

APPROVED BY NCUTCD COUNCIL ON JANUARY 19, 2007

**MARKINGS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SPONSOR BALLOT
CLARIFICATION OF BIKE LANES IN THE TRAVELWAY**

The Bicycles Technical Committee (BTC) requested that the Markings Technical Committee (MTC) revise Section 3B.07 by deleting the term “bicycle lane” to eliminate the potential interpretation of bike lanes being outside the traveled way. Definitions from 1A.14 are provided below. The MUTCD definition of roadway indicates that a bicycle lane is part of the “roadway” but bike lanes are defined as part of the travel way only by their definition as vehicles. The BTC believes that the current language creates inconsistencies between Chapters 1A, 3B, and 9C and could result in legal and operational complications. In response to sponsor comments, the MTC added the sentence about omitting the edge line if a bicycle lane is located at the outside edge of the traveled way.

PERTINENT MUTCD DEFINITIONS FROM 1A.14: [emphasis added]

6. Bicycle - a pedal-powered *vehicle* upon which the human operator sits.
7. Bicycle Lane - a portion of a *roadway* that has been designated by signs and pavement markings for preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists.
23. Edge Line Markings—white or yellow pavement marking lines that delineate the right or left edge(s) of a *traveled way*.
65. Roadway - that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for *vehicular travel* and parking lanes, but exclusive of the sidewalk, berm, or shoulder even though such sidewalk, berm, or shoulder is used by persons riding bicycles or other human-powered vehicles. In the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term roadway as used herein shall refer to any such roadway separately, but not to all such roadways collectively.
91. Traveled Way - the portion of the roadway for the *movement of vehicles*, exclusive of the shoulders, berms, sidewalks, and parking lanes. [Note: the traveled way is not defined in the UVC.]
93. Vehicle - every device in, upon, or by which any person or property can be transported or drawn upon a highway, except trains and light rail transit operating in exclusive or semiexclusive alignments. Light rail transit operating in a mixed-use alignment, to which other traffic is not required to yield the right-of-way by law, is a vehicle.

RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES

The following presents the NCUTCD recommendations for changes to Section 3B.07. Additions to the current MUTCD language are shown in blue underline; deletions are shown in ~~red strikethrough~~.

Section 3B.07 Warrants for Use of Edge Lines

Standard:

Edge line markings shall be placed on paved streets or highways with the following characteristics:

- A. Freeways;**
- B. Expressways; and**
- C. Rural arterials with a traveled way of 6.1 m (20 ft) or more in width and an ADT of 6,000 vehicles per day or greater.**

Guidance:

Edge line markings should be placed on paved streets or highways with the following characteristics:

- A. Rural arterials and collectors with a traveled way of 6.1 m (20 ft) or more in width and an ADT of 3,000 vehicles per day or greater.
- B. At other paved streets and highways where an engineering study indicates a need for edge line markings.

Edge line markings should not be placed where an engineering study or engineering judgment indicates that providing them is likely to decrease safety.

Option:

Edge line markings may be placed on streets and highways with or without centerline markings.

Edge line markings may be excluded, based on engineering judgment, for reasons such as if the traveled way edges are delineated by curbs, parking, ~~bicycle lanes~~, or other markings.

If a bicycle lane is marked on the outside portion of the traveled way, the outside edge line (i.e., a marking defining the outside edge of the bicycle lane) may be omitted.

Edge line markings may be used where edge delineation is desirable to minimize unnecessary driving on paved shoulders or on refuge areas that have lesser structural pavement strength than the adjacent roadway.