

National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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NOTE: This is a recommendation to FHWA on changes to the MUTCD by the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). This recommendation is not a revision to the MUTCD and does not constitute official standards, guidance, or options. No proposed revision to the MUTCD is effective unless and until approved by FHWA through an Interim Approval or through the Federal rulemaking process.

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Bicycle Technical Committee and Signals Technical Committee

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TOPIC: Recommendation – Bicycle Signal Faces

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STATUS/DATE OF ACTION: Recommended to send to sponsors following the

January 2014 NCUTCD meeting

1920 Technical Committee Vote:

BTC -19-1-0 STC - 35-0-0

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Transmitted to Sponsors: March 2014

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Council Approval: June 28, 2014

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ORIGIN OF REQUEST: Various

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AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: Various portions of Parts 1, 4, & 9

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SUMMARY:

An Interim Approval has been issued for the optional use of a bicycle signal face (IA-16). This joint technical committee recommendation provides proposed MUTCD language to update the existing MUTCD standards, guidance, and options to add provisions for bicycle signal faces to control certain bicycle movements. This recommendation is based on the Interim Approval.

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DISCUSSION:

- The concept of providing separate signal faces to control bicycle movements at traffic control signals has been a topic of discussion in recent years. Informal working group sessions have
- 40 been held at National Committee meetings to discuss this topic and work toward the
- development of proposed MUTCD language. However, following the June 2013 NCUTCD
- 42 meeting, FHWA indicated their intent to issue an Interim Approval by the end of 2013 to allow

the optional use of bicycle signal faces. There was insufficient time for the NCUTCD technical committees to develop proposed language, submit it to the sponsoring organizations for review, and refine and present it to the NC Council for a vote prior to the time FHWA needed a response. Therefore, the Bicycle Technical Committee (BTC) and the Signals Technical Committee (STC) worked jointly to develop a joint technical committee recommendation that was submitted to FHWA in November 2013. That joint technical committee recommendation was sent to sponsors as an information item at the time it was submitted to FHWA. The Interim Approval was issued December 24, 2013.

At the January 2014 NCUTCD meeting, the BTC and STC held a special joint session to discuss the Interim Approval and develop proposed language for inclusion in the Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA) for the next MUTCD. The following is presented as a joint technical committee recommendation to add provisions for the use of bicycle signal faces to the MUTCD. Most of the language is new and is proposed to be in a new MUTCD chapter. However, there are some minor changes needed to existing MUTCD sections to incorporate the new chapter.

There are some items that should be considered when reviewing this recommendation.

- 1. While the current MUTCD does not specifically address bicycle signal faces, Section 4D.07 references "circular indications in a signal face installed for the sole purpose of controlling a bikeway or a bicycle movement". Although no similar reference exists for the use of arrow indications to control a bikeway or a bicycle movement, there is also nothing prohibiting arrow indications for that application. Therefore, the use of bicycle signal faces with all circular indications or all arrow indications have been included in the recommendation. Since straight through yellow arrows and red arrows are not permitted, the use of bicycle signal faces withall arrow indications has been limited to all left or all right arrows.
- 2. A new definition has been included for a "bicycle symbol signal indication". This definition is for a red, yellow, or green signal indication that displays a bicycle symbol rather than a circular indication. It is important to note the difference and distinction between a "bicycle symbol signal indication" and a "bicycle signal indication". A "bicycle signal indication" simply refers to an indication in a bicycle signal face. This could be a circular indication, an arrow indication, or a bicycle symbol signal indication. However, a "bicycle symbol signal indication" refers specifically to an indication that displays a red, yellow, or green bicycle symbol.
- 3. The two illustrations from the Interim Approval were included as figures in the joint Technical Committee Recommendation that was sent to sponsors. However, during the joint BTC/STC session at the meeting, the committees felt that combinations of arrow indications and bicycle symbol indications in the same signal face should not be allowed. The recommendation language was therefore revised to delete references to such combinations of indications in a bicycle signal face and Attachment 1A-16-2 from the IA that included sign signal faces was deleted from the recommendation. Attachment 1A-16-1 was revised to show bicycle signal faces that include only circular indications, only bicycle symbol indications, only left arrow indications, or only right arrow indications.
- 4. The following concerning the use of bicycle signal faces is included as #1 in the Interim Approval:

