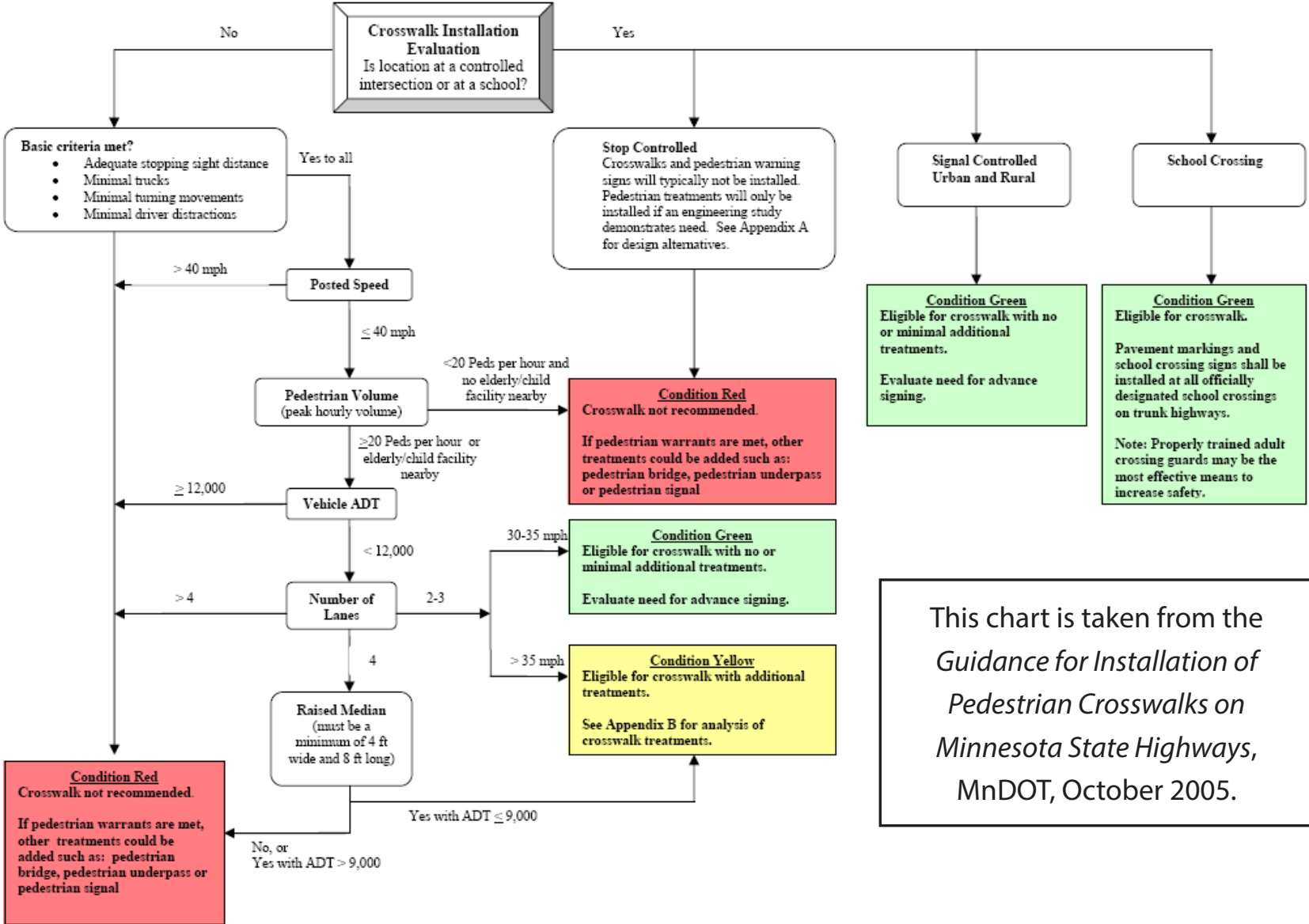
Source: Charles V. Zegeer, et al., *Safety Effects Of Marked Vs. Unmarked Crosswalks At Uncontrolled Locations: Executive Summary And Recommended Guidelines, 1996-2001*, http://www.walkinginfo.org/pdf/fr&d/crosswalk_021302.pdf



Crosswalks and Crosswalk Enhancements (4 of 6)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

Crosswalk Installation Decision Flowchart



This chart is taken from the *Guidance for Installation of Pedestrian Crosswalks on Minnesota State Highways*, MnDOT, October 2005.

Source: *Guidance for Installation of Pedestrian Crosswalks on Minnesota State Highways*, MnDOT, October 2005. www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/trafficeng/files/ped_guide.pdf



Crosswalks and Crosswalk Enhancements (5 of 6)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

PAVEMENT MARKING LIFE CYCLE

MnDOT’s Traffic Engineering Manual provides expected replacement schedules for pavement markings (Chapter 7) that can be used to determine ongoing costs for crosswalks.

Material	Average Daily Traffic	
	<1500	>1500
Latex Paint	> 1 year	1 year
Epoxy (Plural component Liquid)	> 5 years	3-5 years
Preformed Polymer Tape	> 5 years	> 5 years

Multi-Lane Divided or Undivided Roadways

Remaining Pavement Surface Life ¹ (years)	Edgeline	Centerline, Lane Line, and Special Markings ²
0 - 2	Paint	Paint
2 - 6	Epoxy	Epoxy
6 +	Epoxy	Tape ³

- 1 Anticipated life of existing pavement is based on planned projects and anticipated life of surface is based on preventive maintenance plans.
- 2 Special markings include transverse markings (i.e. stop bars and crosswalks), gore markings, and word and symbol markings.
- 3 Preformed Polymer Tape shall utilize the inlaid method on both bituminous and concrete pavements (including bridge decks)




Two-Lane, Two-Way Roadways

Remaining Pavement Surface Life ¹ (years)	Edgeline	Centerline	Edgeline	Centerline
0 - 2	Paint	Paint	Paint	Paint
2 +	Paint	Paint	Epoxy	Epoxy

- 1 Anticipated life of existing pavement is based on planned projects and anticipated life of surface is based on preventive maintenance plans.

Uncontrolled Crosswalk Criteria

	≤ 9,000 ADT			> 9,000 to ≤ 12,000 ADT			> 12,000 to ≤ 15,000 ADT			> 15,000 ADT		
	≤ 30 mph	35 mph	≥ 40 mph	≤ 30 mph	35 mph	≥ 40 mph	≤ 30 mph	35 mph	≥ 40 mph	≤ 30 mph	35 mph	≥ 40 mph
2 Lanes			Light Blue			Light Blue			Light Blue		Light Blue	Dark Blue
3 Lanes			Light Blue		Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue
++4 Lanes Raised Median ^c			Light Blue		Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue
++4 Lanes No Median		Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue

-  Candidate sites for marked crosswalks. Marked crosswalks must be installed carefully and selectively. Before installing new marked crosswalks, an engineering study is needed to determine whether the location is suitable for a marked crosswalk. For an engineering study, a site review may be sufficient at some locations, while a more in-depth study of pedestrian volume, vehicle speed, sight distance, vehicle mix, etc. may be needed at other sites. It is recommended that a minimum of 20 pedestrian crossings per peak hour (or 15 or more elderly and/or child pedestrians) exist at a location before placing a high priority on the installation of a marked crosswalk alone.
-  Possible candidate sites for marked crosswalks. Potential increase in pedestrian crash risk may occur if marked crosswalks are added without other pedestrian facility enhancements. These locations should be closely monitored and may be considered for enhancements as feasible.
-  Marked crosswalks alone are insufficient, since pedestrian crash risk may be increased due to providing marked crosswalks alone. Consider using other treatments, such as traffic-calming treatments, traffic signals with pedestrian signals where warranted, or other substantial crossing improvement to improve crossing safety for pedestrians.

- a. These guidelines include intersection and midblock locations with no traffic signals or stop signs on the approach to the crossing. They do not apply to school crossings. A two-way center turn lane is not considered a median. Crosswalks should not be installed at locations that could present an increased safety risk to pedestrians, such as where there is poor sight distance, complex or confusing designs, a substantial volume of heavy trucks, or other dangers, without first providing adequate design features and/or traffic control devices. Adding crosswalks alone will not make crossings safer, nor will they necessarily result in more vehicles stopping for pedestrians. Whether or not marked crosswalks are installed, it is important to consider other pedestrian facility enhancements (e.g., raised median, traffic signal, roadway narrowing, enhanced overhead lighting, traffic-calming measures, curb extensions), as needed, to improve the safety of the crossing. These are general recommendations; good engineering judgment should be used in individual cases for deciding where to install crosswalks.
- b. Where the posted speed limit or 85th percentile speed exceeds 40 mph, marked crosswalks alone should not be used at uncontrolled locations.
- c. The raised median or refuge island must be at least 4 ft. (1.2 m) wide and 6 ft. (1.8 m) long to adequately serve as a refuge area for pedestrians.

Source: City of Northfield Transportation Plan



Crosswalks and Crosswalk Enhancements (6 of 6)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

DESIGN FEATURES

Agencies considering use of a marked crosswalk as a means to address pedestrian safety should also consider a package of improvements that include the following proven, effective strategies: supplemental signs, advance yield lines and signing, overhead lighting, curb extensions, and/or median islands. In-pavement lights are another potential strategy, however they may have ongoing maintenance issues due the climate and snow plow damage. Another strategy is raised crosswalks, where the crosswalk is higher than the roadway, to encourage driver’s to slow down. These, however, are not allowed by statute on state aid roadways. Where traffic and pedestrian conditions dictate, pedestrian crossings may also warrant a pedestrian hybrid beacon or a rectangular rapid flashing beacon.

BEST PRACTICE

At all signalized intersections where an engineering study finds the presence of pedestrian activity, crosswalks should be considered because of the benefits, which include making it clear to vehicles where they should stop and delineating a path for pedestrians. Crosswalks at uncontrolled intersections should be limited and include other features, such as medians and curb extensions, when possible.

SOURCES

Best Practices for Traffic Control at Regional Trail Crossings. 2011. Collaborative Effort of Twin Cities Road and Trail Managing Agencies. July 26.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2005. *Safety Effects of Marked Versus Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations Final Report and Recommended Guidelines*. FHWA, FHWA-HRT-04-100. September.

Minnesota Department of Transportation Metro Traffic Engineering. 2005. *Guidance for Installation of Pedestrian Crosswalks on Minnesota State Highways*. October.

Minnesota Local Road Research Board. 2006. *Bicycle and Pedestrian Toolbox*. Report 200602.

Minnesota Local Road Research Board. 2009a. *Evaluating Active and Passive Crosswalk Warnings at Unsignalized Intersections and Mid-Block Sites.*, Minnesota Local Road Research Board, Report 200903TS.

Minnesota Local Road Research Board. 2009b. *Warning Efficacy of Active Versus Passive Warnings for Unsignalized Intersection and Mid-Block Pedestrian Crosswalks*, Minnesota Local Road Research Board, Report 200903.

Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. 2010a. *Association Between Roadway Intersection Characteristics and Pedestrian Crash Risk in Alameda County, California*. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, ISSN 0361-1981, Volume 2198.

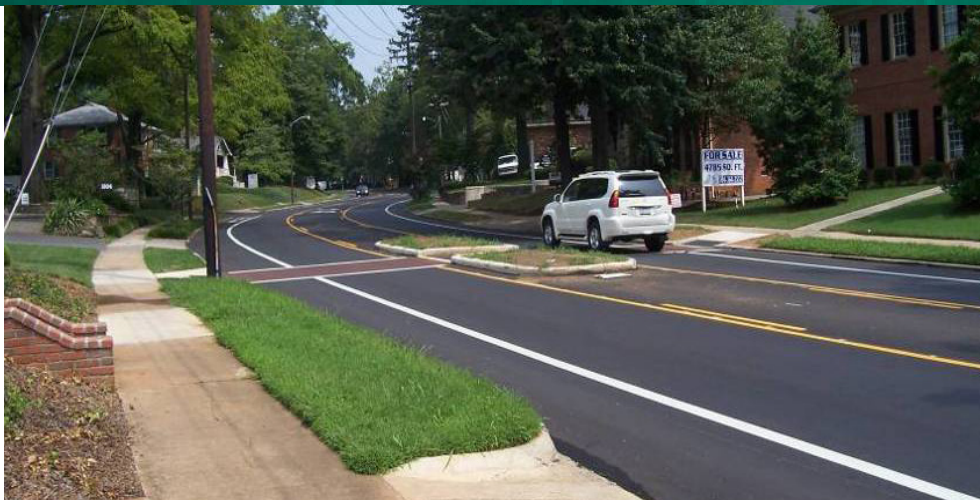
Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. 2010b. *Safety Effectiveness of Leading Pedestrian Intervals Evaluated by a Before-After Study*, Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, ISSN 0361-1981, Volume 2198.

City of Northfield Transportation Plan. 2008. *Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update*.



Medians and Crossing Islands (1 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES



DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

Medians and crossing islands (also known as refuge islands or center islands) are raised areas that are constructed in the center portion of a roadway that can serve as a place of refuge for pedestrians who cross the road mid-block or at an intersection. After crossing to the center island, pedestrians wait for motorists to stop or for an adequate gap in traffic before crossing the second half of the street.



SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Medians provide a simplified crossing maneuver by allowing pedestrians to concentrate on only one direction of traffic at a time, creating the equivalent of two narrower one-way streets instead of one wide two-way street. Medians also provide space for landscaping that can be used to change the visual cues of the roadway and reduce driver speeds. Medians that are only painted do not provide the same safety benefits as raised ones. Having raised medians, or median islands, typically reduces motor-vehicle crash rates (such as head-on crashes) as well as pedestrian crash rates.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Medians and raised islands are a PROVEN safety strategy. One study found a 39 to 46 percent reduction in pedestrian-vehicle crashes at unsignalized crosswalks on multi-lane roads (Zegeer et al., 2002).

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Raised medians are most applicable on multilane arterial roadways, and particularly those with high traffic volumes (average daily traffic rates of 10,000 vehicles per day and above).

TYPICAL COSTS

The cost for adding a raised median can range from \$15,000 to \$30,000 per 100 feet, depending on the design, site conditions, and whether the median can be added as part of a larger reconstruction or utility project.

DESIGN FEATURES

Continuous raised medians may not be appropriate or physically possible at all locations. They may need to be weighed against other roadway features such as wider sidewalks, bicycle lanes, landscaping buffers, or on-street parking.

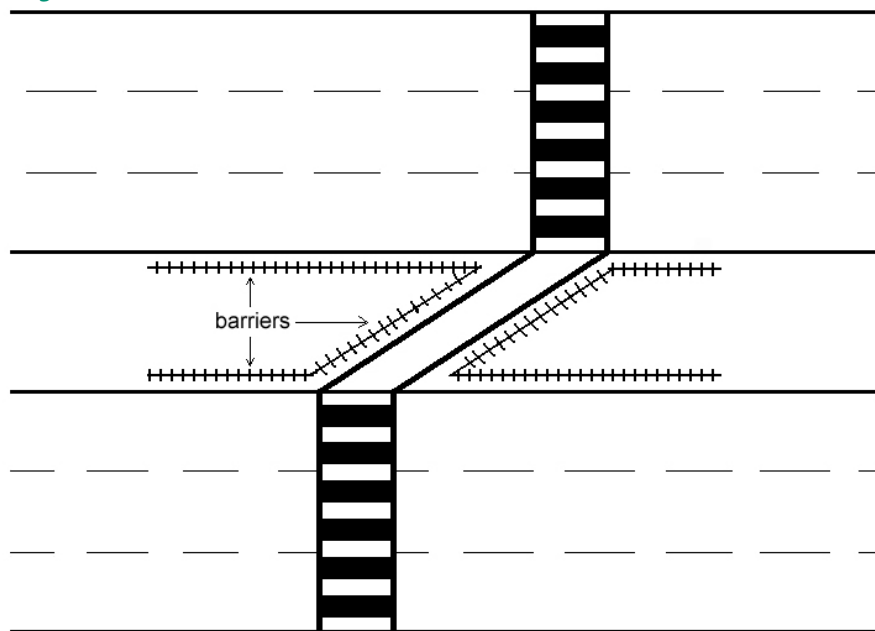
Medians and Crossing Islands (2 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

Also, short sections of median at high-priority crossings, such as schools and parks, at both intersections and mid-block locations provide benefit to the pedestrians crossing the street. Pedestrian islands may be appropriate at unsignalized and signalized crossing locations.

