



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

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Item Number: 25B-BIK-01

NCUTCD RECOMMENDATION FOR CHANGES TO THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

COMMITTEE / TASK FORCE: Bicycle Technical Committee
ITEM NUMBER: 25B-BIK-01
TOPIC: Smaller Sized Regulatory Signs for Separated Bikeways
ORIGIN OF REQUEST: Bicycle TC
AFFECTED SECTIONS OF MUTCD: 9A.02, Figure 9B-1, Figure 9C-1, Table 9A-1

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY:

Approved by Bicycle TC:06/12/2025
Approved by NCUTCD Council:01/08/2026

This is a recommended change to the MUTCD that has been approved by the NCUTCD Council. This proposal does not represent a revision of the MUTCD and does not constitute official MUTCD standards, guidance, or options. It will be submitted to FHWA for consideration for inclusion in a future MUTCD revision. The MUTCD can be revised only through the federal rulemaking process.

SUMMARY:

Diamond-shaped warning signs are permitted to be sized smaller on bicycle facilities per Section 9A.02. However, the same option statement is not provided for regulatory signs and two other non-diamond shaped warning signs. Smaller regulatory signs would be more useful and appropriate than standard size signs for applications for shared-use paths and bicycle lanes. These smaller signs provide adequate visibility and target value at typical bicycle speeds.

DISCUSSION:

Appropriate signing is critical for the safety and efficient operation of shared-use paths and separated bicycle lanes. As these facilities continue to expand across communities, the need for properly scaled regulatory signs becomes increasingly important. Current standards in Chapter 2B and Chapter 9B require regulatory signs to be the minimum size prescribed. Section 9B.24 allows for the installation of regulatory signs from Chapter 2B as appropriate. Chapter 9B shows some redundant regulatory signs from Part 2, that are permitted to be smaller, but not many.

However, all diamond warning signs within Chapter 2C are permitted to be 18" x 18" in the 11th edition of the MUTCD. This proposal is to extend this option to regulatory signs within Chapter 2B. These reduced size regulatory signs would still maintain effectiveness, just as smaller warning signs already do. Since regulatory signs are both square and rectangular, the proposed language uses the same size of 18 inch x 18 inch for square signs, and a proportional reduction for rectangular signs with a minimum 18 inches on the longest side and a minimum 6 inches on

39 the shortest side. Based on sponsor comments, additional options are provided for proportional
40 supplemental plaques. The required sizes of signs listed in Table 9A-1 would stay the same.
41 Instead of adding more signs to Part 9, this proposal allows regulatory signs in Chapter 2B to be
42 smaller when used specifically for shared-use paths and separated bicycle lanes. Additional
43 signs from the Manual are added to Table 9A-1 and Figures 9B-1 and Figure 9C-1 due to their
44 unique shapes and usability: R6-1 One Way Arrow, W14-3 No Passing Zone triangle, and S1-1
45 School Warning pentagon.

46
47 **RECOMMENDED MUTCD CHANGES:**

48 The following present the proposed changes to the current MUTCD within the context of the
49 current MUTCD language. Proposed additions to the MUTCD are shown in blue underline and
50 proposed deletions from the MUTCD are shown in ~~red strikethrough~~. Changes previously
51 approved by NCUTCD Council (but not yet adopted by FHWA) are shown in green double
52 underline for additions and ~~green double strikethrough~~ for deletions. In some cases,
53 background comments may be provided with the MUTCD text. These comments are indicated
54 by bracketed white text in shaded green.

55

56 PART 9

57 TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR BICYCLE FACILITIES

58

59 CHAPTER 9A. REGULATORY SIGNS

60

61 Section 9A.02 Standardization of Application for Signing

62 Support:

63 01 The installation of nonstandard signing on bikeways or modifying standard signing in a manner
64 inconsistent with Chapter 2A of this Manual to draw special attention, educate users or the community, or
65 brand a bicycle facility can contribute to problems with public acceptance and enforcement.