However, if an agency opts to use bicycle signal faces under this Interim Approval, such use shall be limited to situations where bicycles moving on a

green or yellow signal indication in a bicycle signal face are not in conflict with any simultaneous motor vehicle movement at the signalized location. including right (or left) turns on red.

The BTC & STC felt this is unnecessarily restrictive and included less restrictive language. When sent to Sponsors, the second Guidance paragraph in Section xx.02 was listed as a Standard. This was changed to Guidance during the joint BTC/STC session. It was felt that an agency may desire to provide a bicycle signal face at each signalized location along a route with a bicycle lane or separate bicycle facility to provide consistency indications provided to control the bicycle movements at successive signalized locations.

- Several revisions considered editorial were made based on Sponsor comments. In addition, the following modifications were presented to and approved by National Committee in the final recommendation:
 - Added an Option to specifically allow the use of a bicycle signal face at a mid-block signal that does not have a motor vehicle movement parallel to the bicycle crossing.
 - Added an Option to specifically allow the use of a BICYCLE SIGNAL sign with a bicycle signal face that contains only bicycle symbol indications. This sign is required for a bicycle signal face that does not contain all bicycle symbol indications and the technical committees felt it was important to note that, while not required, a sign is allowed when all of the indications ion a bicycle signal face are bicycle symbol indications.
 - Included sign sizes other than those included in the Interim Approval in order to improve visibility and layout.
 - Included a Standard that prohibits exclusive and simultaneous bicycle movements from perpendicular directions rather that using the language included in the IA. This is to allow an exclusive diagonal bicycle movement through an intersection, but not a "scramble" phase that could have conflicting perpendicular bicycle movements.
 - Included Guidance that a bicycle signal face should not be used with a hybrid beacon. This was included as a Standard in the IA. It was felt that bicycle faces could be used with a hybrid beacon as long as the requirements of the hybrid beacon are satisfied, primarily the required sequence of indications.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE MUTCD:

Other than minor changes in Section 4D.06, there is no existing MUTCD language proposed for deletion as part of this recommendation. The deletions in 4D.06 are shown in red strikethrough (red strikethrough). Proposed additions are shown using red underline (red underline). Some text in the draft recommendation is in yellow highlight. Yellow highlighting indicates text that is providing supplemental information related to the recommendation, but is not part of the recommended text.

Add the following two new definitions (Standards) in Section 1A.13 following definition 23 Bicycle Lane:

136 Section 1A.13 Definitions Standard:

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138	xx. Bicycle Signal Face - a signal face, consisting of three or more
139	signal sections, that exclusively controls a bicycle movement from
140	a designated bicycle lane or from a separate facility such as a
141	shared use path, and that displays signal indications that are
142	applicable only to the bicycle movement.
143	
144	xx. Bicycle Symbol Signal Indication - a red, yellow, or green signal
145	indication that displays a bicycle symbol rather than a circular or
146	arrow indication.
147	<u>arrow maroaciom</u>
148	Add the following new Section 4D.04following existing Section 4D.03 and renumber
149	later sections in Chapter 4D. Note: Any references to 4D in this document refer to the
150	existing 4D section numbers, not renumbered section numbers.
151	existing 4D section numbers, not renumbered section numbers.
152	Section 4D.04 Provisions for Bicyclists
153	Option:
154	Where it is desired to provide separate signal indications to control bicycle
155	movements at a traffic control signal, bicycle signal faces may be used (see Chapter
156	XX).
157	<u>///.</u>
158	Modify Paragraph 01 in Section 4D.06 to not require circular or arrow indications for
159	bicycle symbolsignal indications.
160	bicycle symbolsignal indications.
161	Section 4D.06 Signal Indications – Design, Illumination, Color, and Shape
162	Standard:
163	01 Each signal indication <mark>₅shall be circular or arrow</mark> except those used for
164	pedestrian signal heads, and lane-use control signals, and bicycle symbol signal
165	indications shallbe circular or arrow.
166	indications shame circular or arrow.
167	Add the following new Section 9D.03.
168	rad the following new decitor 35.03.
169	Section 9D.03 Provisions for Bicyclists
170	Option:
171	Where it is desired to provide separate signal indications to control bicycle
172	movements at a traffic control signal, bicycle signal faces may be used (see Chapter
173	XX).
174	<u>///.</u>
175	Add the following new chapter for bicycle signal faces. NOTE: All of the following is
176	new.
177	new.
	CHARTER VV. DICYCLE SIGNAL FACES
178	CHAPTER XX. BICYCLE SIGNAL FACES
179	Section VV 04 Conoral
180	Section XX.01 General
181	Support:
182	See Section 1A.13 for the definitions of bicycle signal face and bicycle symbol
183	signal indication.
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105	Section VV 02 Use of Picycle Signal Faces

186 Support:

The use of a bicycle signal face is optional.

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A bicycle signal face can be used to provide separate control of the bicycle movement for various situations such as the following:

- A. Bicyclist non-compliance with the previous traffic control.
- B. Provide a leading or lagging bicycle interval.
- C. Continue the bicycle lane on the right-hand side of an exclusive turn lane that would otherwise be in non-compliance with Paragraph 6 of Section 9C.04.
- D. Augment the design of a contra-flow bicycle facility.
- E. Provide for unusual or unexpected arrangements of the bicycle movement through complex intersections, conflict areas, or signal control.

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Guidance:

Agencies should exercise consistency with the decision to introduce bicycle signal faces to a roadway or bikeway network and use caution with any non-systematic policy to use bicycle signal faces.

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Support:

The use of bicycle traffic signal faces containing bicycle symbol indications and bicycle signal faces containing circular indications in the same corridor or jurisdiction could create comprehension issues by the roadway user or violate bicyclist expectation.

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Guidance:

A bicycle signal face should only be used to control bicycle movements from a designated bicycle lane or from a separate facility such as a shared use path, and, other than as provided in the Option below, only where the bicycle movement controlled by the bicycle signal face is sometimes allowed to proceed or sometimes required to stop at times when other traffic, making the same movement; and controlled by other vehicular signal faces, is required to stop or allowed to proceed respectively.

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218 Option:

A bicycle signal face may be used at a mid-block traffic control signal where there are no motor vehicle movements parallel to the bicycle crossing.

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222 <u>Section XX.03 Warrants for Bicycle Signal Faces</u>

223 Support:224 No n

No new traffic signal warrant(s) specific to bicycle signal faces or in addition to those already provided in Chapter 4C are established. Retrofitting existing traffic signals with bicycle signal faces is analogous to retrofitting existing traffic signals with pedestrian signals where such a determination is not required through an engineering study.

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Standard:

New designs or installations for any traffic control signal shall be based on an engineering study in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Section 4C.01. For the