In order to accommodate all pedestrian users, the raised median must be fully accessible by ramps or cut through, and should provide tactile cues for pedestrians with visual impairments to indicate the border between the pedestrian refuge area and the motorized vehicle roadway. Landscaping

Angled Crosswalk in Median - Plan View



SOURCES

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2005. *Safety Effects of Marked Versus Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations Final Report and Recommended Guidelines*. FHWA-HRT-04-100. September.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). *Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas*. <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/fhwa_sa_12_011.htm>.

Zegeer, C., Stewart, J., and Huang, H. 2002. *Safety Effects of Marked versus Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations: Executive Summary and Recommended Guidelines*. Report No. FHWA-RD-01-075, Federal Highway Administration, Washington, D.C. March.

in medians should not obstruct the visibility between pedestrians and approaching vehicles. Winter maintenance should be considered to keep the pedestrian route clear of snow.

Crossing islands may be constructed to direct pedestrians to walk at an angle to the right, so they can more easily see oncoming motor vehicle traffic to their right. This design feature is intended to reduce the likelihood of a pedestrian collision in the second half of the street. An illustration of a crossing island that directs pedestrians to the right is shown in the illustration to the left.

BEST PRACTICE

The use of raised median islands to simplify crossing maneuvers has been proven to be an effective technique to improve pedestrian safety, especially on multi-lane arterials with traffic volumes greater than 10,000 vehicles per day.



Curb Extensions (1 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES



DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

A curb extension is an extension of the sidewalk into the roadway that reduces the crossing distance of a roadway for pedestrians and their exposure to vehicular traffic.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Curb extensions can improve the safety of pedestrian crossings by reducing the pedestrian crossing distance, improving the visibility of pedestrians (by



*Curb Extensions, City of Minneapolis
Source: City of Minneapolis Pedestrian Master Plan*



Source: www.pedbikeimages.org / Dan Burden

positioning them in front of parked cars, traffic, signs, streetlights, etc.), and reducing the time and distance that pedestrians are in the street. In addition, drivers are encouraged to reduce speeds at intersections or midblock locations with curb extensions, because the restricted street width sends a visual cue to drivers and the tight curb radii results in slower turning speeds. The reduction in the street cross section caused by curb extensions can also eliminate improper passing of turning vehicles by through movement vehicles. Curb extensions usually do not extend into travel lanes, bicycle lanes, or shoulders. On streets with parking, the curb extension should typically extend to the edge of the parked vehicles. The turning needs of larger vehicles such as trucks and school buses, need to be considered in curb extension design.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Curb extensions are a TRIED safety strategy. They shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians, reduce the speeds of turning vehicles, and improve the sight distance between motorists and crossing pedestrians. The specific effects on pedestrian crashes, however, have not been quantified.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Curb extensions are appropriate where there is an on-street parking lane. The curb extension moves the parked vehicles farther back from the intersection, improving sight lines and improving visibility of pedestrians near parked vehicles.

TYPICAL COSTS

Curb extensions cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per corner, depending on design and site conditions. Drainage is usually the most significant determinant of costs. If the curb extension area is large and special pavement and street furnishings and plantings are included, costs could be higher. Costs can go up significantly

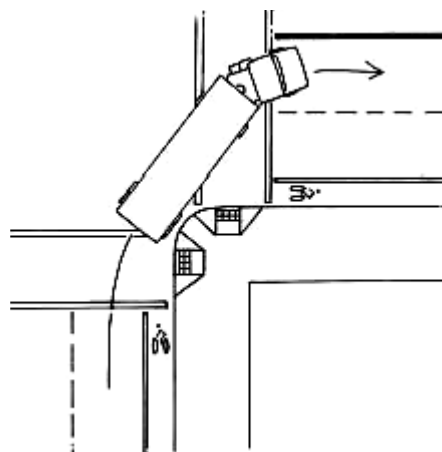
Curb Extensions (2 of 2)

if something major such as a signal mast arm or controller box is moved. Curb ramps costs typically range from \$500 to \$1,600 each. The approximate cost of truncated domes is about \$40 per square foot, or \$300 each and is included in the overall costs above.

DESIGN FEATURES

Typically, the ideal implementation of curb extensions is on a roadway with a parking lane and where transit and or bicyclists would be traveling outside of the curb edge for the entire length of the street.

The amount of heavy truck or bus traffic should be considered when designing curb extensions. However, it is important to consider that most trucks and buses can make tight turns at low speeds, which is desirable at an intersection with heavy pedestrian usage. It is also not always necessary for a roadway to be designed so that a vehicle is expected to turn from a right lane to another right lane—that is, the vehicles can often encroach into adjacent lanes safely where volumes are low and/or vehicle speeds are slow (example shown in sketch).



Emergency access is often improved through the use of curb extensions, as intersections are kept clear of parked cars. Drivers of fire engines and other emergency vehicles can climb a curb, whereas they would not be able to

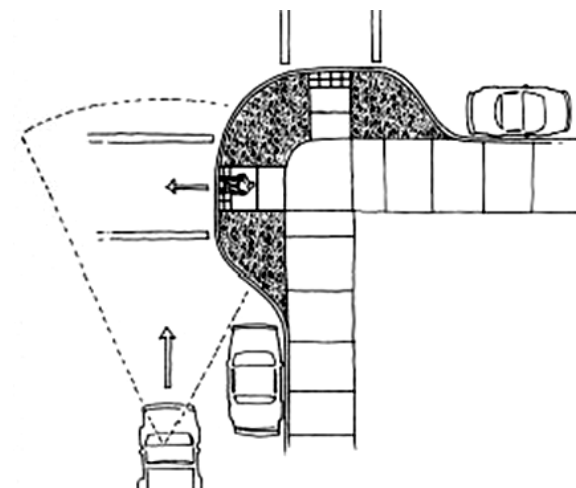
SOURCES

Federal Highway Administration. 2005. Pedestrian Safety Impacts of Curb Extensions: A Case Study. <http://contextsensitivesolutions.org/content/reading/impacts_curb_ext/>. September, 2012

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

move around a parked car. In addition, at mid-block locations, curb extensions can keep fire hydrants clear of parked cars and make them more accessible.

Curb extensions can be used to place landscaping and street furniture, which is especially beneficial where sidewalks are otherwise too narrow. However, care should be taken to ensure that street furniture and landscaping in the curb extension do not block motorists' view of pedestrians and vice-versa.



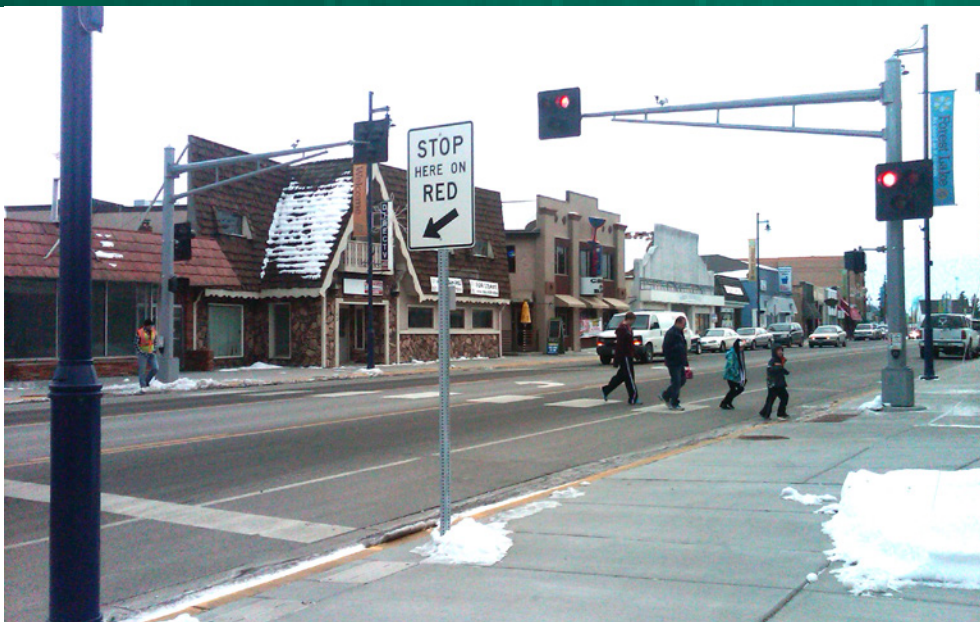
Stormwater runoff should be considered and additional catch basins may be required at locations with curb extensions. Where the crowns of the street are steep, curb extensions may actually go uphill because the new curb is higher than the original curb. If poorly designed, this configuration can result in puddles on the sidewalk. For winter maintenance, providing a marker delineating the extension can help plow truck drivers properly navigate around the extension.

BEST PRACTICE

Curb Extensions improve pedestrian safety by reducing the crossing distance and improving sight lines between pedestrians and drivers. The most common usage of curb extensions is to shadow on street curb parking along urban arterials.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon System (1 of 3)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES



DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

A pedestrian hybrid beacon system, also known as a high-intensity activated crosswalk (HAWK), is a beacon installed at mid-block crosswalks. It consists of both a vehicle beacon with two side-by-side red lenses and a single yellow lens below the red, and also typical pedestrian signal heads with a WALK signal. The beacon remains dark until the pushbutton is activated by a pedestrian and the beacon flashes a sequence of amber warning beacons followed by a red STOP beacon, a message that tells motorists to stop for pedestrians at the crosswalk.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

The purpose of the pedestrian hybrid beacon system is to provide gaps in roadway traffic at a crosswalk that allow pedestrians to cross safely. The crosswalk treatment is a tried safety strategy with up to 97 percent vehicle compliance of stopping at the crosswalk during the steady red beacon phase.

A 69 percent reduction in vehicle pedestrian crashes was found in a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) study, and it was also found to be associated with a statistically significant 29 percent decrease in all crashes. It should be noted that like any warning traffic control device, the pedestrian hybrid beacon system may not work as effectively if it is used at too many locations with low pedestrian activity, or if it is not warranted.

Drivers		Pedestrians	
... will see this	... will do this	... will see this	... will do this
	Proceed with Caution		Push the Button to Cross
	Slow Down (Pedestrian has activated the push button)		Wait
	Prepare to Stop		Continue to Wait
	STOP! (Pedestrian in Crosswalk)		Start Crossing
	STOP! Proceed with Caution if Clear		Continue Crossing (Countdown Signal)
	Proceed if Clear		Push the Button to Cross

*Pedestrian hybrid beacon phases
Source: Michele Weisbart*

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Due to the low number of installations and research on the pedestrian hybrid beacon system, it is considered a TRIED strategy, but with promising results, including the 69 percent reduction in vehicle-pedestrian crashes in one study and a 29 percent reduction in total crashes.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

As stated in Minnesota's 2011 *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD), pedestrian hybrid beacons should only be used in conjunction with a marked crosswalk and not at an intersection, because they are not intended to assist vehicles on a minor road with entering or crossing a major

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon System (2 of 3)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

road. However, the limitation of the pedestrian hybrid beacon to be used only at midblock locations is currently under discussion within the industry, and consideration is being given to its use at minor intersections.

The beacon is intended solely to assist pedestrians.

“Standard:

If used, pedestrian hybrid beacons shall be used in conjunction with signs and pavement markings to warn and control traffic at locations where pedestrians enter or cross a street or highway. A pedestrian hybrid beacon shall only be installed at a marked crosswalk.”

—MNMUTCD Chapter 4F

Typically, pedestrian hybrid beacons are used at locations where there are limited gaps in traffic for pedestrians to more safely cross the roadway or where vehicle speeds are too high to allow pedestrians to cross safely. The beacons should be used at locations with high volumes of pedestrian traffic, such as near transit stops or schools.

As with any new safety strategy, public outreach is needed to provide information on how the beacon operates and what drivers and pedestrians should do when encountering it.

TYPICAL COSTS

The costs for a typical beacon system can range from approximately \$50,000 to \$120,000, depending on site conditions and what equipment is already installed. Operating costs are approximately \$4,000 per year. A pedestrian hybrid beacon was installed in St. Cloud, Minnesota, in 2009 at a cost of about \$80,000, which included the costs of two mast arms, push button stations, a signal controller, and signs and markings.

DESIGN FEATURES

The pedestrian hybrid beacon system includes both vehicular beacons for roadway traffic and pedestrian signals (WALK and DON'T WALK). The vehicular beacons are suspended above the roadway with two round red lenses side-by-side, above a single yellow lens. There must be at least two beacons facing each vehicular approach to the crossing. A stop line should also be installed for each approach to the crosswalk.

When a pedestrian at the crosswalk presses the pedestrian push buttons, the vehicular beacon changes from a blank-out display to a flashing amber phase, then displays steady yellow, and finally steady red over a period of several seconds. While the vehicular beacon is red, the pedestrian signals changes from the DON'T WALK or hand display to the WALK indication (the WALK message or the walking-person with a countdown timer). During the pedestrian crossing phase the two vehicle beacons will alternate on and off, or wig-wag, red. The pedestrian signal will then display a flashing DON'T WALK (flashing hand). Then, the beacon facing motorists goes dark and the pedestrian signal remains in steady DON'T WALK (steady hand) display until the signal is activated by another pedestrian.

In addition to being used at crosswalks, pedestrian hybrid beacons may also be applied to crossing on multi-use trails, where beacons can be activated by pedestrians or bicyclists.



Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon System (3 of 3)

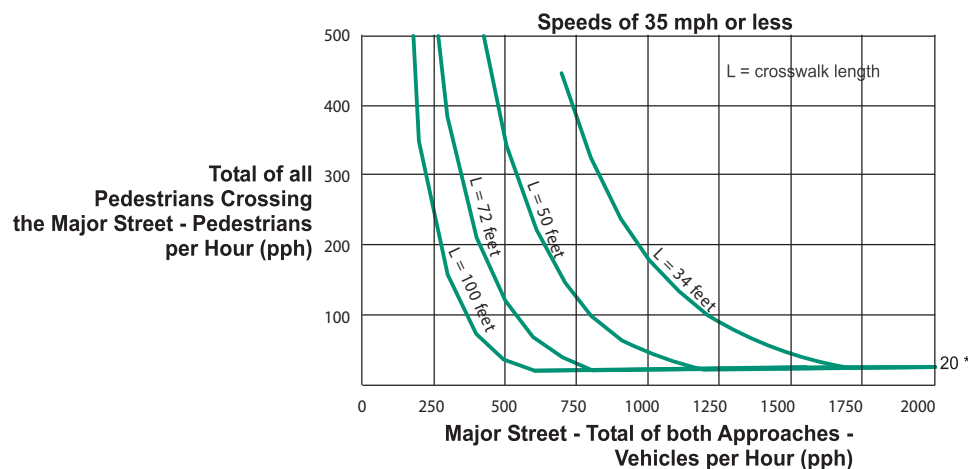
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

Guidance is provided in the 2011 MN MUTCD for appropriate volumes that should be reached before installation should be considered. The figure below is for low-speed (35 mph or less) roadways and the figure to the right is for high-speed (more than 35 mph) roadways.

