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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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**INSTRUCTIONAL BULLETIN NO. 19-02**

**Regarding TDOT Accessibility Guidance of Roadway Design Guidelines Section 9,  
Subsections 9-300.00 to 9-301.03**

Effective immediately, the Roadway Design Guidelines Sections 9-300.00 through 9-301.03 have been updated as follows:

**9-300.00 GENERAL**

As noted in TDOT's *Multimodal Access Policy* (see Section 9-1001.00), pedestrian facilities shall be designed and built to accommodate persons with disabilities in accordance with the access standards required by the ADA to the maximum extent feasible or to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable. Sidewalks, shared-use paths, street crossings, and other infrastructure shall be constructed so that all pedestrians, including those with disabilities, can travel independently.

Furthermore, on November 7, 2014, TDOT began using the United States Access Board's *Proposed Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (2011)*. These guidelines serve as the *Public Rights-of-Ways Accessibility Guidelines*, or **PROWAG**.

TDOT's *Roadway Design Guidelines* are consistent with current ADA and **PROWAG** guidance. If any portion is determined to be in conflict with future ADA or **PROWAG** guidance, that portion shall be considered void.

**9-301.00 ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BY PROJECT TYPE**

Wherever pedestrian facilities are intended to be a part of a transportation facility, federal regulations (28 CFR Part 35) require that those pedestrian facilities meet ADA guidelines. All new construction or alteration of existing transportation facilities must be designed and constructed to be accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. FHWA is one of the federal agencies designated by the Department of Justice to ensure compliance with the ADA for transportation projects.

All projects shall review and evaluate the existing pedestrian circulation and connectivity within the scope of the project to address and correct identified deficiencies not meeting ADA, **PROWAG**, and TDOT requirements.

All new construction projects will be constructed to meet current accessibility requirements.

All **alteration** projects funded and developed by or for the Department on state right of way shall evaluate the existing pedestrian circulation and connectivity. Any deficiencies should be identified (i.e. Maintenance Division's Resurfacing PS&E report or Strategic Transportation Investment Division's Report) and included within the project scope. All other projects developed by or for Divisions other than Roadway Design shall follow the same scoping requirements regardless of funding type, funding percentage, or letting type.

Roadway **maintenance** activities do not warrant addressing and correcting ADA deficiencies.

All **local program projects** administered by the Program Development and Administration Division should follow the same guidance based on project type. Projects developed and let by local agencies should follow the same guidance since all local agencies are obligated to fulfill FHWA required ADA elements.

### 9-301.01 NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

New construction projects address the construction of a new roadway, interchange, or other transportation facility where none existed before. For these projects, pedestrians' needs are assessed and included in the project. All pedestrian facilities included in these projects must fully meet the accessibility criteria when built to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable.

TDOT's design development process will assess and ensure that accessibility requirements are addressed during the earliest stages possible to reduce or prevent potential conflicts with various planning, right-of-way, environmental, utilities, or other highway design related issues. Project scopes may also need to be expanded to meet pedestrian needs.

### 9-301.02 ALTERATION PROJECTS

A highway alteration project is a change to any portion of an existing facility (site, structure, or improvement of a pedestrian or vehicular route) located in the highway right-of-way that affects or could affect usability, access, circulation, or use of the facility. Alterations could affect the structure, grade, function and use of the roadway. Any project that affects or could affect the usability of a pedestrian facility is classified as an alteration project.

- All new pedestrian facilities included in an alteration project that are put in place within an existing developed right-of-way must meet applicable ADA, PROWAG, and TDOT requirements to the maximum extent feasible.
- All existing pedestrian facilities disturbed by construction of an alteration project must be replaced. The replacement facilities must meet applicable ADA, PROWAG, and TDOT requirements to the maximum extent feasible.

Alteration projects are re-construction projects. These include, but are not limited to; Existing roadway widening, Realignment of a roadway (vertical or horizontal), Bridge replacement, Bridge repair, Enhancement, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) installation, Raised median, Resurfacing, Road Safety Audit (RSA), and Traffic signal installation or retrofit. These projects can potentially trigger a variety of accessibility requirements. The following apply to alteration projects:

- If pedestrian facilities are present at intersections, curb ramps are required.
- Warrants for the installation of crosswalk markings and applicable signs should be evaluated.
- An alteration project shall not decrease or have the effect of decreasing the accessibility of a pedestrian facility or an accessible connection to an adjacent building or site below the ADA accessibility requirements in effect at the time of the alteration.