222	numbers of an engineering study, the appropriate magnet(s) provided in
233	purposes of an engineering study, the appropriate warrant(s) provided in
234	Chapter 4C shall be followed.
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236	Guidance The grand to income and a biscola piece of faces into a grand face of the g
237	The need to incorporate bicycle signal faces into a new location or design should
238	be established through the engineering study performed in accordance with Paragraph
239	1 of Section 4C.01 to determine that the installation of a traffic control signal is
240	<u>justified.</u>
241	Engineering judgment should be exercised in determining whether or not it would
242	be advantageous or beneficial to install a bicycle signal face(s) or pedestrian signals at
243	an existing traffic control signal.
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245	Support:
246	For the purpose of warrant analyses, provisions for classifying bicycles are
247	provided in Paragraph 15 of Section 4C.01 and Paragraph 2 of Section 9D.01.
248	
249	Section XX.04BICYCLE SIGNAL Sign
250	Support:
251	The purpose of the BICYCLE SIGNAL (R10-10b) sign is to inform road users that
252	the signal indications in the bicycle signal face are intended only for bicyclists.
253	
254	Standard:
255	A BICYCLE SIGNAL (R10-10b) sign shall be installed adjacent to (including
256	above or below) a bicycle signal face unless all indications in that face are
257	bicycle symbol signal indications.
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259	Option:
260	A BICYCLE SIGNAL sign may be installed, based on engineering judgment,
261	adjacent to a bicycle signal face consisting of all bicycle symbol indications.
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263	Standard:
264	Except when used with a supplemental near side bicycle signal face containing
265	4-inch indications, the BICYCLE SIGNAL sign shall be a minimum size of 18
266	inches x 24inchesas shown in Figure xx.
267	mones X = mishosas shown in rigars Axi
268	Option:
269	A BICYCLE SIGNAL sign that is a minimum size of xxinches x xxinches may be used
270	with a supplemental near-side bicycle signal face containing 4-inch indications.
271	with a suppremental mean stay sto signar race containing 1 mon maleatione.
272	Section XX.05 Meaning of Bicycle Signal Indications
273	Standard: Stoody and flashing RED BICYCLE and VELLOW BICYCLE signal indications
274	Steady and flashing RED BICYCLE and YELLOW BICYCLE signal indications
275	and steady GREEN BICYCLE signal indications shall have the same meanings
276	as described in Paragraph 3 of Section 4D.04 for steady and flashing CIRCULAR
277	RED and CIRCULAR YELLOW indications and steady CIRCULAR GREEN signal
278	indications except that the bicycle signal indications shall only be applicable to
279	bicyclists within the designated bicycle facility.

bicyclists within the designated bicycle facility.