BEST PRACTICE

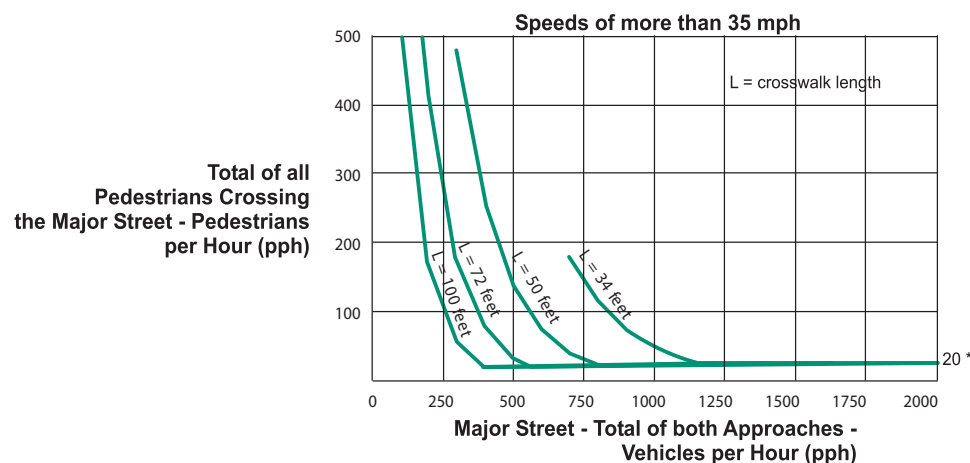
The pedestrian hybrid beacon can be an effective pedestrian safety strategy when used at appropriate locations (high rate of pedestrian activity with high volumes of crossing traffic that do not allow sufficient gaps in traffic for pedestrians to cross the roadway safely), and are applicable at mid-block locations.

Guideline for the Installation of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons on Low-Speed Roadways



* Note: 20 pph applies as the lower threshold volume

Guideline for the Installation of Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons on High-Speed Roadways



* Note: 20 pph applies as the lower threshold volume

SOURCES

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2009. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways*. Washington, D.C.

Minnesota Local Road Research Board. 2006. *Bicycle and Pedestrian Toolbox*. Report 200602.

Minnesota Local Road Research Board. 2009a. *Evaluating Active and Passive Crosswalk Warnings at Unsignalized Intersections and Mid-Block Sites*. Report 200903TS.

Minnesota Local Road Research Board. 2009b. *Warning Efficacy of Active Versus Passive Warnings for Unsignalized Intersection and Mid-Block Pedestrian Crosswalks*. Report 200903.

Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. 2010. *Association Between Roadway Intersection Characteristics and Pedestrian Crash Risk in Alameda County, California*. ISSN 0361-1981. Volume 2198.



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (1 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES



These high compliance rates are similar to a full traffic signal and a pedestrian hybrid beacon system, both of which stop traffic with steady red signal indications. This study also found that drivers were yielding or slowing down further in advance of the crosswalk with RRFB than with standard round yellow flashing beacons.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Due to the low number of installations and research on the RRFBs, they are considered a TRIED strategy, but with promising results including an increase from 16 percent yielding compliance for a standard yellow overhead beacon to 78 percent yielding compliance with the installation of a RRFB (Report FHWA-HRT-10-043).

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

A rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) has two rapidly and alternatively flashing rectangular yellow indications attached to supplement the pedestrian warning sign (W11-2) or school crossing sign (S1-1) at a crosswalk. The beacon, when activated manually by a pedestrian or passively by a pedestrian detection system, uses an irregular flash pattern similar to emergency flashers on police vehicles, an alternating “wig-wag” flashing sequence (left light on, then right light on) with a pulsing light source.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

The city of St. Petersburg, Florida completed experimentation with RRFB's at 18 pedestrian crosswalks across uncontrolled approaches including before and after data. The results showed high rates of motorist “yield to pedestrians” compliance, between 80 and 100 percent. These rates are in comparison to far lower rates (in the 15 to 20 percent range) for standard beacons. These high rates of yielding were even sustained two years after the installation of the RRFBs.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

The purpose of the RRFB is to increase driver awareness of crosswalks that are not across approaches controlled by YIELD signs, STOP signs, or traffic control signals. They can be used on crosswalks across the approach to and/or egress from a roundabout.

As with any new safety strategy implementation, effort should be made to perform outreach to the public to provide information on how the beacon operates and what drivers and pedestrians should do when encountering it.

TYPICAL COSTS

Costs for the installation of two units (one on either side of the street) range from \$10,000 to \$15,000. This cost includes all the signs and lights plus the solar panels for powering the unit. The costs vary depending on the type of activation, either manually by the pedestrian or passive detection.

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (2 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES



Source: FHWA

BEST PRACTICE

“The RRFB offers significant potential safety and cost benefits, because it achieves very high rates of compliance at a very low relative cost in comparison to other more restrictive devices that provide comparable results, such as full midblock signalization.” – FHWA

DESIGN FEATURES

The installation of a RRFB needs to include two units, one on the right-hand side and one on the left-hand side of the roadway. It is also recommended to consider placing an additional unit within a median if available. There are specifications for the flash rate, with 70 to 80 periods of flashing per minute and with one of the lights emitting two slow pulses of light during its “wig-wag” alternating sequence, and the other emitting four rapid pulses. The lights should be normally dark, and simultaneously start their alternating rapid flashing indications when activated as well as stop simultaneously.

The lights themselves should be approximately five inches wide by two inches high aligned horizontally and located between the bottom of the warning sign and the top of the supplemental downward diagonal arrow plaque.



SOURCES

Effects of Yellow Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons on Yielding at Multilane Uncontrolled Crosswalks, FHWA, FHWA-HRT-10-043, September 2010.

MUTCD – Interim Approval for Optional Use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons. FHWA, July 16, 2008.



Crosswalk Lighting (1 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES



Source: www.pedbikeimages.org/ / Ron Bloomquist

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

This strategy involves the installation of street lights at intersections and crosswalks. In practice, the design of the street lights can vary from low-level, pedestrian-scale decorative lighting to a typical highway intersection style that consists of a luminaire mounted on a davit arm on top of a 30- to 40-foot vertical pole. Street lights can also be located at individual intersections or crosswalks or can be continuous along roadway corridors.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Street lights can contribute to safety by providing an advance warning to drivers that they are approaching a point of potential conflict with crossing pedestrians and bicyclists. Driver recognition of pedestrians and bicyclists is also improved because street lights illuminate them when it is dark.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

The use of street lights at rural intersections has been studied extensively and is considered to be a PROVEN effective strategy for reducing a variety of crash types across a range of crash severities, including the following: nighttime crashes; head-on crashes; road departure crashes; vehicle-pedestrian and

vehicle-bicycle crashes; and fatal and serious injury crashes. Research suggests that the crash reduction is the result of the advance warning that is provided to the drivers on the major road; the lighting warns drivers that they are approaching a decision point where they need to pay closer attention because of potential conflicts associated with turning maneuvers.

However, there has been no research into the effectiveness of street lights relative to reducing pedestrian crashes at urban intersections or along urban roadways. This lack of research on the application of street lights to address pedestrian crashes in urban areas may be reflective of circumstances in the Minneapolis–St. Paul metropolitan area, where 60 percent of severe vehicle-pedestrian and vehicle-bicycle crashes occur during daylight hours and 36 percent occur at night, but at locations that already have street lights in place. The subset of pedestrian and bicycle crashes in urban areas that would be susceptible to correction by the installation of street lights is relatively small.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Isolated intersections with crosswalks that are not along continuously lit roadways and mid-block crosswalks are prime candidates for installation of street lights. In both cases, the street lights would draw attention to what might be an unexpected situation for motorists—pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the road in the dark.

TYPICAL COSTS

The cost of installing street lights ranges from around \$10,000 per intersection for a luminaire on a davit arm on a wooden utility pole to more than \$40,000 for MnDOT-style intersection lighting. Decorative lighting can cost up to \$1,500 per light for continuous lighting. The initial costs for installing street lighting are considered eligible for both federal and state funding.

Crosswalk Lighting (2 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

The cost for power is approximately \$30 per month for a single light at an intersection, and is typically not eligible for federal or state funding.

DESIGN FEATURES

A typical street light consists of a luminaire (the lighting fixture), a davit arm that extends the luminaire out towards the roadway and connects to the vertical pole, and in most cases a 30- or 40-foot pole. The least expensive installation would attach the davit arm to a wooden utility pole. A more expensive and more attractive option would use a metal pole. Still more expensive options could involve decorative luminaires and poles.

Along high-speed and high-volume arterials, the installation of street lights may require the use of breakaway poles and bases in order to reduce the severity of vehicle crashes involving the street lights.

New research summarized in FHWA's *Informational Report on Lighting Design for Midblock Crosswalks* provides some additional information on the placement of crosswalk lighting to maximize the visibility of pedestrians. See examples of preferred lighting locations in the figures to the right.

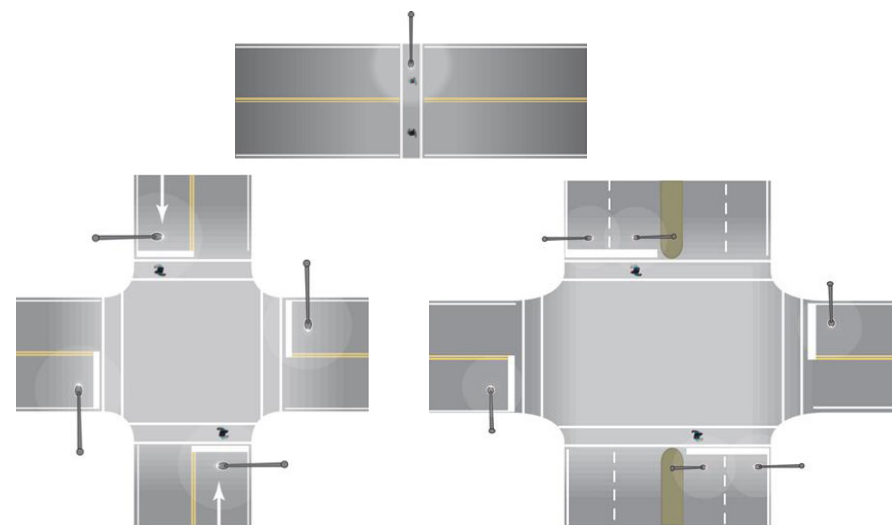
CONSIDERATIONS

While street light installation costs may be eligible to be covered by federal and state funds, ongoing maintenance and power costs are not eligible. One approach to addressing ongoing costs is use of an innovative contracting approach that includes installation as well as the maintenance and power for a specified period of time as part of the construction project contract.

SOURCES

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). "Roadway Lighting Revisited", Hason, P., Lutkevich, P. May/June 2002 Public Roads Magazine.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). "Informational Report on Lighting Design for Midblock Crosswalks", FHWA-HRT-08-053, April 2008.
- Isebrands, H., S. Hallmark, H. Preston, and R. Storm. 2006. *Safety Impacts of Street Lighting at Isolated Rural Intersections—Part II*. MnDOT.
- Preston, H. and T. Schoenecker. 1999. *Safety Impacts of Street Lighting at Isolated Rural Intersections*. Report 1999-17. MnDOT and Minnesota Local Road Research Board.

Solar-powered lighting fixtures offer another option for reducing power costs. However, the initial costs of solar fixtures are approximately twice the cost of traditional lights. Solar fixtures also require back-up battery packs that require periodic replacement. However, the annual cost of replacing the battery packs is greater than the typical annual cost of power for lighting an intersection.



BEST PRACTICE

Along urban and suburban corridors without continuous street lighting, the installation of crosswalk lighting provides a valuable visual cue for drivers. The crosswalk lighting is an advanced warning to pay particular attention because they are approaching a location where something is different – the possibility of a pedestrian in the roadway. Properly designed street lights improve driver's visibility to pedestrians during low light conditions.

Traffic Signals (1 of 3)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES



DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

Traffic signals assign right-of-way to various traffic movements at intersections. Signal design has typically focused on the operating characteristics of motorized vehicles. Like the pedestrian hybrid beacons, signals are effective at creating gaps in the traffic allowing pedestrians to cross, however, unlike pedestrian hybrid beacons, signals have turning conflicts and long cycles. Traffic signals are a mobility treatment with benefits for pedestrians and bicyclists in some cases.

Pedestrians and bicyclists have considerably different operating characteristics than motor vehicles. Therefore, in locations that accommodate a variety of transportation modes, agencies should consider adjusting traffic signal operations. The speeds and behaviors of bicyclists typically using an

intersection along with the roadway classification should be considered when designing signal elements (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials [AASHTO] 2012).

Two features associated with traffic signal installations have been found to reduce pedestrian crashes—countdown timers and leading pedestrian intervals. Countdown timers are flashing timers, usually installed with pedestrian indication lights, which provide the number of seconds remaining during the pedestrian phase. A leading pedestrian interval provides the pedestrian walk 2 or 3 seconds ahead of the vehicle green, allowing pedestrians a head start and the ability to enter the crosswalk before right-turning vehicles can turn into the crosswalk.



One of the most effective measures to reduce pedestrian crashes involving left-turning motorists is the use of separate left turn phasing for motorists. During each signal cycle, motorists are given a left turn green arrow (followed by a yellow arrow) while pedestrians have a steady DON'T WALK display. After the yellow arrow, left-turning motorists get a red left-turn arrow, and pedestrians get a WALK display.

Exclusive or scramble pedestrian signal timing refers to signal timing that is sometimes used in urban areas where motor vehicles are stopped in all directions simultaneous for a phase of each signal cycle, and pedestrians can cross the street in any direction (including diagonally). However, such timing has been found to be effective primarily on downtown streets with high volumes of pedestrians and low-to-moderate volumes of motor vehicles. This timing scheme should be used with caution, however, because it can increase motorist and pedestrian delays.

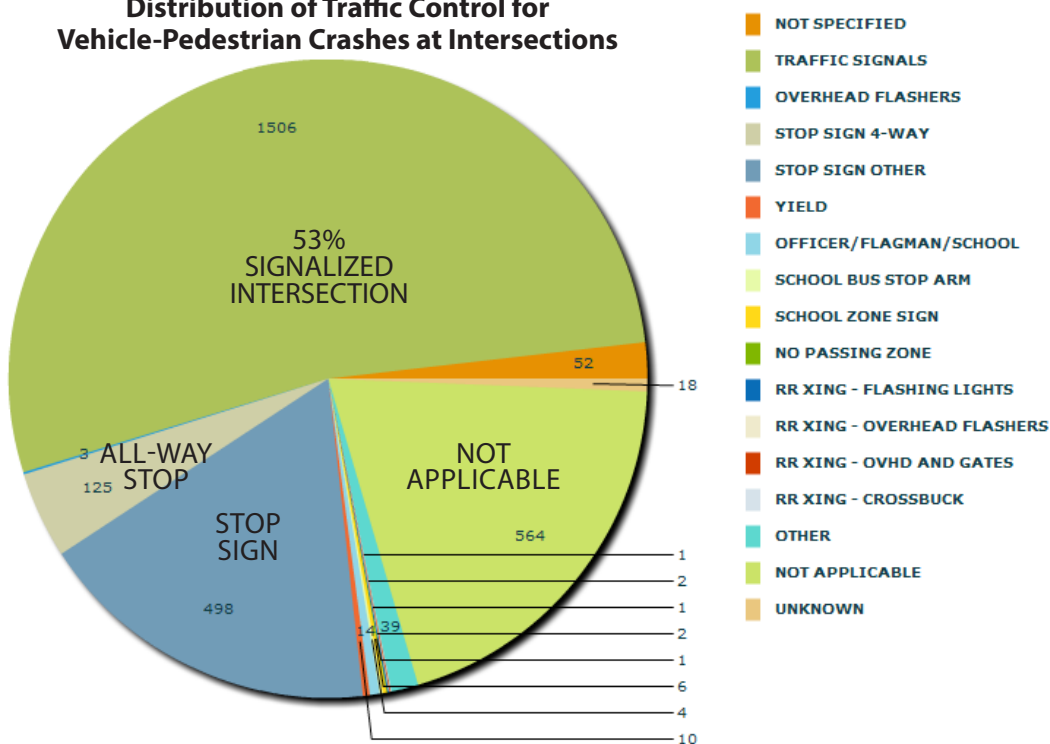
Traffic Signals (2 of 3)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Review of the over 4,000 vehicle-pedestrian crashes at intersections in Minnesota between 2007 and 2011 found that over half of the crashes occurred at intersections. Of the intersection crashes, 53 percent occurred at signalized intersections.

Distribution of Traffic Control for Vehicle-Pedestrian Crashes at Intersections



Graphic Source: Minnesota Crash Mapping and Analysis Tool (MnCMAT), 2007–2011.