66 **Standard:**

67 02 **Bicycle signs shall comply with the provisions of this Manual for standard shape, legend, and**
68 **color.**

69 03 **All signs installed on bikeways shall be retroreflective, including those on shared-use paths and**
70 **bicycle lane facilities.**

71 04 **Where signs serve both bicyclists and other road users, vertical mounting height and lateral**
72 **placement shall be as provided in Sections 2A.15 and 2A.16 of this Manual.**

73 *Guidance:*

74 05 *Where used on a shared-use path, no portion of a sign or its support should be placed less than 2 feet*
75 *laterally from the near edge of the path, or less than 8 feet vertically over the entire width of the shared-*
76 *use path (see Figure 9A-1).*

77 06 *Mounting height for post-mounted signs on shared-use paths should be a minimum of 4 feet,*
78 *measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the path surface (see*
79 *Figure 9A-1).*

80 07 *Signs for the exclusive use of bicyclists should be located so that other road users are not confused by*
81 *them.*

82 08 *The clearance for overhead signs on shared-use paths should be adjusted when appropriate to*
83 *accommodate path users requiring more clearance, such as equestrians, or typical maintenance or*
84 *emergency vehicles.*

85

86 **Standard:**

87 09 **If the sign or plaque applies to motorists and bicyclists, then the size shall be as shown for**
88 **conventional roads in Tables 2B-1, 2C-1, 2D-1, and 8B-1, as applicable.**

89 10 **The minimum sign and plaque sizes for signs specific to bicycle-only facilities and shared-use**
90 **paths shall be those shown in Table 9A-1. These sizes shall be used only for signs and plaques**
91 **installed specifically for bicyclist applications.**

92 **Option:**

93 11 Larger sizes of signs and plaques may be used on bicycle facilities when appropriate (see Section
94 2A.07).

95 12 Any diamond-shaped warning sign or square-shaped regulatory sign that is placed such that it is
96 viewed applicable only by to bicyclists or pedestrians on shared-use paths or separated bicycle lanes may
97 be 18" inches x 18" inches.

98 12a Any rectangle-shaped regulatory sign not shown in Table 9A-1 that is placed such that it is viewed
99 only by bicyclists or pedestrians on shared-use paths or separated bicycle lanes may be proportionally
100 reduced in size, provided that the longest side is at least 18 inches and the shortest side is at least 6 inches.

101 12b When plaques are installed with smaller-sized signs viewed only by bicyclists or pedestrians on
102 shared-use paths or separated bicycle lanes, a corresponding decrease in the size of the plaque and its
103 legend may be made. The resulting plaque size may be approximately in the same relative proportion to
104 the smaller-sized sign as the Off Roadway-sized plaque is to the Off Roadway-sized sign.

105 **Guidance:**

106 13 *Except for size, the design of signs and plaques for bicycle facilities should be identical to that*
107 *provided in this Manual for signs and plaques for streets and highways.*

108 **Support:**

109 14 Uniformity in design of bicycle signs and plaques includes shape, color, symbols, arrows, wording,
110 lettering, and illumination or retroreflectivity. The "Standard Highway Signs" publication prescribes
111 design details for different sizes of each sign or plaque to be used on bikeways and some other off-road
112 applications. (see Section 2A.07).

113

114 **Table 9A-1. Bicycle Facility Sign and Plaque Minimum Sizes (Sheet 1 of 3)**

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Off Roadway	Roadway
One Way	R6-1	9B.24	18 x 6	18 x 6
School	S1-1	9C.08	18 x 18	18 x 18
No Passing Zone	W14-3	9C.08	24 x 18	24 x 18

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Figure 9B-1. Regulatory Signs and Plaques for Bicycle Facilities (Sheet 1 of 2)