- Within the construction limits of an alteration project, any existing connection from a pedestrian access route to a crosswalk (marked or unmarked) that is missing a required curb ramp must have a curb ramp installed that meets applicable accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible.
- A crosswalk served by a curb ramp must also have an existing curb ramp in place on the receiving end unless there is no curb or sidewalk on that end of the crosswalk. If a sidewalk is present and there is no existing curb ramp in place on the receiving end, an accessible curb ramp must be provided. This requirement must be met regardless of whether the receiving end of the crosswalk is located within the project's limits.
- Within the construction limits of an alteration project, evaluate all existing curb ramps to determine whether curb ramp design elements meet the accessibility criteria. Modify existing curb ramps that do not meet the accessibility criteria to meet applicable accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible. This may also trigger modification of other adjacent pedestrian facilities to incorporate transitional segments in order to ensure specific elements of a curb ramp will meet the accessibility criteria.
- Within the construction limits of an alteration project that includes hot mix asphalt overlay of an existing roadway and *does not* include reconstruction, realignment, or widening of the roadway, evaluate all existing marked and unmarked crosswalks. If it is not possible to meet the applicable accessibility requirements for crosswalks to the maximum extent feasible, document this in the project file.
- Within the construction limits of an alteration project, evaluate all existing crosswalks (marked or unmarked) to determine whether crosswalk design elements meet the accessibility criteria. Modify crosswalk slopes to meet the applicable accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible.

## **RESURFACING PROJECTS**

**Resurfacing** PS&E reports should identify all ADA deficiencies. The typical resurfacing project limits termini includes the whole intersection; therefore, a resurfacing work on any leg of a signalized intersection requires upgrading existing facility to meet ADA, PROWAG, and TDOT requirements. If there are no existing pedestrian facilities on any approach, addressing the deficiencies or installing curb ramps are not allowed. If pedestrian facilities are installed in a future project, the future project shall meet ADA, PROWAG, and TDOT requirements.

The following pavement restoration and rehabilitation acts are typically not considered alterations: Spot pavement repair; Liquid-asphalt sealing, chip seal (Bituminous Surface Treatment- BST), or crack sealing; or Lane restriping that does not alter the usability of the shoulder.

## **SIGNALIZATION PROJECTS**

**New Signalization** projects generally involve construction of a traffic signal system where an un-signalized intersection previously existed to improve the existing intersection traffic operations.

Project cost is not an acceptable reason to fail to construct or delay completing ADA required improvements for accessibility compliance when existing pedestrian facilities are present.

In the case of a future pedestrian facility, pedestrian signals systems and related components will not be installed and must be added later when pedestrian facilities are constructed.

Projects involving upgrades to **existing signalized** intersection(s) must upgrade deficient curb ramps and pushbuttons when alterations described in section R209.2 of PROWAG are made to the existing signal system. If no pedestrian facilities exist at the intersection, any existing pedestrian signal phasing and associated pedestrian signal heads and pushbuttons shall be removed.

### **EXCEPTIONS**

It may not always be possible to fully meet the applicable accessibility requirements during alterations of existing facilities. If such a situation is encountered, consult with the TDOT ADA Coordinator to develop a workable solution to meet the accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible. Cost is not to be used as a justification for not meeting the accessibility criteria. Physical terrain or site conditions that would require structural impacts, environmental impacts, or unacceptable impacts to the community in order to achieve full compliance with the accessibility criteria are some of the factors that can be used to determine that the maximum extent feasible is achieved. If it is determined to be virtually impossible to meet the accessibility criteria for an element, complete the Multimodal Design Deviation form and submit for approval. Documentation for the decision, along with the signed deviation form, should be included in the project folder.

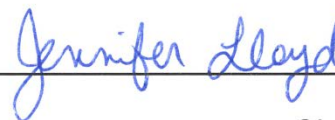
If there is uncertainty as to whether a project meets the definition of an alteration project, consult with the TDOT ADA Coordinator at [TDOT.ADA@tn.gov](mailto:TDOT.ADA@tn.gov).

### **9-301.03 MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

Roadway maintenance activities are not considered alterations and do not require simultaneous improvements to pedestrian accessibility under the ADA. Maintenance activities include actions that are intended to preserve the roadway system, retard future deterioration and maintain the functional condition of the roadway without increasing the structural capacity. Typical maintenance activities consist of re-tracing existing pavement markings, pothole patching, mowing, roadside ditch cleaning, guardrail repair, and trash pickup, and do not warrant addressing and correcting existing ADA deficiencies.