As a result, traffic signals by themselves are not proven safety devices for pedestrians. The most likely explanation for this is a combination of lack of attention and failure of motorists to yield to pedestrians, as well as a lack of caution and signal compliance by pedestrians in some cases.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Leading pedestrian intervals and pedestrian countdown timers are TRIED safety strategies because of their newness and limited research, but results are promising so far. A 2010 study in the *Journal of the Transportation Research Board* found an up-to-60 percent reduction in vehicle-pedestrian crashes at intersections that use the leading pedestrian interval strategy (Transportation Research Board 2009).

A 2012 study by Chen, et. al., in New York City found that a five percent reduction in pedestrian crashes was associated with converting to leading pedestrian intervals. The same study found that providing exclusive left turn phasing reduced pedestrian crashes by 43 percent.

A study in San Francisco (Markowitz, et. al.) found that converting from standard pedestrian signals to countdown signals was associated with up to 25 percent fewer pedestrian crashes after the conversion.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Locations with high volumes of pedestrian activity such as near transit stops or schools, are candidates for traffic signal improvements. MN MUTCD Warrants should be considered for installation of new signals.

TYPICAL COSTS

Typical costs for traffic signal measures are as follows:

- **Leading pedestrian interval**—The cost to alter the timing of a pedestrian signal can be up to \$3,500, depending on the site specifications and the size of the city.
- **Traffic signals**—Installing a new traffic signal can typically cost between \$200,000 to \$250,000. Annual maintenance costs are approximately \$2,000 to \$4,000 per location.



Traffic Signals (3 of 3)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STRATEGIES

- **Pedestrian signals**—Pedestrian signals cost approximately \$8,000 to \$75,000 per intersection and include pedestrian heads and signal heads for the traffic lanes.
- **Pedestrian signal phasing**—Adjusting signal time can be relatively inexpensive, requiring a few hours of staff time; however, in larger cities, the cost and time may be more significant.
- **Pedestrian countdown timers**—Countdown timers typically cost between \$5,000 to \$10,000 per intersection.
- **Right-turn-on-red restrictions**—The cost for a NO TURN ON RED sign is approximately \$200. Electronic NO TURN ON RED signs cost approximately \$3,000 to install.
- **Left turn phasing**—The cost for adjusting signal phasing and/or timing is typically low and requires a few hours of staff time per signal. However, there would be additional costs for new signal heads.
- **Push buttons and signal timing progression**—The cost for installing a push button with a sign and pedestal or post is approximately \$800 to \$1200. Adding audible tones or speech messages and/or vibrating surfaces will raise the cost.

BEST PRACTICE

Traffic Signals are used to assign right of way to conflicting streams of traffic – both vehicles and pedestrians – at intersections. By themselves, traffic signals are not considered to be pedestrian safety devices – more than one-half of pedestrian crashes in Minnesota occur at signalized intersections. Three strategies have been found to reduce the risk for pedestrians at signalized intersections – the use of exclusive left turn phasing when pedestrians are present, the addition of countdown timers and incorporating a leading pedestrian interval into the timing plan.

DESIGN FEATURES

Strategies for improving pedestrian accommodation at signalized intersections include the following:

- Providing easily accessible pedestrian push buttons for all pedestrian users
- Keeping signal cycles short (ideally, 90 seconds maximum) to reduce pedestrian delay, considering traffic volume needs
- Adding countdown timers at locations with pedestrian activity (Note: The 2009 *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* now requires the installation of countdown signals whenever new pedestrian signals are installed.)
- Implementing leading pedestrian intervals
- Recalling the pedestrian phases (WALK signal display and phases) if pedestrian traffic is frequent
- Providing push buttons and pedestrian activated walk phases for locations with infrequent pedestrian traffic
- Maintaining visibility of signals to pedestrians
- Walk times and flashing “DON’T WALK” consistent with new MN MUTCD guidelines creates longer crossing times for pedestrians, however, these changes should have small effects on vehicle operations.

SOURCES

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). 2012. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. Fourth Edition.
- Chen L, Chen C, Ewing R, McKnight CE, Srinivasan R, Roe M. 2012. *Safety countermeasures and crash reduction in New York city—experience and lessons learned*. *Accid Anal Prev*. May 31.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2004. PEDSAFE Guide.
- Markowitz, F., Sciortino, S., Fleck, J., Lucero, Y., Bond M. 2006. *Pedestrian Countdown Signals: Experience with an Extensive Pilot Installation*. ITE Journal.
- Transportation Research Board. 2007. *Evaluation of Pedestrian and Driver Behavior at Countdown Pedestrian Signals in Peoria, Illinois*. Available at: <<http://144.171.11.39/view.aspx?id=800890>>.
- Transportation Research Board. 2009. *Safety Effectiveness of Leading Pedestrian Intervals Using the Empirical Bayes Method*. Available at: <<http://144.171.11.39/view/2009/C/881112>>. March.



Grade Separated Crossings (1 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES



Source: www.pedbikeimages.org / Dan Burden

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

A grade separation separates pedestrians and bicyclists from vehicular traffic by a roadway overpass or underpass.



SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Grade separations can separate vehicular and pedestrian/bicycle traffic, eliminating the possibility of crashes between the two travel modes. The effectiveness of a grade-separated crossing depends on whether or not pedestrians and bicyclists perceive that it is easier and quicker to use than a street crossing. Grade-separated crossings should be designed to minimize the change in the path to allow the most direct route of travel. Because of their high costs, grade-separated crossings should be considered as a last resort, when other measures would not be effective in providing adequate crossing safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

This is a PROVEN strategy as long as an underpass or overpass of the roadway is located where it is both convenient for pedestrians and bicyclists and in a frequently used pedestrian crossing. The benefits decrease if there is still the ability to cross or it is more convenient to cross the roadway at-grade instead of using the grade separation. Overpasses and underpasses have been associated with an 86 percent reduction in pedestrian crashes and a 90 percent reduction in fatal and injury pedestrian crashes. A 100 percent reduction at these locations is rare because of the occasional pedestrian or bicyclists who decides to cross the roadway at-grade.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Grade separations are generally warranted at locations with heavy volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic crossing a roadway with heavy vehicular traffic. However, pedestrians and bicyclists will generally use grade separations that are located at or very near where they want to cross the road.

When considering a grade separation, the following items should be investigated and documented:

- Pedestrian crossing volumes
- Type of roadway to be crossed including information on daily volumes, roadway speed and geometry
- Location of adjacent crossing facilities
- Predominant type and age of persons who will use the facility



Thinking Outside the Box – This trail overpass on the Gateway Trail in Washington County is a recycled highway bridge from Koochiching County!

Grade Separated Crossings (2 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

TYPICAL COSTS

Overpasses and underpasses cost between approximately \$500,000 to \$4 million dollars, depending on characteristics of the location and crossing.

A grade separation should only be constructed when the need for the safe movement of pedestrians and bicyclists cannot be provided in a simpler, more cost-efficient manner. Experience at other grade separations throughout the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area show that these types of amenities are typically underutilized, since very few places have the large number of pedestrians needed to exceed the capacity of at-grade strategies.

DESIGN FEATURES

The following steps should be taken to increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety and access at grade-separated crossings:

- Provide good sight distances in underpasses, preferably with the open ends of the tunnel in view at all times. Good visibility increases the user's sense of security and prevents the user from feeling like other people may be lurking in the tunnel.
- Provide good lighting and ventilation in tunnels.
- Include an accessible turning space at the top and bottom of the ramps to the grade-separated crossing.
- Make pathways wide enough to permit two-way pedestrian/bicyclist traffic.

- Install barriers or landscaping to encourage use of the grade separation and to prevent pedestrians and bicyclists from crossing the roadway at-grade.
- Provide handrails on overpasses.
- Minimize grades, cross slopes, and additional travel distances. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that stairs cannot be the only access to grade separations. An elevator or ramp that meets the grade requirements under ADA regulations must be provided.

Additional guidance concerning pedestrian grade separations can be found in the AASHTO publication, *Guide Specifications for Design of Pedestrian Bridges*.

BEST PRACTICE

Grade Separated Crossings are a proven safety strategy, with benefits maximized at locations where it is more convenient to use the underpass or overpass than to cross the roadway at-grade (or if a physical barrier is erected to prevent the at-grade crossing). Due to the high cost of construction, grade separations are most often considered where high volumes of pedestrian/bicycle traffic (regional trails and major pedestrian generators) must cross major, high speed roadways with high volumes of traffic (principal arterials).

SOURCES

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). 2004. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*. July.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2001. *Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access, Part II of II: Best Practices Design Guide*.

Moore, R.I. and S.J. Older. 1965. "Pedestrians and Motorists Are Compatible in Today's World." *Traffic Engineering*. Institute of Transportation Engineers. Washington, D.C. September.



Crossing Guards (1 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES



School crossing guard in Seward Neighborhood, Minneapolis,
Source: City of Minneapolis Pedestrian Master Plan, 2009.

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

Typically stationed at roadway crosswalks near schools, a trained crossing guard can temporarily stop the flow of traffic and monitor children's crossing behavior so pedestrians can cross a roadway more safely. There are variations as to who provides crossing guard duties, including trained students or teachers at the adjacent school and trained adult crossing guards.



SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

According to the National Cooperative Highway Research Program 500 report regarding school zones, "the presence of crossing guards was found to be the most effective measure in terms of motorists complying with the regulatory flashing speed limit sign."

2012 Minnesota Statutes – 169.21 Pedestrian

(c) It is unlawful for any person to drive a motor vehicle through a column of school children crossing a street or highway or past a member of a school safety patrol or adult crossing guard, while the member of the school safety patrol or adult crossing guard is directing the movement of children across a street or highway and while the school safety patrol member or adult crossing guard is holding an official signal in the stop position. A peace officer may arrest the driver of a motor vehicle if the peace officer has probable cause to believe that the driver has operated the vehicle in violation of this paragraph within the past four hours.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Crossing guards are considered a TRIED safety strategy since there have been almost no evaluation of the overall safety effectiveness of the strategy. Research has shown that adult crossing guards present during school arrival and dismissal periods can result in reduced vehicle speeds and better compliance with school zone speed limits.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

This strategy is typically implemented as part of a broader implementation of the Safe Routes to School program; therefore, it is targeted toward motorists driving through school zones and children walking or biking to school. MnDOT's Safe Routes to School program provides funding to community and school groups to make improvements to the routes children use to walk and bike to school.

Crossing Guards (2 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

TYPICAL COSTS

The costs associated with crossing guards vary depending on the source of the crossing guards, from school-age children volunteering at no cost to trained adult crossing guards employed by the school.

DESIGN FEATURES

To be effective, crossing guards should be well trained and equipped with bright, reflective safety vests and STOP paddles. Implementation of crossing guards and an increase in police enforcement of both the school speed zone and compliance with vehicles yielding to the crossing guards may be necessary. Also, public information and education campaign geared towards the parents of school-age children may be beneficial so parents know the safe routes to school for their children and also are more aware of pedestrian rights and activities for when they themselves are driving through the school zone.

Some schools have suggested the implementation of a traffic signal instead of crossing guards, with the cost of the signal paid by the road authority. It has been documented that not all pedestrians actually activate the push button at signals and wait for traffic to stop before proceeding across the roadway. In a 2005 MnDOT study (Pedestrian Activated Solar Warning Flasher Test, July 2005) that looked at push button usage at an activated pedestrian warning sign, only 15 to 35 percent of users pushed the button before proceeding across the roadway. The 35 percent was during the first three months of installation with the percent of users pushing the button going down over time to around 15 percent. The presence of a crossing guard therefore, would still be beneficial in many elementary school situations for consistent and proper use of the signal and for proper behavior when crossing the roadway.

BEST PRACTICE

Use of student crossing guards, with adult supervision, at crossings of lower speed and lower volume collectors is appropriate, but adults should be employed for higher speed and higher volume arterials.

SOURCES

National Cooperative Highway Research Program. NCHRP Report 500 Volume 23: A Guide for Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2009.
 St. Paul Public School Crossing Guard Training Video. Available at: <<http://transportation.spps.org/schoolpatrol>>.
 St. Paul Public School Patrol Supervisors Manual. Available at: <<http://transportation.spps.org/patrolmanual>>.
 Minnesota Department of Transportation. 2005. Pedestrian Activated Solar Warning Flasher Test. July.



Shared Space and Complete Streets (1 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES



Source: Wikimedia Commons, DeFacto

Example of shared space

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

Shared space, sometimes called “Home Zones”, “Slow Zones”, or “Streets for Living”, is a European design philosophy that involves vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians sharing the same space. Unlike traditional efforts to manage traffic volume and speed in areas with heavy pedestrian usage, shared space relies on voluntary behavioral changes by all road users, supported by the design and layout of the public space. Shared space is typically characterized by the absence of traffic signals and other traffic control devices, but basic traffic rules still apply. The aim is common use of the available space by all users, who travel at walking speeds. Motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists must all watch out for each other, and motorists must yield to those on bike and on foot.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

The theory regarding safety effects of shared space is that by taking away traffic regulation and traffic control devices and by sharing the road space, a certain feeling of insecurity can be created. Shared streets are only appropriate at a limited number of streets with a nearly equal number of motorized and non-motorized users.

PROVEN, TRIED OR EXPERIMENTAL

A review of the research indicates that the concept of shared space has only been TRIED in a handful of locations in Europe. Safety evaluations have been conducted at only three locations in the Netherlands, none of which was considered to be crash-prone. A before-and-after study of the locations found a small decrease in crashes in the converted spaces, but the change was not statistically significant and there was no mention of types of crashes, so the effect on bicycles and pedestrians is unknown. The results of the research suggest that due to the very small sample size of the number of locations converted and the extremely small number of crashes in the data set, there is no clear conclusion regarding the safety effects of shared spaces.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Areas with the following characteristics could be considered candidates for development as a shared space:

- Approximately equal levels of vehicular and pedestrian/bicyclist traffic
- Approximately equal travel speeds for all users (i.e. walking speed)
- Areas in small shopping districts or in small towns with virtually no through traffic (It is essential that the road users have some tie to the area.)

All on-street parking must be prohibited in order to provide clear sight lines between all shared space users.

Shared Space and Complete Streets (2 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

A precondition for the positive performance of the shared space is that there is a more convenient arterial nearby to handle the through-trip drivers who need to be discouraged from entering the shared space.

TYPICAL COSTS

Available research did not include information regarding the cost of implementing the shared spaces. Annual maintenance costs may be reduced because of the absence of traffic signals and other traffic control devices. However, the conversion of the street or sidewalk crossing area to the shared space—without curbs and with some type of color or pavement contrast between the road and the sidewalk—would require total reconstruction.

DESIGN FEATURES

The European examples illustrated in the research reports suggest a streetscape that in some ways is similar to what would be found in small shopping areas and small towns in the U.S.—a space in the center of the right-of-way designated for use by vehicles, a sidewalk between the vehicle space and building fronts for pedestrians, street lights, street furniture (benches and bollards), and landscaping. What is different about shared space is the lack of a curb and gutter to separate vehicles from pedestrians (accomplished by using different colors and patterns of brick pavers) and the complete absence of traffic signals and traffic control devices.

A good phrase to summarize the need to determine the right locations to implement shared spaces and other pedestrian and bicycle amenities is as follows: “Not all modes on all roads, right mode on right road.” The current practice in Minnesota is to use the concept of “Complete Streets” as opposed to Shared Spaces and keep traffic and pedestrian traffic separated.

BEST PRACTICE

Shared Space is a technique that involves vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians all using the same shared space that is typically characterized by the absence of all traffic control devices, but where basic traffic rules still apply. This technique is usually reserved for the small number of streets with nearly equal numbers of motorized and non-motorized users and where travel speeds for all uses is approximately equal. In Minnesota, the concept manifests itself in the form of “Complete Streets”. Complete Streets is a transportation network approach, involving providing safe access for all street users, that must be considered during the planning and design phases of all roadway improvement projects. Complete Streets is neither proscriptive nor a mandate for an immediate retrofit, it is however, intended to be reflective of local needs and to serve adjacent land uses.

SOURCES

Gerlach I., Jurgen, R. Methorst, J. Leven. 2009. *Sense and Nonsense about Shared Spaces*. Routes/Roads Magazine, RR342-036.
Methorst, R., J. Gerlach, D. Boenke, J. Leven. 2007. *Shared Space: Safe or Dangerous?* WALK21 Conference. October. Toronto.