280 281	Section 3	XX.06 Application of Bicycle Signal Indications
282	Standa	
283		eady bicycle signal indications shall be applied as follows:
284	<u>A.</u>	A steady RED BICYCLE signal indication shall be displayed when it is
285		intendedto prohibit bicycle traffic from entering the intersection or other
286		controlled area. Turning after stopping shall be permitted as stated in
287	_	Item C.1 in Paragraph 3 of Section4D.04.
288	<u>B.</u>	A steady YELLOW BICYCLE signal indication shall be displayed
289		following aGREEN BICYCLE signal indication in the same signalface. A
290		YELLOW BICYCLE signal indication or a steady YELLOW ARROW
291		indication shall be displayed following a GREEN ARROW in the same
292		signal face. A yellow indication shall not be displayed in conjunction
293		with the change from the REDBICYCLE signal indication to a green
294		signal indication. The YELLOWBICYCLE indication shall be followed by
295		a RED BICYCLE signal indication.
296	<u>C.</u>	A steady GREEN BICYCLE signal indication shall be displayed only
297		when it isintended to permit bicyclists to proceed in any direction that is
298		lawful andpractical.
299		
300	Section 2	XX.07 Layout of Bicycle Signal Faces
301	Option:	
302	Bic	ycle signal faces may be oriented vertically or horizontally.
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304	Suppor	<u>t:</u>
305	See	e Figures XX-1 and XX-2 for typical arrangements of signal sections in bicycle
306	signal fa	aces <u>.</u>
307	_	
308	<u>Standa</u>	<u>rd:</u>
309	Bio	ycle signal faces shall consist of one of the following:
310	A.	All bicycle symbol signal indications,
311		All circular indications, or
312		All left arrow or all right arrow indications.
313		
314	The	e layouts and arrangements of the bicycle signal face shall be in
315		ance with the following provisions:
316		Only the bicycle symbol shown on Page 6-7 in the 2004 Standard
317		HighwaySigns book shall be used for bicycle symbol signal indications.
318		The bicycle symbol shall onlybe positioned horizontally and shall face to
319		the left.
320	В.	The REDBICYCLE, YELLOW BICYCLE, and GREEN BICYCLE symbol
321		signal indications shall be in the same relative position to each other as
322		specified for the CIRCULAR RED, CIRCULAR YELLOW, and CIRCULAR
323		GREEN signalindications respectively, in Sections 4D.09 and 4D.10.
324	C.	Circular signal indications and bicycle symbol signal indications shall
325	<u> </u>	not be used inthe same bicycle signal face.
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326 D. Bicycle symbol signal indications and arrow signal indications shall not be used in the same bicycle signal face. 327 E. As a specific exception to Paragraph 5 of Section 4D.09, two 328 YELLOWBICYCLE signal indications or two GREEN BICYCLE signal 329 330 indications shallnot be arranged horizontally adjacent to each other at right angles to the basicstraight line arrangement to form a clustered 331 332 signal face. F. Single sections for continuous movements that would implement the 333 bicvclesymbol as illustrated in Group C of Figure 4D-2 shall not be used. 334 335 336 Section XX.08 Size of Bicycle Signal Faces 337 Standard: The provisions of Section 4D.07 apply to the sizes of bicycle signal 338 339 facesexcept as follows: 340 A. There shall be three nominal diameter sizes for bicycle signal indications:4 inches, 8 inches, and 12 inches. 341 342 B. The bicycle symbol used for bicycle symbol signalindications shall be proportioned to fit within the signal lens. 343 C. All signal indications in a bicycle signal face shall be of the same size. 344 D. Four-inch signal indications shall only be used in supplemental, post-345 mounted, near-side bicycle signal faces. 346 347 Option: As a specific exception to Paragraph 2 in Section 4D.07, 4-inch and 8-inch arrow 348 signal indications may be used in bicycle signal faces. 349 350 If used, 4-inch signal indications may exclude the accompanying visor(s) and backplate. 351 352 Near-side bicycle signal faces may alternatively be either 8-inch or 12-inch. 353 354 Section XX.09 Placement of Bicycle Signal Faces 355 **Standard:** The provisions of Sections 4D.13 through 4D.16 shall apply to theplacement 356 of the bicycle signal faces except as follows: 357 358 A. As a specific exception to Item A in Paragraph 1 of Section 4D.11, a minimumof one primary bicycle signal face shall be provided to 359 360 controltraffic for thebicycle movement, even if a bicycle through 361 movement exists. B. The primary bicycle signal face shall have either 8-inch or 12-inch 362 signalindications, even if it is located at the near side of the signal-363 364 controlled location. C. When the primary bicycle signal face is located more than 120 feet 365 beyondthe stop line, a supplemental near-side bicycle signal face shall 366 367 be provided. 368 369 Guidance: 370 371 When the primary bicycle signal face is located more than 80 feet and up to

372 <u>120 feet beyond the stop line, a supplemental near-side bicycle signal face should be</u> 373 provided.

Bicycle signal faces should be placed such that visibility is maximized forbicyclists and minimized for adjacent or conflicting vehicle movements not controlled by the bicycle signal face. In cases where drivers not controlled by the bicycle signal face might be confused by viewing the bicyclesignal indications, such as when the start or end of a green bicycle signalindication occurs at a different time than the start or end of a green signalindication for a concurrent adjacent vehicle movement controlled by other than the bicycle signal face, considerationshould be given to using visibility-limited bicycle signal faces.

A bicycle signal face should be separated vertically or horizontally from thenearest vehicular traffic signal face for the same approach by at least 3 feet.