Signal maintenance activities consist of adding/replacing system feature such as (e.g., replacing controller cards, modifying existing detection devices, firmware upgrade, adding controller cabinet pedestal and/or foundation pad, relocating controller cabinet, installing ground boxes, installing new traffic signal cables, installing conduit, saw cutting concrete for loop detection installation or replacement, repair/upgrade existing vehicle detection systems, replacing bulbs, repair/upgrade of the existing signal heads, and replacing signal pole or mast arm assembly). However, if the modification creates a negative impact to the existing sidewalk or existing pedestrian push buttons are not accessible, ADA improvements or upgrades must be installed.

This IB voids the IB 18-12 reference to Roadway Design Guidelines Section 9-301.00.



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**CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION**

**9-100.00 GENERAL**

It is TDOT's policy to create and implement access and mobility for users of all ages and abilities through the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new construction, reconstruction and retrofit transportation facilities that are federally or state funded. Users include, but are not limited to, motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit-riders, and freight carriers.

The intent of TDOT's policy is to promote the inclusion of multimodal accommodations in all transportation planning and project development activities at the local, regional and statewide levels, and to develop a comprehensive, integrated, and connected multimodal transportation network. These guidelines have been developed to assist TDOT, local agencies, consultants and others in providing multimodal facility design that fulfills the intent of this policy. TDOT's *Multimodal Project Scoping Manual* is an additional multimodal design resource. The *Multimodal Project Scoping Manual* is available on TDOT's *Roadway Design Additional Resources* website at: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/roadway-design/additional-resources.html>.

**9-101.00 APPLICABILITY**

It is TDOT's policy to provide appropriate multimodal facilities along and across sections of state routes as all travel modes are considered an integral part of the state's transportation system. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TDOT policy is that bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities be given full consideration in the planning and design of any transportation facility except where those modes may be prohibited or unlikely to be provided in the future.

The design guidelines contained in this chapter apply to the planning and design of all project types, including the following designations:

- projects on new alignment
- reconstruction projects
- resurfacing projects

Both TDOT and Local Government projects fully or partially funded with state or federal funds are required to adhere to these *Design Guidelines*. Local agencies managing projects that include state or federal funding must also comply with this chapter pursuant to TDOT's *Local Government Guidelines for the Management of Federal and State Funded Transportation Projects*.

**9-102.00 RESPONSIBLE AGENCY**

Proposed projects in public rights-of-way must address ADA compliance as described in this chapter and elsewhere in TDOT standards. On Local Program Projects, the public agency that is sponsoring the project is responsible for ensuring that Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance is fully addressed.



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On all state routes outside of incorporated cities and on those with limited access (full, partial, and modified) within incorporated cities, TDOT is the responsible agency unless modified by a separate maintenance agreement with a local agency.

## **CHAPTER 2 – MULTIMODAL ROADWAY DESIGN PROCESS**

### **9-200.00 GENERAL**

Designing a multimodal roadway is not a one-size-fits-all approach. It requires an analysis of various site conditions to determine appropriate treatments and solutions. Factors that should be considered include the physical and operating characteristics of the street, general land use type (urban, suburban, rural), adjacent and surrounding land use context (retail, office, residential, industrial, etc.), community goals, crash history, and expected pedestrian volume, bicycle volume, transit use, and current and future motor vehicle demand.

### **9-201.00 LAND USE CONTEXT CONSIDERATIONS**

The appropriate design for and operation of a street must take into account the existing and future surrounding land use. The design professional should evaluate conditions beyond simply urban and rural conditions and, where available, use local agency land use, transportation and community plans to understand potential future needs and project demand for all modes. Concerning land use context, the design professional should take these steps early in the Transportation Management Plan if this information is not available from previous project planning efforts:

- Consider both the existing conditions and the plans for the future by reviewing the area's planning documents and zoning
- Identify current levels or project future travel demand for all modes within the project limits. Recognize that streets often last longer than adjacent development
- Acknowledge when a project travels through multiple context zones that the street's design characteristics, including its typical section, may need to be varied accordingly (i.e. a corridor that transitions from suburban to urban, or residential to retail)
- Understand that a contextual corridor often extends beyond an individual project's limits, and therefore a project's study corridor may need to extend beyond its limits of design
- Identify current levels of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit activity or estimate future levels based on the type, mix, and proximity of planned future land uses

### **9-202.00 DESIGN FLEXIBILITY**

Designing roadways that effectively serve all modes can be a challenging process, especially along major state facilities in urban, suburban and small-town areas. Using design elements, criteria and dimensions typically used for motor vehicle-focused facilities may not be appropriate or even possible in these contexts that are often in constrained right-of-way. Applying flexibility in the geometric design process requires knowledge of roadway design standards and guidelines, a recognition of the range of options available, and an understanding of how deviating from these may impact safety and mobility for each mode being served. A flexible approach uses existing tools in creative and varied ways to solve design challenges. It requires a holistic understanding of variables, thresholds, and available alternatives to achieve multiple objectives.