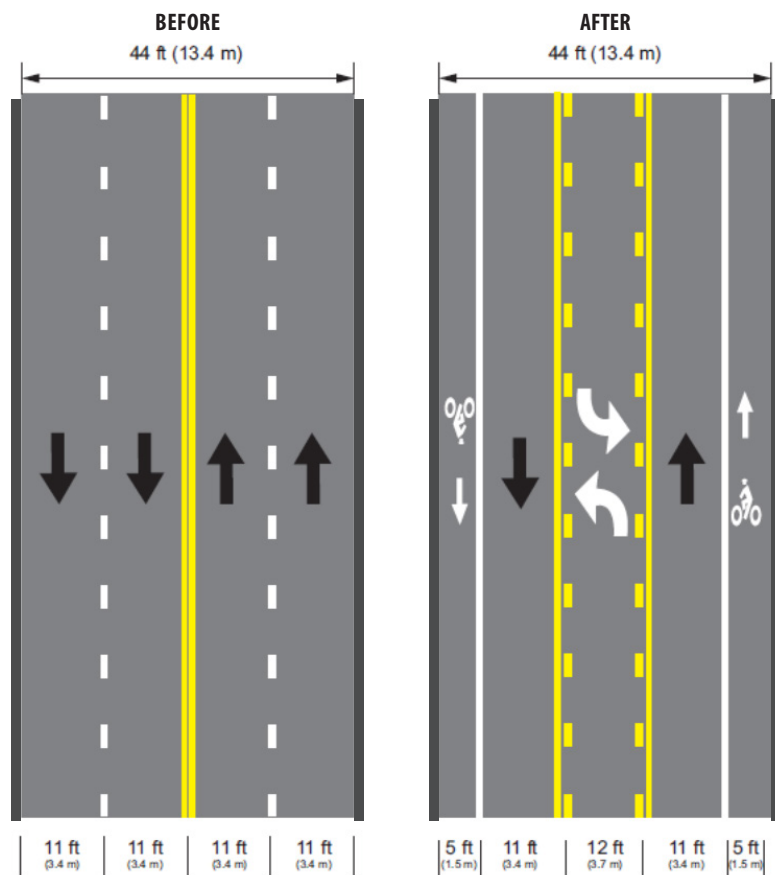


Road Diet (1 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

“Road diet” is a term used for the reallocation of roadway lanes and/or space to integrate additional modes, such as bike lanes, pedestrian crossing islands, or parking, or a combination of modes on existing roadways. A common roadway reconfiguration involves converting an undivided four-lane (two-way) roadway into a three-lane roadway made up of two through lanes, a center two-way left turn lane, and a shoulder/bike lane, as shown below.



Source: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Fourth Edition, 2012.

Before and after photos of road diet conversions



86th Street and Wentworth Avenue, City of Bloomington, before and after a diet improvement



86th Street and Bryant, City of Bloomington, before and after a diet improvement



North 130th Street in Seattle, Washington, before and after a road diet improvement



Road Diet (2 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Modifying from four lanes to two travel lanes with a two-lane left-turn lane has shown a 29 percent reduction in all roadway crashes (National Cooperative Highway Research Program [NCHRP] *Project 17-25 Final Report*).

According to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Fourth Edition*, safety benefits associated with this type of road diet include the following:

- Typically lower speeds due to one travel lane in each direction, and no passing allowed, requiring vehicles driving at higher speeds to slow down when following vehicles traveling at posted speeds. Lower travel speeds may reduce potential crash severities for all users.
- Reduction in the number of travel lanes (to just one in each direction) substantially reduces the likelihood of “multiple-threat” crashes (where a driver in one lane stops to yield, but the driver in the adjacent lane continues at speed). This reduction is a safety benefit for pedestrians, left-turning motorists, and bicyclists.
- The addition of left turn lanes provides a place for both motorists and bicyclists to make left turns, thus reducing the incidence of left-turn, rear-end crashes.
- Reduced incidence of sideswipe crashes because motorists no longer must change lanes to pass a vehicle waiting to make a left turn from the left-most through lane.
- The potential to construct a raised median or small refuge island at some pedestrian crossing locations, improving ease of pedestrian crossings and reducing the likelihood of crashes involving pedestrians.
- Improves visibility for left-turning vehicles.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

The conversion from a four-lane undivided to a three-lane roadway is a PROVEN safety strategy for vehicle crashes, but with the limited amount of research on the benefits for pedestrian safety, this strategy is TRIED for pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Locations with the most success with road diet implementation have 15,000 or fewer vehicles per day, but there are a number of roads in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area with volumes as high as 20,000 vehicles per day that have had successful road diet implementations.

“Before implementing a road diet, a traffic study should be conducted to evaluate potential reductions in crash frequency and severity, to evaluate motor vehicle capacity and level of service, to evaluate Bicycle LOS [Level of Service], and to identify appropriate signalization modifications and lane assignment at intersections.”

—AASHTO *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Fourth Edition, 2012, Section 4*

Driveway density, transit routes, and the number and design of intersections along the corridor, as well as operational characteristics, are some considerations to be evaluated before deciding to implement a road diet. Improvements to intersection turn lanes, signing, pavement markings, traffic control devices, transit stops, and pedestrian and bicyclist facilities may be needed to support this concept.

TYPICAL COSTS

The cost for a road diet improvement, which involves re-striping a four-lane street to one lane in each direction and adding a two-way left-turn lane with bicycle lanes, is about \$25,000 to \$40,000 per mile. If done during planned resurfacing, costs are minimal. Cost depends partly on the number of lane lines that need to be repainted. The estimated cost of extending the sidewalks or constructing a raised median can amount to \$100,000 per mile or more.



Road Diet (3 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

DESIGN FEATURES

As shown in the graphic to the right from the City of Minneapolis *Ten-Year Transportation Action Plan*, there are many variations of the use of an 80-foot right-of-way cross section, including the typical road diet discussed with one lane of traffic in each direction and a center turn lane.

BEST PRACTICE

Road diets refer to the conversion of roadways from four travel lanes to two and provide a number of safety benefits for pedestrians and bicycles. The reduction in the number of lanes regularly results in a decrease in travel speeds. In addition, the likelihood of multiple (vehicle) threats for pedestrians crossing the roadway is virtually eliminated and a space is created in the road that can be converted to a bicycle lane. Minor arterials and collectors with traffic volumes under 18,000 vehicles per day are considered candidates for conversion.

SOURCES

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). 2004. *Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*. Available for purchase from AASHTO at: <https://bookstore.transportation.org/item_details.aspx?id=119>.

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Fourth Edition*.

FHWA CMF Clearinghouse. *The Safety and Operational Effects of Road Diet Conversion in Minnesota*. Available at: <http://www.cmfclearinghouse.org/study_detail.cfm?stid=68>.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Office of Safety Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety. <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/>.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). "Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach." Traffic Analysis Toolbox. Available at: <<http://www.ite.org/emodules/scriptcontent/Orders/ProductDetail.cfm?pc=RP-036A-E>>.

Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. 2008. NCHRP Report 617: Accident Modification Factors for Traffic Engineering and ITS Improvements, Harkey, D., Council, F., Srinivasan, R., Lyon, C., Persaud, B., Eccles, K., Lefler, N., Gross, F., Baek, J., Hauer, E. and Bonneson, J.

Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). *Road Diet Handbook: Setting Trends for Livable Streets*. Available for purchase from ITE at: <<http://www.ite.org/emodules/scriptcontent/Orders/ProductDetail.cfm?pc=LP-670>>.

National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). 2008. *Crash Reduction Factors for Traffic Engineering and ITS Improvements. Project 17-25 Final Report*.

Pedsafe: Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System. 2012. <http://www.walkinginfo.org/pedsafe/pedsafe_downloads.cfm>. September.

ALTERNATIVE CROSS SECTIONS

15' Ped Zone	8' Parking	6' Bike	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	6' Bike	8' Parking	15' Ped Zone
19' Ped Zone	8' Parking	6' Bike	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	6' Bike	8' Parking	19' Ped Zone
21' Ped Zone	8' Parking	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	8' Parking			21' Ped Zone
23' Ped Zone	6' Bike	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	6' Bike			23' Ped Zone

3 Lanes

12' Ped Zone	7' Park	5' Bike	11' Travel Lane	10' Turn Lane or Median	11' Travel Lane	5' Bike	7' Park	12' Ped Zone
14' Ped Zone	6' Bike	11' Travel Lane	10' Turn Lane or Median	11' Travel Lane	6' Bike	8' Park		14' Ped Zone
16' Ped Zone	8' Park	11' Travel Lane	10' Turn Lane or Median	11' Travel Lane	8' Park			16' Ped Zone
19' Ped Zone	2'	11' Travel Lane	10' Turn Lane or Median	11' Travel Lane	8' Park			19' Ped Zone
18' Ped Zone	6' Bike	11' Travel Lane	10' Turn Lane or Median	11' Travel Lane	6' Bike			18' Ped Zone
22' Ped Zone	2'	11' Travel Lane	10' Turn Lane or Median	11' Travel Lane	2'			22' Ped Zone

4 Lanes

12' Ped Zone	7' Park	10.5' Travel Lane	10.5' Travel Lane	10.5' Travel Lane	10.5' Travel Lane	7' Park	12' Ped Zone	
13' Ped Zone	2'	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	8' Park	13' Ped Zone	
12' Ped Zone	6' Bike	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	6' Bike	12' Ped Zone	
12' Ped Zone	2'	10.5' Travel Lane	10.5' Travel Lane	10' Turn Lane or Median	10.5' Travel Lane	10.5' Travel Lane	2'	12' Ped Zone
16' Ped Zone	2'	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	11' Travel Lane	2'	16' Ped Zone	

Source: City of Minneapolis's Ten-Year Transportation Action Plan

☐ = Curb & Gutter

80'



On-Road Bike Lane (1 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES



DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

According to MnDOT's *Bikeway Facility Design Manual*, "A bike lane is a portion of the roadway or shoulder designated for exclusive or preferential use by people using bicycles. Bicycle lanes are distinguished from the portion of the roadway or shoulder used for motor vehicle traffic by striping, marking, or other similar techniques."

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

The real value of on-road bike lanes is to segregate modes of traffic by their speed. This provides for uniform speeds, eliminating the slowing of vehicle traffic due to a bicycle in the lane.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Bike lanes can be considered TRIED safety strategy. While there have been many installations and various evaluations, the results of the studies were almost equally divided between locations where bike crashes increased versus locations where they decreased.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

According to MnDOT's *Bikeway Facility Design Manual*, the following factors should be considered when implementing on-road bike lanes:

- **Traffic volumes, both peak hour and daily for both vehicular and bicycle traffic**—Higher motor vehicle traffic volumes increase risks for bicyclists; therefore, the bikeway requires increased width to separate bicyclists from motor vehicles.
- **Traffic speeds**—High motor vehicle speed has a negative impact on bicyclist risk and comfort unless mitigated by design treatments.
- **On-street parking**—The presence of on-street parking increases the width needed in an adjacent bike lane and also increases the risk of bicyclists being hit by opening car doors.
- **Intersections and driveways**—Most bicycle crashes with motor vehicles occur at intersections and driveways. Adding bike lanes without full consideration of travel throughout the corridor may increase conflicts with turning vehicles.
- **Right-of-way constraints**—The ability to accommodate bike lanes at their appropriate width is usually limited by the total available right-of-way.
- **Vehicle turn lane configuration**—Turn lanes require extra consideration and care as they relate to bike lanes.
- **Topography, grades and sight distances**—The topography of the roadway affects the width of the bike lane. Additional bikeway width or separation from the roadway may be needed on roads with hills or curves. Vehicles tend to encroach on the inside of curves, and inadequate sight distance may be due to restrictive roadway geometry in locations of rough terrain. Bicyclist speeds are greatly influenced by the grade; with faster speeds on steep downgrades, and with slower speeds on upgrades.
- **Volume of large trucks**—Where there is more than 10 percent of the daily volume, or over 250 heavy vehicles, during the peak hour, an increase in lane width, an off-road bikeway, or an increase in separation between the bike lane and the travel lane should be considered.

On-Road Bike Lane (2 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

- **Bus routes**—Bus routes have both advantages (buses typically going similar speed as bicycles) and disadvantages (regular stopping of the bus requires more interaction between bicyclists and buses).
- **Bicyclist characteristics**—The bike lane may be used in different ways by a range of bicyclists, from children with limited bicycling ability to advanced cyclists and commuters who prefer limited stops and detours from the road.

TYPICAL COSTS

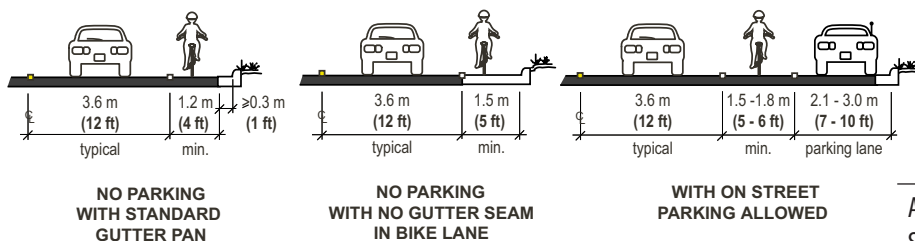
Typical costs range from \$16,000 per mile for restriping to \$500,000 per mile for overlay to \$5 million per mile for reconstruction.

DESIGN FEATURES

MnDOT's *Bikeway Facility Design Manual* provides information, shown to the right, on the typical roadway configurations for implementing bike lanes and design criteria for appropriate bike lane widths.

Other design features to consider with regard to on-road bike lanes include the following:

- Rumble strips
- Drainage and drainage grates
- Bypass lanes
- Alternate bike routes
- Climbing lanes
- Lighting
- Traffic calming



On-Road Bikeway Design Selection Tables—MnDOT *Bikeway Facility Design Manual*

Bikeway Design Selection for Urban (Curb and Gutter) Cross Section—English Units

Motor Vehicle ADT (two-lane; vehicles per day)	<500	500–1,000	1,000–2,000	2,000–5,000	5,000–10,000	>10,000	
Motor Vehicle ADT (four-lane; vehicles per day)	N/A	N/A	2,000–4,000	4,000–10,000	10,000–20,000	>20,000	
Motor Vehicle Speed	25 mph	SL	WOL	WOL	WOL	BL = 5 ft	N/A
	30 mph	SL with sign	WOL	BL = 5 ft	BL = 5 ft	BL = 6 ft	BL = 6 ft
	35 to 40 mph	WOL	BL = 5 ft	BL = 5 ft	BL = 6 ft	BL = 6 ft	BL = 6 ft or PS = 8 ft
	45 mph and greater	BL = 5 ft	BL = 5 ft	BL = 6 ft	BL = 6 ft	BL = 6 ft or PS = 8 ft	SUP or PS = 10 ft

ADT = average daily traffic; BL = bicycle lane; PS = paved shoulder; SL = shared lane; SUP = shared use path; WOL = wide outside lane

Source: MnDOT *Bikeway Facility Design Manual*, March 2007, Table 4-1.

Bikeway Design Selection for Rural (Shoulder and Ditch) Cross Section—English Units

Motor Vehicle ADT (two-lane; vehicles per day)	<500	500–1,000	1,000–2,000	2,000–5,000	5,000–10,000	>10,000	
Motor Vehicle ADT (four-lane; vehicles per day)	N/A	N/A	2,000–4,000	4,000–10,000	10,000–20,000	>20,000	
Motor Vehicle Speed	25 mph	PS = 4 ft or SL	PS = 4 ft or SL	PS = 4 ft or WOL	PS = 4 ft	PS = 4 ft	N/A
	30 mph	PS = 4 ft or SL	PS = 4 ft or WOL	PS = 4 ft	PS = 4 ft	PS = 6 ft	PS = 6 ft
	35 to 40 mph	PS = 4 ft or SL	PS = 4 ft or WOL	PS = 6 ft	PS = 6 ft	PS = 6 ft	PS = 8 ft
	45 mph and greater	PS = 4 ft	PS = 4 ft	PS = 6 ft	PS = 8 ft	PS = 8 ft	SUP or PS = 10 ft

ADT = average daily traffic; BL = bicycle lane; PS = paved shoulder; SL = shared lane; SUP = shared use path; WOL = wide outside lane

Source: MnDOT *Bikeway Facility Design Manual*, March 2007, Table 4-2.

