



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 Website: <https://ncutcd.org>

Item No.: 24B-BIK-01

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

COMMITTEE / TASK FORCE: Bicycle Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 24B-BIK-01
TOPIC: Counter-Flow Bike Lane One-Way Signage
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: Bicycle Technical Committee
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: Section 2B.49 ONE WAY Signs (R6-1 and R6-2)
Section 9E.08 Counter-Flow Bicycle Lanes

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

Approved by Bicycle TC: 06/26/2024
Approved by RWSTC: 06/26/2024
Approved by NCUTCD Council:

This is a proposal for recommended changes to the MUTCD that has been developed by a technical committee or joint task force of the NCUTCD. The NCUTCD is] distributing it 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, or options. 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:

Removes the restriction on using ONE WAY signs on roads with counter-flow bicycle lanes to improve driver compliance and reduce confusion and to eliminate a conflict between Section 2B.49 ONE WAY signs and Section 9E.08 Counter-Flow Bicycle Lanes.

DISCUSSION:

Section 9E.08 Counter-Flow Bicycle Lanes prohibits the use of ONE WAY (R6-1) signs with an EXCEPT BICYCLES (R3-7bP) plaque for counter-flow bicycle lanes, however, Section 2B.49 ONE WAY signs includes a new Option to use this combination on counter-flow bicycle lanes. These two sections are therefore in conflict with each other.

It is noted that Section 2B.26 Movement Prohibition Signs provides an Option to omit mandatory use of No Left Turn/No Right Turn (R3-1) signs if ONE-WAY signs are used.

35 ONE WAY (R6-1) signs with an EXCEPT BICYCLES (R3-7bP) plaque for counter-flow bicycle
36 lanes would present a clear message to motorists that the roadway is intended for motor vehicle
37 traffic travel in one direction only in addition to counter-flow bicycle travel in the other direction.
38

39 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES:**

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

50 **PART 2. SIGNS**

51 **CHAPTER 2B. REGULATORY SIGNS, BARRICADES, AND GATES**

52 **Section 2B.49 ONE WAY Signs (R6-1 and R6-2)**

53 **Standard:**

54 ⁰¹ Except as provided in Paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Section, the ONE WAY (R6-1 or R6-2) sign
55 (see Figure 2B-13) shall be used to indicate streets or roadways upon which vehicular traffic is
56 allowed to travel in one direction only. Include the existing exception in Paragraph 7 of this Section in
57 the Standard statement similar to the format of other Chapter 2B Standard statements.

58 ⁰² ONE WAY signs shall be placed parallel to the one-way street at all alleys and roadways that
59 intersect one-way roadways as shown in Figure 2B-18.

60 ⁰³ At the crossing of a roadway with a divided highway that functions as two separate
61 intersections, ONE WAY signs shall be placed, visible to each crossroad approach, on the near
62 right and far left corners of each intersection with the directional roadways (see Figure 2B-19).

63 ⁰⁴ At the crossing of a roadway with a divided highway that functions as a single intersection
64 Keep Right (R4-7) signs (see Section 2B.39) and/or ONE WAY signs shall be installed (see Figure
65 2B-20). If Keep Right signs are installed, they shall be placed as close as practicable to the approach
66 ends of the medians and shall be visible to traffic on the divided highway and angled (as needed)
67 toward the applicable crossroad approach as shown in Figure 2B-20. If ONE WAY signs are
68 installed, they shall be placed on the near right and far left corners of the intersection and shall be
69 visible to each crossroad approach.

70 **Option:**

71 ⁰⁵ At the crossing of a roadway with a divided highway, regardless of function as a single or separate
72 intersections, ONE WAY signs may also be placed on the far right corner of the intersection as shown in
73 Figures 2B-19 and 2B-20.

74 ⁰⁶ ONE WAY signs may be omitted on the one-way roadways of divided highways, where the design
75 of interchanges indicates the direction of traffic on the separate roadways.

76 ⁰⁷ An EXCEPT BICYCLES (R3-7bP) plaque (see Figure 2B-4) may be used with a ONE WAY sign
77 when counter-flow bicycle traffic is allowed.

