NOTE: This is a draft of a recommendation by NCUTCD to FHWA to add or revise the content of the MUTCD. This proposal by itself does not constitute official standards or guidance. Regardless of NCUTCD approval status, any proposed change or revision has no legal or official status until specifically approved by FHWA through either the Interim Approval process or adoption into a new edition of the MUTCD.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Bicycle Technical Committee

TOPIC: R5-xxP Except Bicycles Plaque

STATUS/DATE OF ACTION:
TC Drafts: 06/19/2009
TC Approval: 06/19/2009
Transmitted to Sponsors: 08/09/2009
TC Revision: 01/06/2010 (version 1.2)
Council Approval: 07/02/2010 (33-0-2)

ORIGIN OF REQUEST: NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee (BTC)

AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: Chapter 9B - Bicycle Regulatory Signs (Section 9B.10 in the 2003 MUTCD, Section 9B.11 of the draft NPA)

SUMMARY: This plaque would be used beneath regulatory traffic control signs where it is desired to exempt bikes from the condition depicted on the sign.

DISCUSSION
There are some regulatory conditions such as Do Not Enter, One Way, and Lane Assignment where it is appropriate to except bicyclists from the restrictions applied to other traffic. For example, allowing bicyclists contraflow use of streets and alleys that are one-way for other traffic can reduce the need for lengthy and inconvenient out-of-direction travel. Additionally, there are some transit lanes and facilities where allowing bicyclists is compatible with other users. This plaque provides a simple and clear method for appropriately allowing these exceptions.

The NCUTCD Regulatory & Warning Sign Technical Committee has reviewed and concurred with this proposal.
RECOMMENDED MUTCD PROVISIONS/ REVISIONS:

Add the following text to the section on Bicycle Regulatory Signs (Section 9B.10 in the 2003 MUTCD, Section 9B.11 of the draft NPA):

Support:
There are circumstances where it may be appropriate to except bicyclists from regulatory restrictions applied to other traffic.

Guidance:
Where an engineering study finds that it is appropriate to exempt bicyclists from the provisions of a regulatory sign, the Except Bicycles plaque (R5-xxP) should be used.

Standard:
The Except Bicycles plaque shall not be used to change assignment of right of way at STOP or YIELD signs, or to override a traffic signal indication.

The Except Bicycles plaque shall be placed below the regulatory sign affected by the plaque.