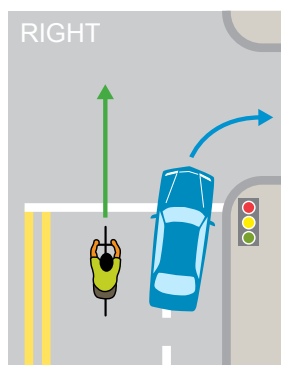
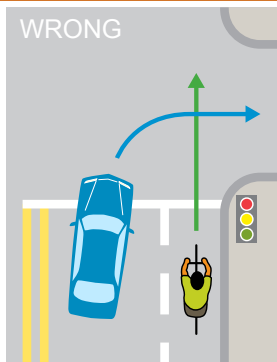
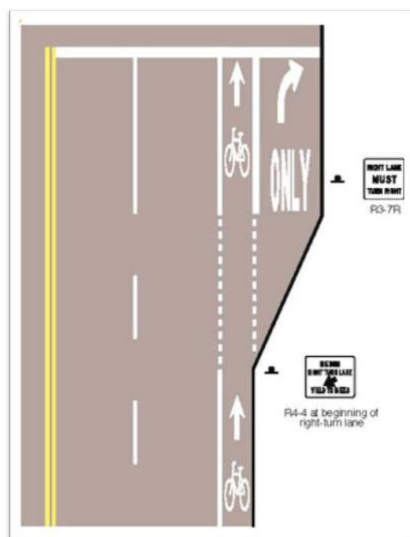


On-Road Bike Lane (3 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

BIKE LANES AND RIGHT TURNS

An important feature when designing a bike lane is the right turn lane at intersections. The current practice is to have dashed lines approaching the intersection and encouraging right-turning vehicles to cross the bike lane and get to the right side before the intersection, as shown in the illustration to the right.

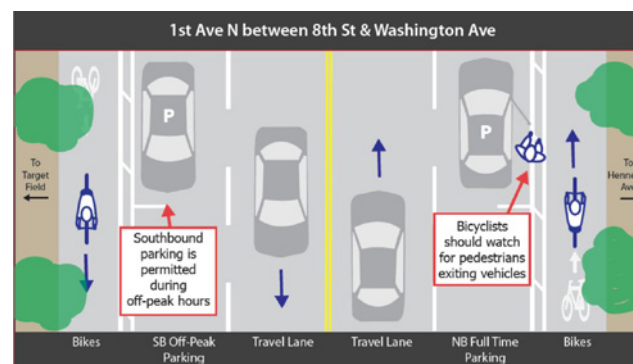


CYCLE TRACKS

A variation of the bike lane is the cycle track, a striped and signed lane for bicycle traffic with on-street parking to the left of the bike lane with a buffered area between the bike lane and parking. An example from the City of Minneapolis is shown in the illustration below. Other variations in cycle tracks include raised cycle tracks that are vertically separated from motor vehicle traffic and two-way cycle tracks that include both directions of bike traffic on one side of a roadway. Additional information on cycle tracks can be found in the sources of this section.

Cycle Tracks and Intersections

Cycle tracks are not recommended along corridors with multiple and closely spaced intersections or access points. Cycle tracks work well on roadways with longer block and few cross streets.



BEST PRACTICE

On-Road Bicycle Lanes provide a designated space for the exclusive use of bicycles; creating a separation of vehicles by size, weight and speed. The safest applications of On-Road Bicycle Lanes would be on roadways with lower speeds, lower volumes of traffic and fewer heavy commercial vehicles.

SOURCES

- Alta Planning and Design, Portland City Traffic Engineer Robert Burchfield, Cycle Tracks: Lessons Learned, February 4, 2009. <http://www.altaplanning.com/App_Content/files/pres_stud_docs/Cycle%20Track%20Lessons%20Learned.pdf>.
- City of Minneapolis's Cycle Track Website: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/cycle-track>
- Jensen, S.U. 2008. "Bicycle Tracks and Lanes: a Before-After Study." Transportation Research Board, 87th Annual Meeting, Compendium of Papers. CD-ROM. Washington, D.C.
- Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). 2007. *Bikeway Facility Design Manual*. Accessed at: <<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/designmanual.html>>. March.
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Website: <<http://nacto.org/cities-for-cycling/design-guide/cycle-tracks/>>.
- Rodegerdts, L. A., B. Nevers, and B. Robinson. 2005. *Signalized Intersections: Informational Guide*. FHWA-HRT-04-091.
- Turner, S. A., G. Wood, T. Hughes, and R. Singh. 2011. "Safety Performance Functions for Bicycle Crashes in New Zealand and Australia." Presented at the 90th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board. Washington, D.C.

Shared (Paved) Shoulder Bicycle Lanes (1 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

Paved Shoulders

A paved shoulder that is continuous and on the same level as the regular travel lanes available for use bicycles and pedestrians.

The width of paved shoulders for use by bicyclists should be based on the context and conditions of adjacent lanes on the roadway. Paved shoulders for bicycle usage typically range from 4 feet for uncurbed cross sections with no vertical obstructions immediately adjacent to the roadway to 5 or more feet for roadways with guardrail, curbs, or other roadside barriers. Consideration of increasing shoulder width should be given if any of the following situations is present on a specific roadway:

- High bicycle usage is expected.
- Motor vehicle speeds exceed 50 mph.
- There is higher than average heavy trucks, buses, or recreational vehicles.
- The right side of the roadway contains static obstructions.

Paved shoulders should be included on both sides of two-way roadway in rural areas, whenever possible. More information on implementing shared shoulder bicycle lanes with rumble strips can be found in the Bicycle Friendly Rumble Strip section (Page 45).

Bike Lanes

Bike lanes are a portion of the roadway that delineates available roadway space for preferential use by bicyclists. They are most appropriate for roadways in urban and suburban areas, or where there is high potential for bicycle usage in rural areas.

Differences between Paved Shoulders and Bike Lanes

Paved shoulders may be designated as bike lanes through the installation of bicycle lane symbol markings; however, the shoulders marked as bike lanes must still meet bike lane criteria.

“State laws and local ordinances should be considered when implementing bike lanes, as they may have an impact on bike lane design, such as the placement of dashed lane lines. Motorists are prohibited from using bike lanes for driving, but many state vehicle codes allow or direct drivers to use bike lanes when turning or merging, maneuvering into or out of parking spaces, and for emergency avoidance maneuvers or breakdowns. Some state codes also allow buses, garbage collectors, and other public vehicles to use bike lanes temporarily and do not prohibit parking in bike lanes unless a local agency prohibits parking and erects signs accordingly.”

—AASHTO 2012

AASHTO’s *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Fourth Edition*, states the following:

“It is important to understand the differences between paved shoulders and bike lanes, particularly when a decision needs to be made as to which facility is more appropriate for a given roadway. Bike lanes are travel lanes, whereas in many jurisdictions, paved shoulders are not (and can therefore be used for parking). Paved shoulders, if provided on intersection approaches, typically stay to the right of right-turn lanes at intersections, whereas bike lanes are placed on the left side of right-turn lanes because they are intended to serve through movements by bicyclists; through bicyclists should normally be to the left of right-turning motor vehicles. To avoid conflicts on roadways with paved shoulders that approach right-turn lanes, some jurisdictions introduce a bike lane only at the intersections, and then transition back to a paved shoulder.”

—AASHTO 2012



Shared (Paved) Shoulder Bicycle Lanes (2 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

The following table documents considerations that should be made when implementing either paved shoulders or bike lanes.

General Considerations for Paved Shoulders vs. Bike Lanes

Type of Bikeway	Best Use	Motor vehicle Design Speed	Traffic Volume	Classification or Intended Use	Other Considerations
Paved Shoulder	Rural highways that connect town centers and other major attractors.	Variable. Typical posted rural highway speeds (generally 40 to 55 mph).	Variable.	Rural roadways; inter-city highways.	Provides more shoulder width for roadway stability. Shoulder width should be dependent on characteristics of the adjacent motor vehicle traffic—that is, wider shoulders on higher-speed and/or higher-volume roads.
Bike Lane	Major roads that provide direct, convenient, quick access to major land uses. Also can be used on collector roads and bury urban streets with slower speeds.	Generally, any road where the design speed is more than 25 mph.	Variable. Speed differential is generally a more important factor in the decision to provide bike lanes than traffic volumes.	Arterials and collectors intended for major motor vehicle traffic movements.	Where motor vehicles are allowed to park adjacent to bike lane, provides a bike lane of sufficient width to reduce probability of conflicts due to opening vehicle doors and objects in the road. Analyze intersections to reduce bicyclist/motor vehicle conflicts.

Source: AASHTO's *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Fourth Edition (2012)*, Table 2-3, *General Considerations for Different Bikeway Types*.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

The shared shoulder/bike lane provides space outside of the travel lanes for bikes. The paved shoulder also provides an improved road edge that has resulted in a reduction in road departure crashes and a refuge for disabled vehicles. Both paved shoulders and bike lanes improve conditions for bicyclists on roadways with higher speeds or traffic volumes. Shoulders also increase motorist comfort by providing more consistent separation between bicyclists and passing motorists. Bike lanes also improve sight distance for motorists at driveways and provide a buffer area between sidewalks and traffic lanes. However, both paved shoulders and bike lanes may increase roadway crossing distances for pedestrians (AASHTO 2012).

“Properly designed bike lanes encourage bicyclists to operate in a manner consistent with the legal and effective operation of all vehicles.”

—AASHTO 2012



Shared (Paved) Shoulder Bicycle Lanes (3 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Shared shoulders and bike lanes are considered a TRIED method. Existing paved shoulder/bike lane combinations have obvious comfort benefits to bicyclists because they provide bicyclists with a place to ride separately from lanes where motor vehicles travel, especially on the state system. There have been no rigorous statistical evaluations, however, on the crash effects of shared shoulders/bike lanes. The challenge in studying the safety of the shoulder for bicyclists is the small number of bicycle crashes along rural roadways where the shared shoulder/bike lane is most likely to be implemented.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Typically, shared shoulders and bike lanes are considered for rural application, but may be candidates for some urban corridors with wide shoulders.

TYPICAL COSTS

On two-lane rural roadways, adding a paved shoulder ranges from \$60,000 per mile for 4-foot-wide shoulders to more than \$100,000 per mile or more for 8-foot-wide shoulders, depending on site conditions.

BEST PRACTICE

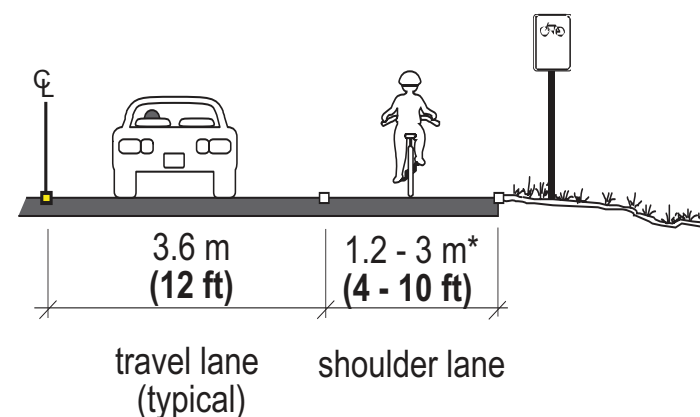
Shared Shoulder Bicycle Lanes provide a designated space outside the travel lane for the preferential use by bicycles (use of the paved shoulder by pedestrians and for temporary parking by vehicles with mechanical problems is also allowed). Shared Shoulder Bicycle Lanes are primarily considered a rural application in corridors that experience moderate to high bicycle use.

DESIGN FEATURES

MnDOT's *Bikeway Facility Design Manual*, provides information on the design features to consider and appropriate size of features for a shared shoulder bike lane design. (See On-Road Bike Lane Section for Bikeway Design Selection.)

Under most circumstances, the recommended width for bike lanes is 5 feet. Wider bicycle lanes may be desirable under the following conditions:

- The lane is adjacent to a narrow parking lane (less than or equal to 7 feet) where there is higher parking turnover.
- The area where the lane is proposed experiences or is expected to experience high bicycle usage; in this situation, a wider bike lane would make it possible for bicyclists to ride side-by-side or pass each other without leaving the bike lane.
- The lane is adjacent to high-speed and/or high-volume vehicle travel lanes, or there is a high volume of heavy vehicles.



SOURCES

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). 2012. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. Fourth Edition.
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). 2007. *Bikeway Facility Design Manual*. Available at: <<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/designmanual.html>>. March.



Bicycle Boulevards (1 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES



City of Berkeley, California, Bicycle Boulevard Pavement Marking

DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION



City of Berkeley, California, Bicycle Boulevard Route Guidance Sign

A bicycle boulevard is a local street or series of connected local street segments that has been designated for use by bicycles and modified to provide priority treatment for bicyclists, while discouraging the use of these facilities by through traffic. Bicycle boulevards are intended to create conditions favored by bicyclists by taking advantage of bicycle-friendly characteristics that are typically found on local/residential streets—low traffic volumes and low vehicle operating speeds.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

The research on bicycle boulevard safety is relatively sparse, but there is evidence to suggest that risk associated with bicycle riding is correlated with high traffic volumes, high vehicle speed, and the presence of heavy vehicles. The primary safety characteristics associated with bike



Example Bicycle Boulevard in Minneapolis, Bryant Ave



Bicycle Boulevards (2 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

boulevards relate to the fact that local/residential streets with low volumes, low operating speeds, low turning volumes, and few heavy vehicles should reduce the number and severity of bicycle-involved crashes compared to traveling on higher-speed, higher-volume arterials.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

There has not been a sufficient number of bicycle boulevards implemented and evaluated in order to document their safety characteristics so, therefore, they are considered EXPERIMENTAL. However, the one research report documented in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse found that street type does matter for bicycle safety; arterials consistently had higher bicycle crash rates than bicycle boulevards, and the implementation of seven bicycle boulevards in Berkeley, California, resulted in a 60 percent reduction in bicycle-involved crashes.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

A typical candidate for the development of a bicycle boulevard would be a local/residential street that is parallel to and near an arterial and is of sufficient length to reasonably serve long-distance bicycle trips.

TYPICAL COSTS

It is practically impossible to identify general implementation costs for bicycle boulevards because many local/residential streets likely already have most of the desirable characteristics. However, the most likely revisions would involve moving STOP signs and adding guide signs, both of which could be done at very low cost. Other improvements involving crossing arterials would be somewhat more costly—\$15,000 to \$30,000 for adding median pedestrian refuge islands, \$5,000 to \$10,000 for curb extensions, and \$10,000 to \$120,000 for pedestrian traffic control, such as rectangular rapid flash beacons or traffic signals.