78 Section 9E.08 Par 09 conflicts with this new Option. This proposal seeks to revise Section 9E.08 to be
79 consistent with this Option.

80 **Support:**

84 08 Section 2B.48 contains information for the placement of ONE WAY signs at a crossroad with an
85 interchange.
86

87

88 **Standard:**

89 09 **If used at unsignalized intersections with one-way streets, ONE WAY signs shall be placed on**
90 **the near right and the far left corners of the intersection facing traffic entering or crossing the one-**
91 **way street (see Figure 2B-18).**

92 10 **If used at signalized intersections with one-way streets, ONE WAY signs shall be placed near**
93 **the appropriate signal faces, on the poles holding the traffic signals, on the mast arm or span wire**
94 **holding the signals, or at the locations specified for unsignalized intersections.**

95 11 **At unsignalized T-intersections where the roadway at the top of the T-intersection is a one-way**
96 **roadway, ONE WAY signs shall be placed on the near-right and the far side of the intersection**
97 **facing traffic on the stem approach (see Figure 2B-18).**

98 Option:

99 12 Where the central island of a roundabout allows for the installation of signs, ONE WAY signs may
100 be used to direct traffic counter-clockwise around the central island (see Figures 2B-22 and 2B-23).

101 *Guidance:*

102 13 *Where used on the central island of a roundabout, the mounting height of a ONE WAY sign should*
103 *be at least 4 feet, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the*
104 *traveled way.*

105 Option:

106 14 The BEGIN ONE WAY (R6-6) sign (see Figure 2B-13) may be used to notify road users of the
107 beginning point of a one direction of travel restriction on the street or roadway. The END ONE WAY
108 (R6-7) sign (see Figure 2B-13) may be used to notify road users of the ending point of a one direction of
109 travel restriction on the street or roadway.

110

111 **PART 9. TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR BICYCLE FACILITIES**

112

113 **CHAPTER 9E. MARKINGS**

114

115 **Section 9E.08 Counter-Flow Bicycle Lanes**

116 Support:

117 01 Counter-flow bicycle lanes are one-directional and provide a lawful path of travel for bicycles in the
118 opposite direction from general traffic on a roadway that allows general traffic to travel in only one
119 direction.

120 02 Counter-flow bicycle lanes establish two-way traffic on a roadway. Section 9B.21 contains
121 information on the Left Turn Yield to Bicycles (R10-12b) sign used with traffic signals and counter-flow
122 bicycle lanes.

123 *Guidance:*

124 03 *Where used, a counter-flow bicycle lane should be marked such that bicycles in the counter-flow*
125 *lane travel on their right-hand side of the road in accordance with normal rules of the road, with*
126 *opposing traffic on the left.*

127 **Standard:**

128 04 **Counter-flow bicycle lanes located at the edge of the roadway shall use double yellow center**
129 **line pavement markings (see Section 3B.01), a painted median island, a raised median island (see**
130 **Chapter 3J), or some form of physical separation where the speed limit is 30 mph or less.**

131 05 **For speed limits 35 mph or greater, a buffer per Section 3B.25, a painted or raised median**
132 **island, or some form of physical separation shall be used to separate a counter-flow bicycle lane**
133 **from the adjacent travel lane.**

134 *Guidance:*

135 06 *Lane extension markings should be used where counter-flow bicycle movements cross intersections.*
136 07 *Counter-flow bicycle lanes should not be used between a general-purpose lane and an on-street*
137 *parallel parking lane for motor vehicles.*

138
139 Support:
140 08 Counter-flow bicycle lanes located between a general-purpose lane and an on-street parallel parking
141 lane for motor vehicles can limit visibility of bicycles for vehicles exiting the parking lane, potentially
142 impacting the safety of bicyclists. Locating counter-flow bicycle lanes at the edge of the roadway can
143 reduce conflicts for bicycles.