TDOT's *Roadway Design Guidelines* support flexible design and recognize that this flexibility is often necessary to apply in multimodal project design. TDOT's design guidance is primarily based on policy and guidance in AASHTO's *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* (Green Book) and the supplemental guides for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facility design. The Green Book emphasizes the need for a holistic design approach and the use of engineering judgment, and highlights how good street design involves balancing safety, mobility, and preservation of scenic, aesthetic, historic, cultural, and environmental resources using flexibility in the application of sound principles by the knowledgeable design professional.

#### **9-203.00 BALANCING MULTIMODAL SAFETY, LEVEL AND QUALITY OF SERVICE**

There is no single set of design criteria or templates that can be used to create a multimodal street. The appropriate design accommodation for each mode of travel is dependent on many factors as discussed earlier in this chapter. The goal is to understand and then balance the needs of each mode with design solutions that are appropriate throughout the project's design period.

For larger, complex projects, the *Highway Capacity Manual: A Guide for Multimodal Mobility Analysis* (HCM2016) should be used in an effort to quantitatively assess and balance the level and quality of performance for each mode. This analysis could result in independent levels of service for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motor vehicle drivers, with a solution that is designed to provide equivalent levels of safety and service for each mode. Another approach is to emphasize safety by prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable users of the street. The safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, as the most vulnerable street users, would receive priority in this case.

Traditional measures of effectiveness that include motor vehicle speed, delay, and crash rate will always be important when assessing the performance of a street. However, as multimodal consideration and community livability have become an emphasis of transportation policy within TDOT, it should be understood that urban streets also serve as economic engines. Investments in the character of a street in lieu of its throughput have been shown to increase retail rents, residential property values, and livability of an area. The goal of a successful multimodal design is to balance the needs of all modes using the roadway, while being good stewards of limited financial resources.

#### **9-204.00 ALLOCATING RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR MULTIMODAL FACILITIES**

Multimodal design involves identifying minimum and desired safety and service levels for all modes over the life of the project, and then performing an analysis of modal trade-offs for various design solutions. Descriptive cases for a range of multimodal accommodation solutions are provided on the following pages to demonstrate approaches that may be applicable in a variety of contexts. The first three cases describe roadway sections bounded by curb and sidewalk. These cases are most likely to be found in more densely developed areas such as rural town centers, suburban, and urban context zones. The remaining two cases are for areas without curb and sidewalk and are most likely to be found in less developed rural areas.

**TDOT – ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
**Section 9 – Multimodal Design**

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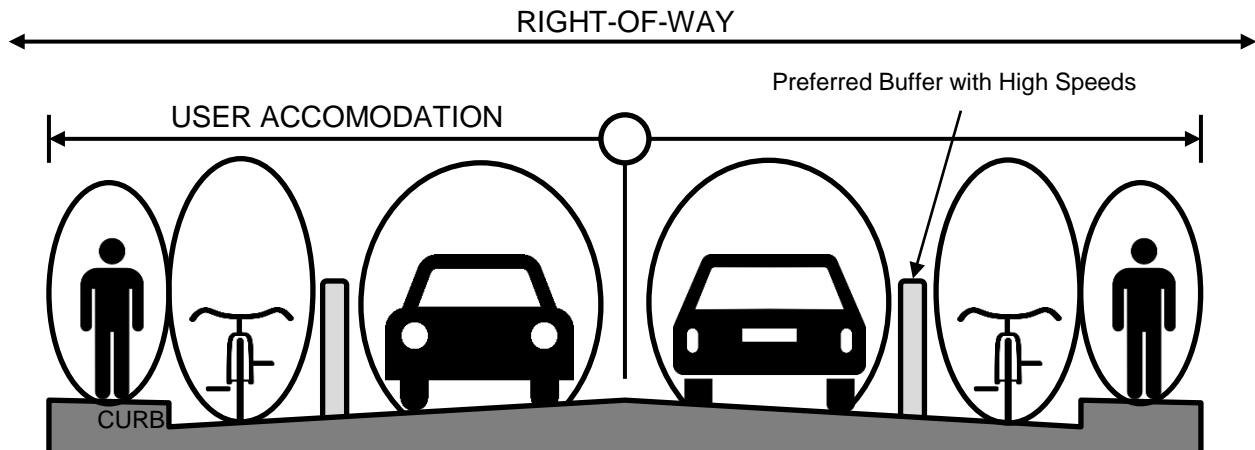
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The TDOT multimodal facility design process should begin with an assessment of minimum accommodation for each mode, and the relationships between those accommodation alternatives, similar to the examples provided on the following pages.