385 <u>Section XX.10 Mounting Height of Bicycle Signal Faces</u>

Standard:

The provisions of Section 4D.15 apply to the mounting heightof bicycle signal faces except as follows:

- A. The bottom of the signal housing (including brackets) of a bicycle signal facethat is not located over a roadway shall be a minimum of 7 feet above thesidewalk or ground, except where a BICYCLE SIGNAL (R10-10b) sign is installed below thebicycle signal face. If a BICYCLE SIGNAL (R10-10b) sign is installed below the bicycle signalface, the minimum mounting height to the bottom of the sign shallbe 6 feet. If the bottom of the sign is mounted less than 7 feetabove a pedestrian sidewalk or pathway, the supplemental sign shall not projectmore than 4 inches into the pedestrian facility.
- B. If 4-inch signal indications are used in a supplemental, post-mounted, near-sidebicycle signal face, the bottom of the signal housing (including brackets) shallbe a minimum of 4 feet and a maximum of 8 feet above the sidewalk or ground. Bicycle signal faces with 4" signal indications installed above a pedestrian sidewalk or pathway shall not project more than 4 inches into the pedestrian facility.

405 Section XX.11 Intensity and Light Distribution of Bicycle Signal Faces

Guidance:

Except for the 4-inch nominal size of the lensdiameter, the intensity and distribution of light from each illuminated bicyclesignal face should be similar to that recommended for vehicular traffic signalfaces in accordance with Paragraph 10 of Section 4D.06 to the extent practicable.

412 Section XX.12 Backplates for Bicycle Signal Faces

Option:

Backplates may be used with bicycle signal faces.

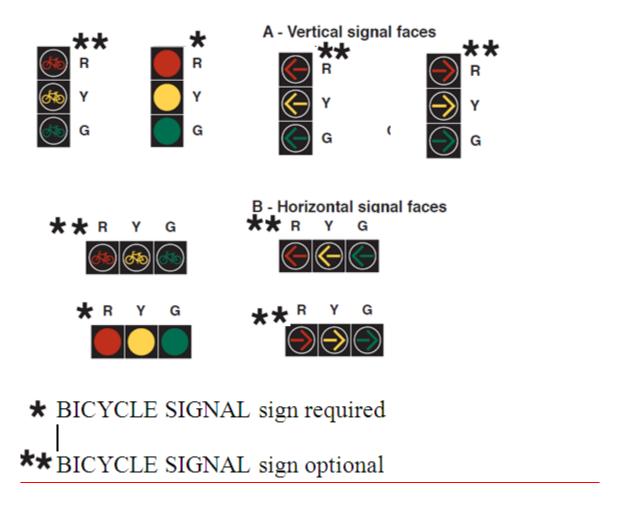
416 Standard:

If backplates are used, ancillarylegends of any kind that identify the purpose or operation of the bicycle signalface shall not be placed on the backplate.

