



# National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

13236 North 7th Street, Suite 4-259, Phoenix, Arizona 85022  
Phone/Text: 231-4-NCUTCD (231-462-8823)  
E-mail: [secretary@ncutcd.org](mailto:secretary@ncutcd.org) Website: <https://ncutcd.org>

Item Number: 25B-BIK-01

## NCUTCD PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

**COMMITTEE / TASK FORCE:** Bicycle Technical Committee  
**ITEM NUMBER:** 25B-BIK-01  
**TOPIC:** Smaller Sized Regulatory Signs for Separated Bikeways  
**ORIGIN OF REQUEST:** Bicycle TC  
**AFFECTED SECTIONS  
OF MUTCD:** 9A.02

### DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

Approved by Bicycle TC: .....06/12/2025

Approved by NCUTCD Council: .....

*This is a proposed change to the MUTCD that has been developed by a technical committee, joint committee, or joint task force of the NCUTCD. The NCUTCD is distributing this to its sponsoring organizations for review and comment. Sponsor comments will be considered in revising the proposal prior to NCUTCD Council consideration. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, options, or support. If approved by the NCUTCD Council, the recommended changes will be submitted to FHWA for consideration for inclusion in a future MUTCD revision. The MUTCD can be revised only through the federal rulemaking process.*

### SUMMARY:

Warning signs are permitted to be sized smaller on bicycle facilities per Section 9A.02. However, the same option statement is not provided for regulatory signs. Smaller regulatory signs would be more useful and appropriate than standard size signs for applications for shared-use paths and bicycle lanes. These smaller signs provide adequate visibility and target value at typical bicycle speeds.

### DISCUSSION:

Appropriate signing is critical for the safety and efficient operation of shared-use paths and separated bicycle lanes. As these facilities continue to expand across communities, the need for properly scaled regulatory signs becomes increasingly important. Current standards in Chapter 2B and Chapter 9B require regulatory signs to be the minimum size prescribed. Section 9B.24 allows for the installation of regulatory signs from Chapter 2B as appropriate. Chapter 9B shows some redundant regulatory signs from Part 2, that are permitted to be smaller, but not many.

However, all diamond warning signs within Chapter 2C are permitted to be 18" x 18" in the 11th edition of the MUTCD. This proposal is to extend this option to regulatory signs within Chapter 2B. These reduced size regulatory signs would still maintain effectiveness, just as smaller

warning signs already do. Since regulatory signs are both square and rectangular, the proposed language uses the same size of 18" x 18" for square signs, and 18" x 12" or 18" x 12" dimensions for rectangle shaped regulatory signs. The required sizes of signs listed in Table 9A-1 would stay the same. Instead of adding more signs to Part 9, this proposal allows regulatory signs in Chapter 2B to be smaller when used specifically for shared-use paths and separated bicycle lanes.

#### **RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES:**

The following present the proposed changes to the current MUTCD within the context of the current MUTCD language. Proposed additions to the MUTCD are shown in blue underline and proposed deletions from the MUTCD are shown in ~~red strikethrough~~. Changes previously approved by NCUTCD Council (but not yet adopted by FHWA) are shown in green double underline for additions and ~~green double strikethrough~~ for deletions. In some cases, background comments may be provided with the MUTCD text. These comments are indicated by [bracketed white text in shaded green]. Deletions made by a technical committee, joint committee, or task force after initial distribution to sponsoring organizations are shown in ~~highlighted red strikethrough and sans-serif text~~. Additions made by a technical committee, joint committee, or task force after initial distribution to sponsoring organizations are shown in underline blue and sans-serif text.

## **PART 9**

### **TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR BICYCLE FACILITIES**

#### **CHAPTER 9A. REGULATORY SIGNS**

##### **Section 9A.02 Standardization of Application for Signing**

###### **Support:**

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

###### **Standard:**

**Bicycle signs shall comply with the provisions of this Manual for standard shape, legend, and color.**

**All signs installed on bikeways shall be retroreflective, including those on shared-use paths and bicycle lane facilities.**

**Where signs serve both bicyclists and other road users, vertical mounting height and lateral placement shall be as provided in Sections 2A.15 and 2A.16 of this Manual.**

###### **Guidance:**

*Where used on a shared-use path, no portion of a sign or its support should be placed less than 2 feet laterally from the near edge of the path, or less than 8 feet vertically over the entire width of the shared-use path (see Figure 9A-1).*

*Mounting height for post-mounted signs on shared-use paths should be a minimum of 4 feet, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the path surface (see Figure 9A-1).*

*Signs for the exclusive use of bicyclists should be located so that other road users are not confused by them.*

*The clearance for overhead signs on shared-use paths should be adjusted when appropriate to accommodate path users requiring more clearance, such as equestrians, or typical maintenance or emergency vehicles.*

**Standard:**

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

**The minimum sign and plaque sizes for signs specific to bicycle-only facilities and shared-use paths shall be those shown in Table 9A-1. These sizes shall be used only for signs and plaques installed specifically for bicyclist applications.**

**Option:**

Larger sizes of signs and plaques may be used on bicycle facilities when appropriate (see Section 2A.07).

Any diamond-shaped warning sign that is placed such that it is applicable only to bicyclists or pedestrians on shared-use paths or separated bicycle lanes may be 18" x 18".

Any square-shaped regulatory sign that is placed such that it is applicable only to bicyclists or pedestrians on shared-use paths or separated bicycle lanes may be 18" x 18". Unless specified in Table 9A-1, any horizontal rectangle regulatory sign may be 18" x 12" and any vertical rectangle regulatory sign may be 12" x 18".

**Guidance:**

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

**Support:**

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