

Bicycle/Pedestrian – Roadway Guidance

The Transportation Enhancement Program, the Recreational Trail Program, State Trail Coordinator and WVDOH Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator are frequently asked to advise local government, non-profit organizations and the public in general concerning acceptable locations for bicycle use and how these locations should be formatted along Federal and State highways in West Virginia. After reviewing Chapter 17C Article 1, Article 11 and Article 11A, WVDOT Design Directive DD-813 “Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodation” and the AASHTO *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* we have prepared the following examples. (Category I roadway definition: Any highway facility that is a partially controlled access facility or any highway facility that contains four (4) or more lanes with design speeds greater than 40 mph. Category II roadway definition: Any non-access controlled highway facility or street not defined as being a Category I roadway.) All dimensions are recommendations only and are subject to variance in accordance with AASHTO policies.

Two or four lane roadway or city street with no special bicycle signage. (Shared Roadway or Bikeway, Category I or II.) We believe the law is very clear in this instance. Bicycle users must ride as close to the right side of the roadway as possible and obey all traffic regulations as motorists.

Two or four lane roadway or city street with “Share the Road” signs showing a bicycle or “Bicycle Route” signage but no designated bicycle lane. (Signed Shared Roadway or Bikeway/Bike Route, Category I or II.) Again, we believe bicycle users must ride as close to the right side of the roadway as possible and obey the same traffic regulations as motorists. For Category I roadways the recommended minimum width of the right shoulder is 5’-0” without rumble strip, 6’-6” with a rumble strip. The recommended minimum width of right shoulder on a bridge structure without rumble strip is 6’, with a rumble strip 7’-6”. For Category II roadways, if shoulders are to be paved, a width of 2’-0” should be considered; however, paved shoulders widths of 4’-0” or greater are encouraged. All structures should have a combination of railings, fences or barriers with a recommended minimum height of 4’-6”

Four-lane (ARC Corridor Highways or Category I) roadway with “Share the Road Bike Lane Use Shoulder” signage. Here bicycles are restricted to the shoulders and are only allowed on the roadway (as defined in §17C-1-37) to cross to the other side. Bicycles must use the shoulder on the right side of the road according to the direction in which they are traveling. The recommended minimum width of the right shoulder is 5’-0” without rumble strip, 6’-6” with a rumble strip. The recommended minimum width of right shoulder on a bridge structure without rumble strip is 6’, with a rumble strip 7’-6”. All structures should have a combination of railings, fences or barriers with a recommended minimum height of 4’-6”

Any highway or street with designated bicycle lanes (Category I or II). Here bicycles are restricted to the designated bicycle lane and are not allowed on the roadway

except where the bicycle lane crosses the roadway at intersections. A bicycle lane must be established along the right sides of the roadway so bicycle traffic can travel in both directions. For roadways with no curb or gutter, the recommended minimum width for a bike lane is 4'.0". If parking is permitted on the street, the bike lane should be between the parking area and the travel lane with a recommended minimum width of 5'.0"

Shared Use Paths adjacent to roads. If a shared use path for pedestrians and bicycles is established on DOH right of way but separate from the roadway, two-way bicycle traffic can be allowed on it. Separate paths on each side of the roadway are not required. It is recommended that the path be separated from the roadway by a distance of five feet or a guardrail or other physical barrier approximately 54 inches high. A simple curb is insufficient as a separator. In areas where shared use paths are adjacent to roadways bicycles are NOT allowed to use the roadways §17C-11-5(c).

DD-813 recommends that the width should be a minimum of 8'-0" with 2'-0" grade shoulders. All structures should have a combination of railings, fences or barriers with a minimum height of 4'-6"