NOTE: This is 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: NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee (BTC)

TOPIC: Revised M1-8 and M1-8a Numbered Bicycle Route Signs

STATUS/DATE OF ACTION:
BTC Draft: 08/19/2010 (version 1.1)
BTC Approval: 08/20/2010
GMITC Concurrence: 01/20/2011
Transmitted to Sponsors: 01/21/2011
TC Revision: 06/22/2011
Council Approval: 06/23/2011

ORIGIN OF REQUEST: NCUTCD Bicycle Technical Committee (BTC)

AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: 9B.21

SUMMARY: The BTC proposes a new design for the M1-8 Numbered Bicycle Route marker that will improve legibility and increase flexibility for local agencies. This design is also consistent with the revised M1-9 US Bicycle Route marker approved by NCUTCD in January 2010.

DISCUSSION
The existing M1-8 was established in the MUTCD in 1978, and has been used by agencies to establish route guidance for bicyclists in much the same way that other M1 series numbered route signs are used to guide other road users. In 2005 NCUTCD recommended to FHWA that a modified design (M1-8a) be added to the MUTCD to allow local agencies the option to add a unique pictograph or words to identify the jurisdiction having authority over the route. This M1-8a was added to the MUTCD in 2009.
A comment received about the design of the M1-8a is that although agencies welcome the idea of adding a pictograph or wording, the oval design of the M1-8 does not offer a large area for such a pictograph or legend. Also, the current oval design of the M1-8 is not optimal for creating a distinctive state-level bicycle route marker, which has become an issue as some states are beginning to develop and implement state bicycle routes.

In developing a new design for the M1-9 US Bicycle Route marker, it was noted that the simple and clear design of the revised M1-9 could easily be adapted for a revised M1-8 and M1-8a, addressing all these concerns. These proposals were then developed, and are presented in this proposal.

The 4" numeral size is the same as used in the new M1-9 US Bicycle Route marker. The 2" minimum text size is consistent with other bicycle-specific guide signing, and should be legible under nearly all conditions at typical bicycle operating speeds.

These proposed changes were also reviewed and endorsed by the NCUTCD Guide and Motorist Information Sign Technical Committee at their meeting in January 2011.
RECOMMENDED MUTCD PROVISIONS/ REVISIONS:

Note: Deletions from the 2009 MUTCD text are noted in strikethrough red, and insertions in underline blue.

1. Section 9B.21 of the MUTCD is modified as follows:

Section 9B.21 Bicycle Route Signs (M1-8, M1-8a, M1-9)

Option:

To establish a unique identification (route designation) for a State or local bicycle route, the Bicycle Route (M1-8, M1-8a) sign (see Figure 9B-4) may be used.

Standard Guidance:

The Bicycle Route (M1-8) sign shall contain a route designation and shall have a green background with a retroreflectorized white legend and border. The Bicycle Route (M1-8a) sign shall contain the same information as the M1-8 sign and in addition shall include on the upper portion of the sign panel a pictograph or words that are associated with the route or with the agency that has jurisdiction over the route. The pictograph or legend shall incorporate a bicycle symbol or word message that clearly identifies the route as a bicycle route or pathway.

If a pictograph is used on the M1-8a sign the maximum dimension (height or width) of the pictograph should not exceed two times the height of the route numeral, and should be contained within a green border.

If a bicycle symbol is used on the M1-8a sign, it should have a minimum height of 20% of the M1-8a sign panel height.
2. New designs for the M1-8 and M1-8a are recommended as follows:

M1-8 (generic) - 12" x 18" size
M1-8 (state bicycle route option) - 18” x 24” size
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M1-8a (word legend option) - 12" x 18" size
Bike symbol minimum height: 20% (3.6"

M1-8a (pictograph option) - 12" x 18" size
Bike symbol minimum height: 20% (4.8")

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M1-8a (pictograph option) - 18" x 24" size