144 **Standard:**
145 09 **Where signs are provided to regulate turns from streets or driveways that intersect with a**
146 **roadway that has a counter-flow bicycle lane, ~~ONE WAY signs (see Section 2B.49) shall not be~~**
147 **used. Movement Prohibition signs (see Section 2B.26) with supplemental EXCEPT BICYCLES**
148 **(R3-7bP) regulatory plaque(s) shall be used (see Figure 9E-8).**

149 Option:
150 09A ONE WAY (R6-1) signs with supplemental EXCEPT BICYCLES (R3-7bP) regulatory plaque(s)
151 may be used in addition to Movement Prohibition signs to regulate turns from streets or driveways that
152 intersect with a roadway that has a counter-flow bicycle lane (see Section 2B.49). [Delete prohibition in
153 Paragraph 9 and add this new Option to be consistent with the Option in 2B.49 Paragraph 7.]

154 10 **If a DO NOT ENTER (R5-1) sign(s) is used at egress points for motor vehicle traffic, the**
155 **EXCEPT BICYCLES (R3-7bP) regulatory plaque(s) shall be placed under the DO NOT ENTER**
156 **sign (see Figure 9E-8) where a counter-flow bicycle lane is used.**

157 11 **Where intersection traffic controls are provided (such as STOP or YIELD signs or traffic**
158 **signals), appropriate devices shall be provided and oriented toward bicyclists in the counter-flow**
159 **lane.**

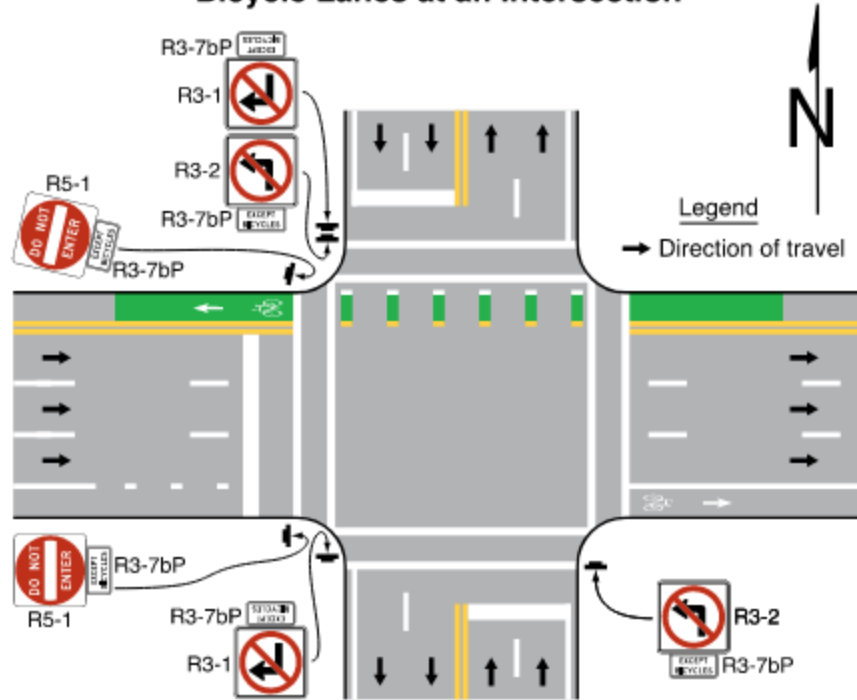
160 12 **At signalized locations, appropriate bicycle signalization (see Chapter 9F) shall be provided**
161 **and oriented toward bicyclists in the counter-flow lane, including a method for counter-flow**
162 **bicycles to actuate the green phase for the counter-flow movement.**

163 Support:
164 13 Higher levels of traffic control or additional signalization, signing, and/or pavement marking
165 treatments can be helpful for intersecting traffic where the counter-flow bicycle movement is unexpected.
166 *Guidance:*

167 14 *A Bicycle Cross Traffic warning plaque (see Section 9C.06) should be used below a STOP sign on*
168 *the crossroad at intersections where a counter-flow bicycle lane is provided on the primary street.*

169
170
171
172
173
174

Figure 9E-8. Example of Counter-Flow Bicycle Lanes at an Intersection



175
176
177
178
179
180

[*R6-1 signs and R3-7bP plaques may be used in addition to Movement Prohibition signs.](#)

[Revise Figure 9E-8 to add footnote for Option to use ONE WAY (R6-1) signs with EXCEPT BICYCLES (R3-7bP) plaque in addition to Movement Prohibition signs shown with counter-flow bicycle lanes. Also delete North arrow.]