Example pavement marking designating a bicycle boulevard

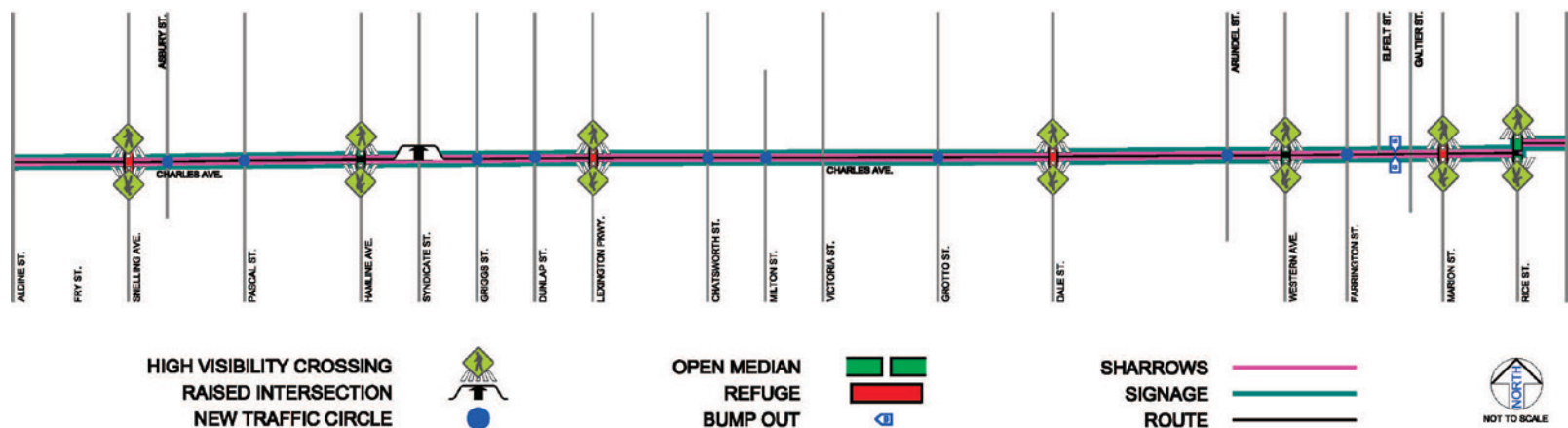
Bicycle Boulevards (3 of 3)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

DESIGN FEATURES

Because bicyclists riding on bicycle boulevards typically share the road with other traffic, the low volume and speed usually found on residential streets does not indicate the need to provide dedicated bicycle lanes.

Residential street systems may require a number of low-cost modifications to encourage use by bicyclists, including (1) reorienting STOP signs at through and stop-controlled intersections in order to provide priority treatment for the bicycle boulevard, and (2) installing way-finding signs to guide bicyclists to key destinations. Reorienting STOP signs may also make the corridor more attractive for vehicles, so additional consideration should be given to adding traffic-calming features such as vertical elements or diverters to still maintain the benefits for bicyclists, but deter motorized vehicles from diverting from the adjacent arterial. Some additional improvements that may slow vehicle traffic include traffic circles or raised crosswalks or intersections. An example of a bicycle boulevard in St. Paul, shown above, includes many of these pedestrian and bicycle improvements.



Traffic Calming Measures

Where the bicycle boulevard crosses major streets, it may be difficult for bicyclists to find adequate gaps to cross safely. As a result, consideration should be given to providing upgraded intersection control (see sections on Traffic Signals, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon System, Medians, Crossing Islands, and Curb Extensions).

BEST PRACTICE

The concept of Bicycle Boulevards involves designating local/residential streets that are parallel to and near arterial roads for preferential use by bicycles. Modifying local streets to encourage bicycle use mostly involves low cost treatments such as adding signs and pavement markings, which in many cases is less costly than adding bicycle lanes to the arterial. Providing priority treatment for bicycles on local streets takes advantage of bicycle friendly characteristics – low traffic volumes, low speeds and few heavy commercial vehicles.

SOURCES

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). 2012. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Fourth Edition*.
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse. <<http://www.cmfclearinghouse.org/>>.
Minikel, E. 2001. *Cyclist Safety on Bicycle Boulevards and Parallel Arterial Roadways in Berkeley, California*. January.



Bicycle Boxes (1 of 2)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES



DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

A bike box is a painted area, installed at signalized intersections, that allows bicyclists to pull in front of waiting traffic on a red light. The box provides better visibility of the bicyclists for vehicles, and gives the bicycle a head start when the light turns green. Bike boxes are currently not an approved marking in the MN MUTCD, however multiple locations have been implemented within the metro area on an experimental basis.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Benefits of the bike box include the following:

- Improves visibility of cyclists by motorists
- Reduces cyclist delay by providing a space for “jumping the queue” ahead of waiting vehicles
- Allows left-turning bicyclists to be in a better position for making a safe turn
- Assists bicyclists when drivers are turning right and bicyclists are going straight through an intersection, because motorists can more easily see and avoid striking bicyclists

- Reduces bicyclists exposure to vehicle tailpipe emissions
- Elevates the status of bicyclists relative to motor vehicles

Some challenges associated with the use of bike boxes include the following:

- Cars may encroach into bike boxes.
- Bike boxes do not address moving right turn conflicts.
- In cases where there are multiple travel lanes and where the bike box does not extend to all travel lanes, bicyclists may still have difficulty turning left.
- Pavement marking maintenance is critical for the successful operation of a bike box because the markings are subject to weathering and damage by vehicles and snow plows.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Bike boxes are considered EXPERIMENTAL because there are few installations and no academically rigorous statistical evaluations. Based on limited research from Europe, bike boxes appear to be beneficial in improving bicycle safety at intersections, but the specific safety effects have not been well established.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Bike boxes are typically candidates for installation at signalized intersections on roadways that already have bike lanes and a substantial volume of bicycle traffic.

TYPICAL COSTS

Costs of bike boxes can vary depending on the need for the addition of a bike lane along the roadway or simply just implementation of bike boxes on an already completed bike lane. Costs are typically about \$1,000 per bike box.

Bicycle Boxes (2 of 2)

BICYCLE SAFETY STRATEGIES

DESIGN FEATURES

Bike boxes are typically a 14-foot-wide rectangle painted green with a bike symbol in white. They are located in front of the vehicle stop bar, but behind the pedestrian crosswalk. The box may extend across multiple lanes of traffic and provide room for multiple bicyclists. The boxes have no function when vehicular traffic is in motion when the signal is green. The bike box should be paired with an approach lane as well as a lane that extends through the intersection.

BEST PRACTICE

Bicycle boxes are a painted area at signalized intersections that provide a designated space for bicycles to wait at the head of the queue during the red phase of a signal cycle. This “in front” location for bicycles improves their visibility and puts them in a better position for continuing through the intersection. Bicycle Boxes are NOT currently included in the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Therefore, their use on public streets requires approval by MnDOT of a “Request for a Field Operational Test”.

Roundabouts (1 of 2)

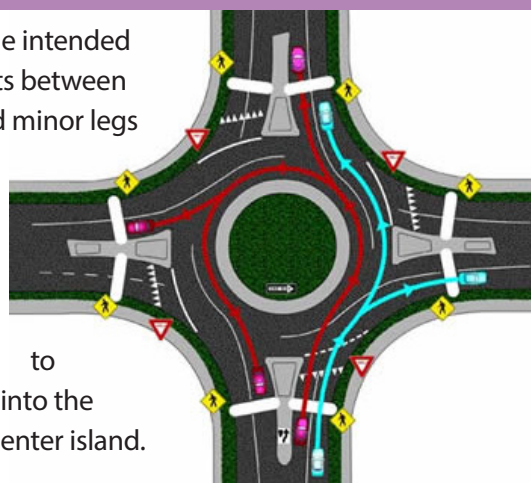
PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS



DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

Roundabouts are a design technique intended to control traffic and reduce conflicts between traffic movements on the major and minor legs approaching an intersection.

Roundabouts, which provide an alternative to traffic signal control at an intersection, are usually built with a circular raised island and splitter medians on all approaches to help slow vehicles and direct traffic into the counterclockwise flow around the center island.



SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Roundabouts have demonstrated improved safety performance compared to traffic signal control, especially for the most severe types of crashes. In Minnesota, the most common type of severe intersection-related crash is an angle crash. The primary factors contributing to crash severity are speed and angle of impact. In roundabouts, vehicle speeds and impact angles are reduced because of the design features, and because it is virtually impossible to have a severe angle crash. Angle crashes still may occur, but at lower speeds and at shallower angles.

For pedestrians and bicyclists, expected safety benefits are related to reduced vehicle speeds, the presence of raised medians on all of the approaches, and the fact that gap selection is simplified because only one direction of traffic is crossed at a time and for a shorter crossing distance and with lower speeds.

PROVEN, TRIED AND EXPERIMENTAL

Roundabouts are considered to be a PROVEN effective strategy for reducing severe crashes involving vehicles (Crash Modifications Factors Clearinghouse). However, the safety performance of roundabouts in relation to pedestrian and bicycle crashes is yet to be determined. A number of studies (National Cooperative Highway Research Program [NCHRP] Reports 572 and 672), including one in Minnesota (Hourdos 2011), have concluded that the number of pedestrian and bicycle crashes is generally low at roundabouts—too low to be reliably diagnostic. As a result, the studies have attempted to use surrogate factors for crashes (delay, vehicle yielding rates, and observation of pedestrian crossing behavior) in order to estimate the effect of roundabouts on pedestrian and bicycle safety. The studies found (1) substantially reduced delay for pedestrian at roundabouts compared to signal-controlled intersections, and (2) vehicle yielding rates greater than those observed at uncontrolled intersections, but lower than at signal-controlled intersections. The observational studies of thousands of pedestrian/vehicle interactions identified no crashes, no near misses and only three close calls. The NCHRP and Hourdos research concluded that while substantial safety problems for non-motorists were not found at roundabouts, it is not proven that roundabouts are absolutely safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

The primary use of roundabouts is to control traffic at intersections where traditional strategies involving STOP signs or traffic signals cannot adequately address operational or safety deficiencies. As a result, the typical candidate

Roundabouts (2 of 2)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS

for the installation of a roundabout would be an intersection along an arterial with a frequency of angle and turning crashes along with traffic volumes and associated delay that are sufficiently high to suggest the need to improve either the quality of traffic operations or the level of intersection safety. In addition, when identifying potential candidate intersections for the installation of a roundabout, consideration should be given to the function of the minor road. In practice, roundabouts treat all approaching legs equally, so the key question is, does a roundabout make sense from the perspective of functional classification and traffic volume?

TYPICAL COSTS

The typical cost of a roundabout is approximately \$1 million, not including right-of-way acquisition. Costs will vary depending on location and size of the roundabout. Long-term roundabout costs are typically less than costs for signal-controlled intersections because of fewer maintenance and energy requirements.

DESIGN FEATURES

For pedestrians crossing the legs of the roundabout, the key design features are as follows: the radius of the curves on the approaches and in the center that determine the operating speed around the circular island; the presence of the splitter island between the entering and exiting lanes; and the number of circulating lanes. For pedestrians the risk of being involved in a severe crash is expected to be lower at roundabouts than at other intersection controls because of the slower speeds and the splitter islands, which help

SOURCES

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2000. *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide*. FHWA, FHWA-RD-00-067. June.
 FHWA CMF Clearinghouse. *The Safety and Operational Effects of Road Diet Conversion in Minnesota*. Available at: <http://www.cmfclearinghouse.org/study_detail.cfm?stid=68>.
 Hourdos, John. 2011. *An Observational Study of Pedestrian and Bicycle Crossing Experience in Two Modern Urban Roundabouts*. University of Minnesota. September.
 National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). 2007. *Roundabouts in the United States*. NCHRP Report 572.
 National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). 2010. *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide*. NCHRP Report 672.

pedestrians resolve conflicts with entering and exiting vehicles separately. In addition, the observational studies have found that vehicles in single-lane roundabouts have higher rates of yielding to pedestrians than vehicles in multi-lane roundabouts.

Special consideration should be given for visually-impaired pedestrians during the design of roundabouts, particularly multi-lane roundabouts. Some possible treatments to assist visually-impaired pedestrians include raised crosswalks or pedestrian hybrid beacons at the splitter islands.

For bicyclists using roundabouts, it is recommended that they use the full lane and not try to ride to the right side of the lane. While one-lane roundabouts are very easy for bicyclists to ride through, two-lane can be more difficult. However, the best practice is for the bicyclists to claim the appropriate traffic lane and negotiate the roundabout as would an automobile. One advantage of the roundabout is that motorized and non-motorized traffic move at similar speeds within the roundabout.

MnDOT's current practice is to provide bicycle slip ramps at roundabouts where bicyclist will likely be present. These slip ramps provide an opportunity for the bicyclists to access the sidewalk before entering the roundabout and transverse the roundabout on the sidewalk or a shared use path. More information on the design of bicycle slip ramps can be found in NCHRP Report 672, *Roundabouts: An Informational Guide*.

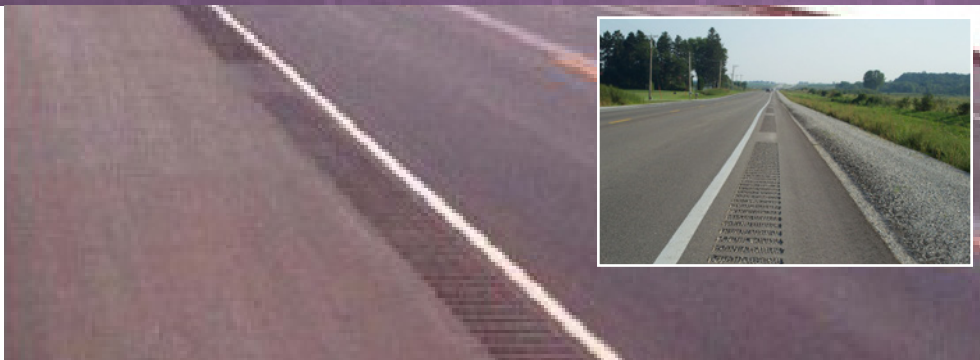
BEST PRACTICE

The characteristics of Roundabouts present a number of advantages for pedestrians and bicyclists – reduced vehicle operating speeds, reduced delays and median refuge islands on all approaches which results in only having to cross a single direction of traffic at one time.



Bicycle-friendly Edgeline Rumbles (1 of 3)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS



DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

Longitudinal rumble strips are grooves cut into the paved shoulder outside the edge/fog line. Another variation is the rumble stripE, where the rumble is placed over the edge/fog line. Because edgeline rumble strips are generally implemented to improve motorist safety, and not bicycle or pedestrian safety, this measure differs somewhat from other treatments included in this guide. This measure is largely focused on how to minimize the adverse effects to bicyclists of adding edgeline rumble strips, whereas other measures in the guide are specific treatments on how to improve pedestrian or bicyclist safety. As such, this measure is not specifically a treatment aimed at bicycle safety, but rather provides important design considerations for the minimization of adverse effects to bicyclists of adding edgeline rumble strips.

While edgeline rumble strips can be an effective and inexpensive way to reduce run-off road crashes of motorists on high speed roadways, they can be difficult for bicyclists to traverse, in some cases, making otherwise popular bicycle routes unrideable. Rumble strips, if not designed with bicyclists in mind, can cause bicycles to shudder violently, leading bicyclists to avoid the route. If rumble strips are located along the right edge of a roadway with a narrow shoulder or no shoulder, bicyclists are forced to share the travel lane with motorists (AASHTO's *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*). This section focuses on how edgeline rumble can be incorporated into roadways while still safely accommodating bicyclists.

According to AASHTO's *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*, rumble strips are not recommended on shoulders intended to be used by bicyclists, unless one or both of the following conditions are present:

- A minimum clear path of 4 feet from the rumble strip to the outside edge of the paved shoulder
- A minimum clear path of 5 feet from the rumble strip to the adjacent curb, guardrail, or other obstacle

The bicycle-friendly design provides 48 feet of grooves with a 12-foot skip to allow bicyclists to maneuver between the travel lane and the shoulder without having to cross the grooves.

TYPICAL COSTS

Implementation Costs = \$3,000 per mile

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

The primary objective of edgeline rumbles is to reduce the number of road departure crashes by motorists by alerting drivers to the road edge and enhancing drivers' ability to stay on the road. Over 900 miles of edgeline rumble strips have been installed in Minnesota. Concerns are frequently raised about the use of edgeline rumble strips increasing risks for bicyclists if/when they have to ride over the strips. However, a search of the literature found no mention of any actual bicycle crashes resulting from riding over rumble strips.

ADVANTAGES

- Positive/tactile warning for drivers approaching the road edge
- Relative low cost compared to other effective roadside safety strategies
- Rumble stripEs offer improved visibility at night and in wet weather conditions
- Considered to be "Proven" effective at reducing road departure crashes

DISADVANTAGES

- Concern expressed by residents about noise
- Concern expressed by bicyclists about increased risk to riders
- Concern expressed by maintenance crews about road edge deterioration

Bicycle-friendly Edgeline Rumbles (2 of 3)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

The edgeline rumble strip is considered to be PROVEN effective at reducing road departure crashes. The Federal Highway Administration's Crash Modification Factors (CMF) Clearinghouse documents 12 studies with crash reduction ranging from 7 to 79 percent, with an average reduction in road departure crashes of 20 percent.