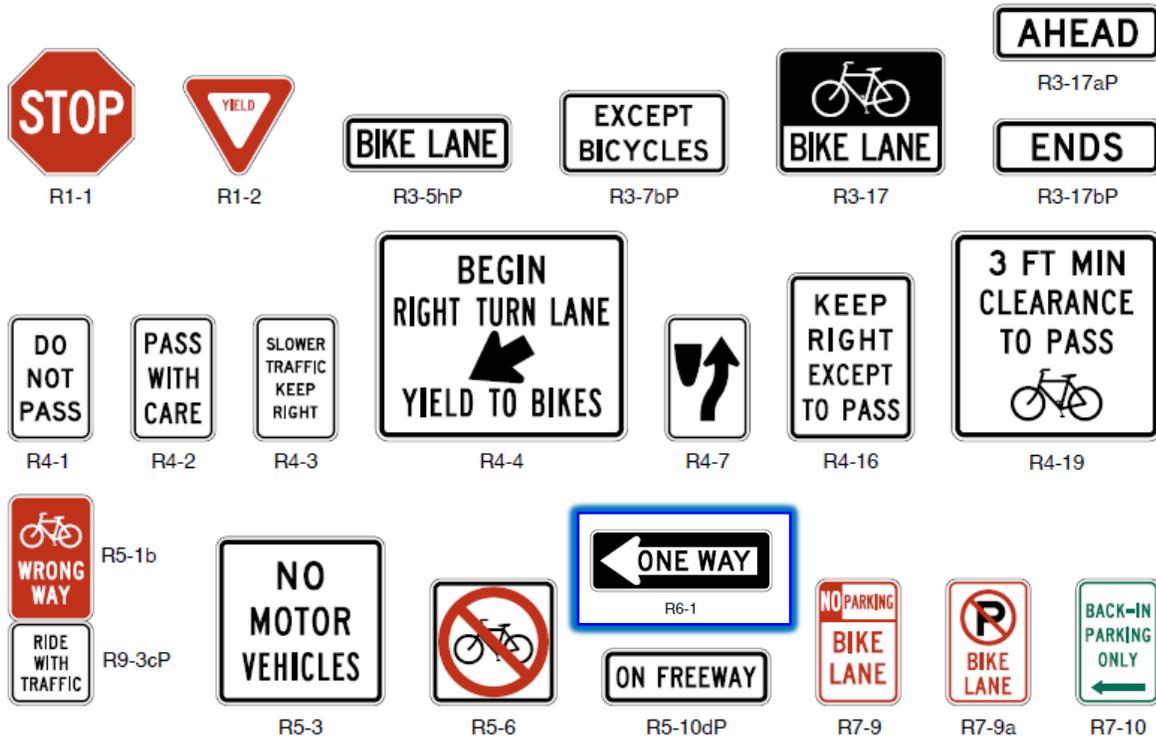
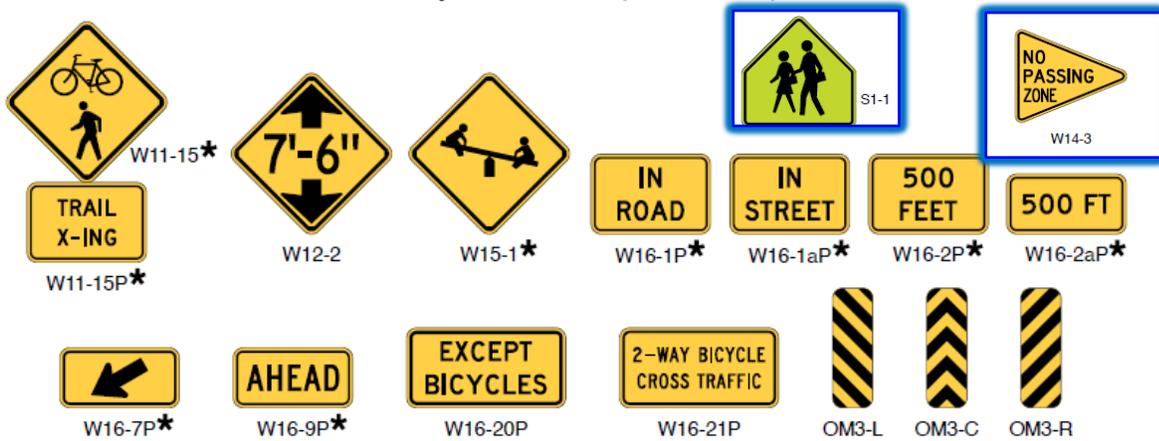


Figure 9C-1. Warning Signs and Plaques and Object Markers for Bicycle Facilities (Sheet 2 of 2)



* A fluorescent yellow-green background color may be used for this sign or plaque. The background color of the plaque should match the color of the warning sign that it supplements.

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