



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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

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8 **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:** Bicycle Technical Committee

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10 **TOPIC:** Bicycle Lane Markings - Clarification

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12 **STATUS/DATE OF ACTION:**

13 **BTC Drafts:** 01/19/2011 (version 1.0)

14 **BTC Approval:** 01/19/2011

15 **MTC Concurrence:** 01/20/2011

16 **Transmitted to Sponsors:** 01/21/2011

17 **TC Revision:** 06/22/2011 (no changes)

18 **Council Approval:** **06/23/2011**

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20 **ORIGIN OF REQUEST:** NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee (BTC)

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22 **AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD:** Section 9C.04 - Markings for Bicycle Lanes

23
24 **SUMMARY:**

25 This proposal revises Section 9C.04 - Markings For Bicycle Lanes to be consistent with
26 Section 3D.01 - Preferential Lane Word and Symbol Markings.

27
28 **DISCUSSION**

29 The current Standard text in Section 3D.01 notes that preferential lane word and symbol
30 markings shall be used to assign a lane full or part time to a particular class or classes
31 of vehicles. The Standard in Section 9C.04, Markings for Bicycle Lanes, only
32 references the use of longitudinal pavement markings to define bicycle lanes. Section
33 9C.04 as currently worded could be misinterpreted as not requiring the use of word or
34 symbol markings. This could result in bike lanes without any markings other than a
35 longitudinal line. This could also result in shoulders without markings being erroneously
36 considered to be bicycle lanes, which could have significant legal, operational, and risk
37 management impacts.

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39 This proposed text aligns the Standard in Section 9C.04 with the Standard in 3D.01.
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1 These proposed changes were also reviewed and endorsed by the NCUTCD Markings
2 Technical Committee at their meeting in January 2011.

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4 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD REVISIONS**

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6 **Note:** Deletions from the 2009 MUTCD text are noted in ~~strikethrough-red~~, and
7 insertions in underline blue.

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9 Paragraphs 01-05 of Section 9C.04 of the MUTCD are revised as follows:

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11 **Section 9C.04 Markings For Bicycle Lanes**

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13 Support:

14 01 Pavement markings designate that portion of the roadway for preferential
15 use by bicyclists (see section 3D.01). Markings inform all road users of the
16 restricted nature of the bicycle lane.

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18 **Standard:**

19 02 **Longitudinal pavement markings and bicycle lane symbol or word**
20 **markings (see Figure 9C-3) shall be used to define bicycle lanes.**

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22 *Guidance:*

23 03 ~~If used, The first bicycle lane symbol or word, symbol and/or arrow~~
24 ~~markings (see Figure 9C-3) in a bicycle lane should be placed at the beginning of~~
25 ~~a the bicycle lane and the downstream symbol or word markings should be placed~~
26 ~~at periodic intervals along the bicycle lane based on engineering judgment.~~

27
28 **Standard:**

29 04 ~~— If the bicycle lane symbol marking is used in conjunction with word or~~
30 ~~arrow messages, it shall precede them.~~

31
32 Option:

33 04 An arrow marking (see Figure 9C-3) may be used in conjunction with the
34 bicycle lane symbol or word marking, placed downstream from the symbol or
35 word marking.

36 05 ~~If the word, symbol, and/or arrow pavement markings shown in Figure 9C-3~~
37 Where the bicycle lane symbol or word markings are used, Bike Lane signs (see
38 Section 9B.04) may also be used, but to avoid overuse of the signs not necessarily
39 adjacent to every set of pavement markings.