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420	Section XX.13 Operation of Bicycle Signal Faces
421	Standard:
422	If a bicycle signal face contains a green arrow that would otherwise be
423	readily visible to drivers in the adjacent lane(s) controlled by other than the
424	bicycle signal face, the bicycle signal face shall be visibility-limited.
425	The mode of operation of the bicycle signal faces at a traffic control signal
426	shall be the same as themode of operation of the other traffic signal faces.
427	Bicyclesignal faces shall operate in the steady (stop-and-go) mode when the
428	other traffic signalfaces are operating in the steady (stop-and-go) mode.Bicycle
429	signal faces shall operate in the flashing mode when the other signal faces are
430	operating in the flashing mode, whether programmed or due toa malfunction.
431	Bicycle signal faces shall not be placed in a dark mode when other vehicular
432	traffic signal faces are operating in the flashing mode.
433	As a specific exception to Paragraph 10 of Section 4D.05, the
434	simultaneousdisplay of a straight-through GREEN ARROW signal indication in a
435	bicyclesignal face and a CIRCULAR RED signal indication in another vehicle
436	signalface for the same approach shall be permitted.
437	
438	Section XX.14 Yellow Change and Red Clearance Intervals for Bicycle Signal
439	<u>Faces</u>
440	<u>Standard:</u>
441	The provisions of Section 4D.26 shall apply to the duration of the
442	yellowchange and the red clearance intervals of a bicycle signal phase except
443	as follows:
444	A. The minimum duration of the yellow change interval shall be 3 seconds.
445	B. Theexclusive function of the yellow change interval shall be to warn
446	bicyclistsapproaching a signalized location that their permission to
447	proceed is beingterminated after which they will be directed to stop.
448	
449	Support:
450	Providing clearance time for a bicyclist to travel through the intersection or conflict
451	area is the purpose of the red clearance interval rather than the yellow change interval
452	
453	<u>Guidance:</u>
454	The maximum duration of the yellow change interval should be 6 seconds.
455	If discernible non-concurrent activations or terminations of phases for bicycles
456	controlled by bicycle signal faces and other vehicular traffic controlled by other signal
457	faces are necessary, visibility-limiting devices should be used on the bicycle signal
458	<u>face.</u>
459	Costion VV 45 Duckikited Hea of Diavele Cinnel Force
460	Section XX.15 Prohibited Use of Bicycle Signal Faces
461	Standard:
462	Bicycle signal faces shall not be used to control exclusive and simultaneous
463	bicycle movements from perpendicular directions.
464	
465	<u>Guidance:</u>

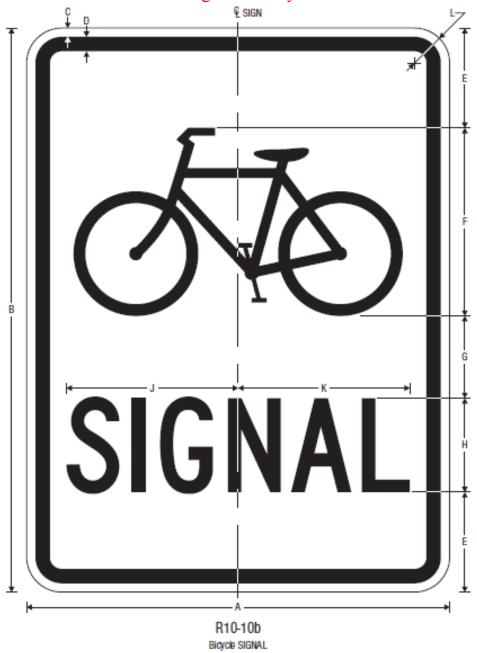
Figure xx-1

Typical Arrangements of Signal Sections in Bicycle Signal Faces



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-	Reduce	character	snacing	20%

Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	٦	K	L
12	18	0.375	0.375	4	5	2.5	2.5 C*	4.564	4.564	1.5
18	24	0.375	0.625	4.25	8	3.5	4 C*	7.303	7.302	1.5

COLORS: LEGEND, BORDER — BLACK BACKGROUND — WHITE (RETROREFLECTIVE)

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See following page for alternate design/size proposed to be used in place of this

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Bicycle Signal (R10-xx) sign - 24" x 24" 10" symbol, 6" B text (design could also be used for a 6" x 6" size under 4" near-side indications with a 2.5" symbol and 1.5" B text)

Bicycle Signal (R10-xx) sign - 18" x 24" 8" symbol, 4" B text

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Note: The text includes an Option for the use of a smaller size BICYCLE SIGNAL sign with signal faces that have 4-inch indications. However, a size was not determined at the time this item was presented to the National Committee Council so the size is unspecified. Therefore, a sign design/size needs to be developed for the small size signal face.

This sign would be used with near-side supplemental bicycle signals with 4" indications and therefore the sign and signal face may be mounted relatively low. Considering possible impacts on pedestrian traffic and that the sign is intended for bicyclists that are at or near the signal face, it is anticipated that a relatively small minimum size would be acceptable. The use of a BICYCLE SIGNAL sign with a signal face with 4-inch indications would be optional unless the signal face contained something other than all bicycle symbol indications