One study in the CMF Clearinghouse examined ways to reduce crashes on rural two-lane roadways in Minnesota. The documented reduction of severe road departure crashes was 18 percent. There are currently no studies regarding the safety of the bicycle-friendly design of rumble strip/stripEs.

ROADWAY OPERATIONS

A concern about the installation of edgeline rumble strips is that they cause vehicles to move away from the edge of the road and may increase head-on collisions. Iowa State University recently completed an evaluation along two-lane roadways. The study found that there was a lateral displacement to the left of approximately 7 inches. For vehicles between 6 and 8 feet wide on a 12 foot lane, a 7-inch displacement should not induce cross-centerline crashes.

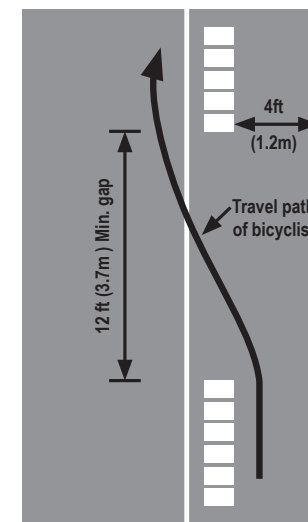
DESIGN FEATURES

The following issues should be considered when implementing edgeline rumble strips:

- **Noise**—A number of county engineers in Minnesota who have deployed edgeline rumbles reported receiving several complaints about increased traffic noise levels associated with errant vehicles. A 2011 MnDOT study found that noise levels would likely increase by about 1 decibel—the equivalent of one heavy truck driving down the road.
- Observations in the Brainerd area found actual “hit rates” (that is, the rate at which vehicles run over the rumble strips) to be in the range of 0.5 to 1 percent of vehicles traveling along the roadway.

- **Bicycles**—The following bicycle-friendly patterns are recommended:

- Periodic gaps, every 40 to 60 feet, in rumble strip lines should be provided to allow bicyclists to move across the strip when needed (for instance, to maneuver around obstructions in the shoulder, pass other bicyclists, or make left turns). A gap length of at least 12 feet allows most bicyclists to leave or enter the shoulder without crossing the rumble strip (see image to the right). Longer gaps should be provided on steep downhill paths.
- In areas where bicycle traffic is present or anticipated, bicycle-tolerable rumble strips with the following characteristics might be considered:
 - Width: 5 inches parallel to the traveled way
 - Depth: 0.375 inches
 - Spacing: 11 to 12 inches center to center (*AASHTO's Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*)
- At locations with paved shoulders, move the rumble to the outside edge of the paved shoulder to provide space for the bicyclist to move between the roadway travel lane and shoulder without having to run over the rumbles.
- At locations without a shoulder, consider bicycle-friendly designs (such as 48-foot grooves with a 12-foot skip) or adding a narrow paved shoulder, moving the edgeline to 11 feet, and adding the rumbles to the outside edge of the shoulder.



Rumble Stripes

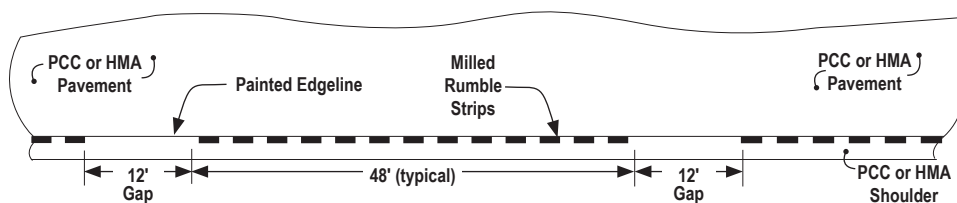
Bicycle-friendly Edgeline Rumbles (3 of 3)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS

Additional design features to consider at the locations with or without shoulders are as follows:

- An 8-inch-wide rumble should be used instead of the standard 16-inch-wide rumble
- Attempt to keep the depth of the rumble strips as close to 3/8 inch as possible
- For narrow 2-foot shoulders, keep the strip as close to the outside edge as possible without damaging the shoulder edge

County Road with paved shoulders



Rumble stripe layout for section with paved shoulders

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Typical candidate locations for rumble strips and stripes are as follows:

- Rural roadways
- Areas with low density of residential development (few noise-sensitive receivers)
- Areas with few or no other noise sensitive receivers (lake cabins, golf courses, etc.)
- Roadways with curvilinear alignment
- Specific horizontal curves
- Roads with hazardous edges—no shoulder, lack of clear zones, etc.

AASHTO's *Roadside Design Guide* suggests the following three-step prioritized approach to dealing with road departure crashes:

1. Improve road edges to keep drivers on the road
2. Improve clear zones
3. Improve highway hardware (guardrails, breakaway supports, etc.)

Deployment of edgeline rumble strips is clearly consistent with this prioritized approach, and is one of the least costly to implement.

BEST PRACTICE

Minnesota has adopted the intermittent pattern as its recommended approach to balancing the needs of addressing road departure crashes while still providing bicyclists with a reasonable opportunity to move between travel lanes and shoulders without having to cross the grooves of edgeline rumble strips and stripes.

SOURCES

- Hallmark, S. et. al., 2009. Iowa State University Institute for Transportation. *Evaluation of Rumble Stripes on Low-Volume Rural Roads in Iowa – Phase I*.
- Minnesota Local Road Research Board. 2005. *Identification of Causal Factors and Potential Countermeasures for Fatal Rural Crashes*. Report 200542.
- Minnesota Local Road Research Board. 2007. *Synthesis on the Effectiveness of Rumble Stripes*. Report 200207.
- MnDOT. 2008. *Effects of Center-Line Rumble Strips on Non-Conventional Vehicles*, MnDOT Research Report 2008-07.
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). 2009. *Guidance for the Design and Application of Shoulder & Centerline Rumble Strips*. NCHRP Report 641.



Speed Reduction Measures (1 of 4)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS

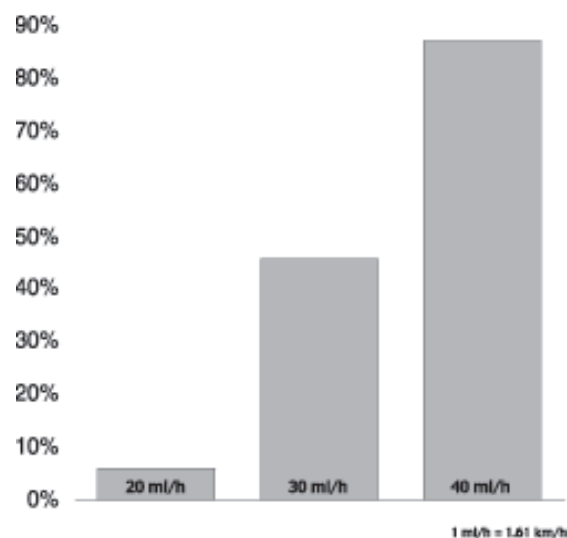
DESCRIPTION AND DEFINITION

Road authorities are often asked to lower either posted speed limits or vehicle operating speeds in the name of safety. The requests are often based on one fact (vehicle-pedestrian collisions typically result in pedestrian injuries that are less severe at lower speeds) and two myths (lower-speed roads are safer for pedestrians than higher speed roads, and vehicle operating speeds can be affected by changing the posted speed limit).

It is a fact that pedestrian injuries are usually less severe at lower impact speeds with a motor vehicle (see chart), but a key challenge in reducing collisions is knowing how to achieve a reduction in vehicle operating speeds. A variety of techniques to change driver behavior have been tried, including simply changing the posted speed limit, changing drivers' perception of the roadway environment, and applying additional enforcement.

Fatalities Based on Speed of Vehicle

A pedestrian's chance of death if hit by a motor vehicle:



Source: U.K. Department of Transportation, *Killing Speed and Saving Lives*, London, 1987.

SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS

Minnesota has good laws regarding the establishment of speed limits and speed zones. By statute, the speed limit is 30 miles per hour (mph) on urban roads and streets, and 55 mph on 2-lane rural roads. Where state and local authorities think that the statutory limits would not be effective, the statute

goes on to say that a speed zone may be established, but only after a study has been conducted and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation has approved the change.




The speed limit statute, MN Statute 169.14, has been in place for more than 60 years and was enacted by the Minnesota State Legislature because the previous approach of allowing local agencies to set speed zones was determined to be a failure. The zones were not consistent from city to city, were said to be widely ignored because they did not match drivers' perceptions about which speeds were safe, and were thought to have been influenced more by local desires to generate revenue than considerations for safety. MnDOT has conducted traffic studies called for by the law and has set speed limits accordingly, consistent with what is considered to be a best practice approach that assumes the majority of drivers along a section of road will select a travel speed that is both reasonable and proper given the actual roadway conditions and traffic characteristics of that road. The result has been a high level of consistency in the establishment of speed limits among roads that have similar characteristics and in most cases a very high level of compliance by road users, because the speed limit matches their expectations. This best practice approach to setting speed limits has been demonstrated to result in the most uniform vehicle operating speeds, and the uniform operating speeds have resulted in the overall safest conditions with fewer crashes.

MnDOT has occasionally been asked by local agencies to consider lowering a speed limit based on citizens' requests to address perceived safety issues, rather than using the results of the speed study. In a number of cases, MnDOT has temporarily lowered the limit as requested with the caveat that if the actual speed profiles do not change over a specified test period to reflect the new limit, the limit would be returned to the previous higher speed. The table on the following page shows the evaluation of a sample of the cases and indicates that in every case the experiment failed—no speed reduction was achieved, and in every case the limit was returned to the previous level.

Speed Reduction Measures (2 of 4)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS

Speed Zone Studies

Study Location	Before	After	Sign Change +/- mph	85% Before After	Change mph
T.H. 65			-10	34 34	0
T.H. 65			-10	44 45	+1
Anoka CSAH 1			-5	48 50	+2
Anoka CSAH 24			+15	49 50	+1
Anoka CR 51			+5	45 46	+1
Henn. CSAH 4			-10	52 51	-1
Nobles Ave.			+5	37 40	+3
62 nd Ave. N			-5	37 37	0
Mississippi St.			+5	39 40	+1

Source: Unpublished MnDOT Data

One additional key point relating to the linkage between vehicle operating speeds and pedestrian safety should be noted. Safety advocates suggest that pedestrians are safer at lower speeds. However, an analysis of severe pedestrian crashes in the Minneapolis–St. Paul metropolitan area found that more than 65 percent of the crashes occurred at locations with speed limits less than or equal to 40 mph. This frequency of crashes is partially attributed to exposure; there are a large number of roadways with speed limits lower than 40 mph within the metro area and high volumes of pedestrian activity on these roadways. However, the high number of severe crashes on lower speed roadways raises serious issues with the theory that lower vehicle speeds would result in fewer severe pedestrian-related crashes. It appears that lower vehicle speeds by themselves do not guarantee pedestrian safety.

Techniques associated with effectively lowering vehicle operating speeds by changing drivers' perceptions of the safe speed along road segments focus on narrowing either the actual width (i.e., distance between curb lines) or the effective width (i.e., the width of the travel lanes). Narrowing the effective width would include less costly strategies, such as adding edge lines, reducing the number of lanes (see section on Road Diets) or extending curb lines to shadow on-street parking bays (see section on Curb Extensions). In addition, roadway features such as curbs and gutters, sidewalks, boulevards, and street landscaping provide visual cues to drivers of potential pedestrian activity and encourages lower speeds.

A number of cities have also attempted to lower vehicle speeds through the application of traffic-calming devices such as humps/bumps, raised tables, diverters, and traffic circles. Feedback from city engineers indicates that installation of vertical elements have been most successful at reducing speeds (generally around 5 miles per hour). However, the speed reductions are limited to spot locations, and candidates for the installation of calming devices on arterial streets which generally have few buses, emergency vehicles, or trucks.

PROVEN, TRIED, OR EXPERIMENTAL

Each of the basic speed reduction measures has been TRIED many times, and the results are not consistent across the board and not consistent with the expectations of many pedestrian safety advocates. The research clearly supports the notion that vehicle-pedestrian collisions

Speed Reduction Measures (3 of 4)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS

are less severe at lower impact speeds. However, the data do not support the theory that pedestrians are safer at lower speeds; the majority of severe pedestrian crashes in the Minneapolis–St. Paul metropolitan area occur at locations with lower speeds (40 mph or less).

Of the various strategies that have been tried to achieve reductions in operating speeds, the only effective techniques are those that change drivers' perceptions of the road environment by making it appear narrower—reducing the number of lanes, extending curb lines into the road to shadow on-street parking bays, and adding edge lines that result in a narrower lane width. Each technique is associated with a reduction in pedestrian crashes, but it is not clear if the reduction is due to lower speeds, reduced exposure to multiple vehicles (road diet), reduced walking distance across the road (curb extension), or a combination of factors.

Merely changing a speed limit sign has not been shown to change driver behavior and has never resulted in a significant change in vehicle operating speeds. Added speed enforcement efforts can be effective, but the effort has to be sustained, and unfortunately few enforcement agencies are likely to have sufficient staff to support the necessary level of effort for a long period of time. The most cost-effective method to having a 24/7 presence over an extended period of time involves using electronic surveillance—speed cameras—which are not currently allowed in Minnesota.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATE LOCATIONS

Candidate locations for speed reduction measures are typically roads with speed zones determined by speed studies, as opposed to roads where the statutory limit applies. The urban statutory limit is 30 mph.

TYPICAL COSTS

Typical costs for speed reduction measures include the following:

- Changing the road environment:
 - Road diet—\$16,000 per mile for restriping, \$500,000 per mile for overlay and restriping; \$2 million to \$5 million per mile for reconstruction
 - Curb extensions—\$5,000 to \$10,000 per extension
 - Add lane lines—\$400 per mile
- Adding enforcement—\$15,000 to \$50,000 per speed enforcement location
- Technology—Dynamic Speed Feedback Signs for use at speed transitions or school zones. \$30,000 to \$50,000 per sign

DESIGN FEATURES

The following sections provides additional information on strategies that can be implemented to change the road environment and may be the most effective at reducing speed:

- Road diets—See page 27
- Curb extensions—See page 11

CONSIDERATIONS

The application of additional enforcement to achieve reductions in vehicle operating speeds has been tried and found to be successful if the effort is sustained over a long enough period of time (months as opposed to hours) and is supported by the leaders of local government. Conversations with police officers revealed that law enforcement officials believe that the “halo effect” of speed enforcement (that is, the length of time of changed driver behavior) is only minutes or hours if enforcement is not sustained for long enough periods that drivers' attitudes and behavior are actually changed. The application of additional enforcement also requires support from local government leaders. Police officers

Speed Reduction Measures (4 of 4)

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONSIDERATIONS

shared stories about how they made speed enforcement a priority in certain areas. They issued a large number of tickets that mostly went to area residents, and then the residents complained to city leaders that the extra enforcement was unreasonable. The leaders then directed the officers to move their speed enforcement efforts to another part of town. This example demonstrates the difficulties with implementing extra enforcement and suggest that the strategy may not be effective in permanently changing driver behavior.

The literature related to the effectiveness of speed enforcement quite clearly shows that the most cost-effective way to create an added, sustained speed enforcement presence in any roadway corridor is through the application of technology—specifically, speed cameras. However, electronic enforcement is not currently authorized by the Legislature, and conversations with all levels of law enforcement officials suggest that they do not have enough staff to sustain an added presence solely devoted to speed enforcement.

BEST PRACTICE

Pedestrian involved crashes are less severe at reduced vehicle speeds. However, merely changing the speed limit sign has never proven to have any significant effect on the actual speed profile of a roadway. Increased levels of enforcement may change driver behavior if it is sustained over a long period of time. The most effective way to lower vehicle speeds in Minnesota (electronic enforcement is NOT currently allowed) is to change driver's perception of the road environment through the application of a road diet or the addition of medians or curb extensions.



MnDOT Office of Traffic, Safety and Technology
1500 West County Road B2
Mail Stop 725
Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: 651-234-7003
Fax: 651-234-7370
E-mail: traffic.dot@state.mn.us