**9-204.01 SEPARATE ACCOMMODATION FOR ALL USERS**

Separate accommodation for all users provides the optimum accommodation for all modes of travel in many settings (see Figure 9-1). Key attributes include the following:

- Often the preferred option to provide safer, convenient, and comfortable travel for all users
- Appropriate for areas with moderate to high levels of pedestrian and bicycle demand or activity
- Appropriate for streets with moderate to high motor vehicle speeds
- Appropriate in areas without substantial environmental or right-of-way constraints
- Pedestrians are provided with a sidewalk separated from the roadway by a raised curb and preferably a landscaped buffer
- A bicycle lane, off street path, cycle track, or shoulder suitable for bicycle use is provided



**Figure 9-1: Separate Accommodation for All Users**

**9-204.02 PARTIAL SHARING FOR BICYCLES AND MOTOR VEHICLES**

There are instances in which the width necessary to provide optimal accommodation for all users is not available. There are also instances where some sharing and overlap between bicyclists and motor vehicle traffic is acceptable to achieve other environmental or design objectives. Partial sharing for bicycles and motor vehicles is an approach to multimodal accommodation in these situations (see Figure 9-2). Key attributes include the following:

- Used in areas where the width necessary to provide separate accommodation for all users is not available
- Pedestrians are provided with a sidewalk or separate path while space for bicyclists and drivers overlaps somewhat

- Appropriate in areas with low motor vehicle speeds and low to moderate motor vehicle volumes
- Pedestrians are provided with a sidewalk separated from the roadway by a raised curb and preferably a landscaped buffer
- Typical travel lanes combined with narrow shoulders provide maneuvering width for truck and bus traffic within the travel lane; however, bicyclists may be forced to ride along and over the pavement markings
- Narrow travel lanes combined with wide shoulders provide greater separation between motor vehicle and bicycle traffic, but may result in motor vehicle traffic operating closer to the center line or occasionally encroaching into the opposing travel lane

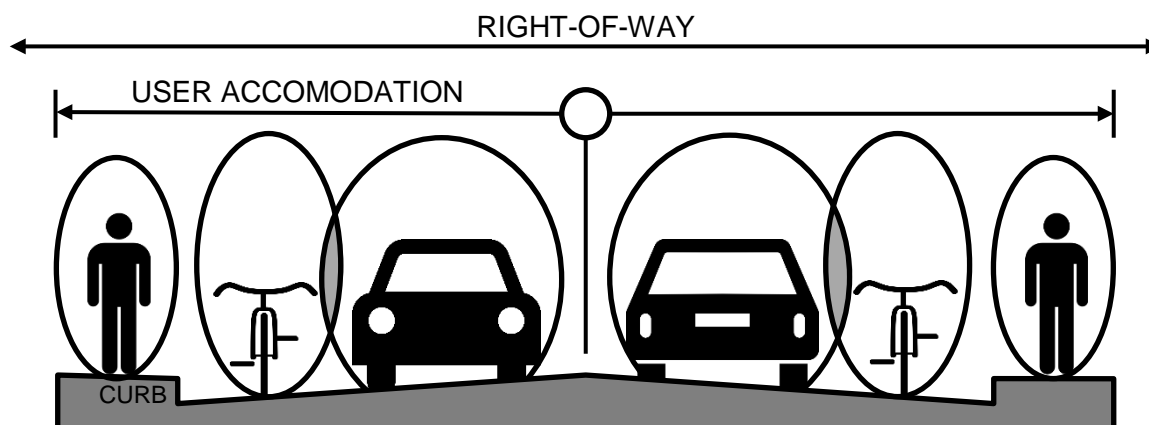


Figure 9-2: Partial Sharing for Bicycles and Motor Vehicles

### 9-204.03 SHARED BICYCLE/MOTOR VEHICLE ACCOMMODATION

With this option, the accommodation of bicycles and motor vehicles is shared and separate pedestrian accommodation is maintained (see Figure 9-3). Shared bicycle/motor vehicle accommodation is most likely to be found in the most densely developed urban areas where right-of-way is most constrained. Key attributes include the following:

- Pedestrians remain separate but bicycle and motor vehicle space is shared
- Used in densely developed areas where right-of-way is constrained
- Primarily applicable to local streets where speeds and traffic volumes are low
- Pedestrians are provided with a sidewalk separated from the roadway by a raised curb and preferably a landscaped buffer
- Signs and pavement markings indicating that the roadway is shared between cyclists and motor vehicles should be provided.

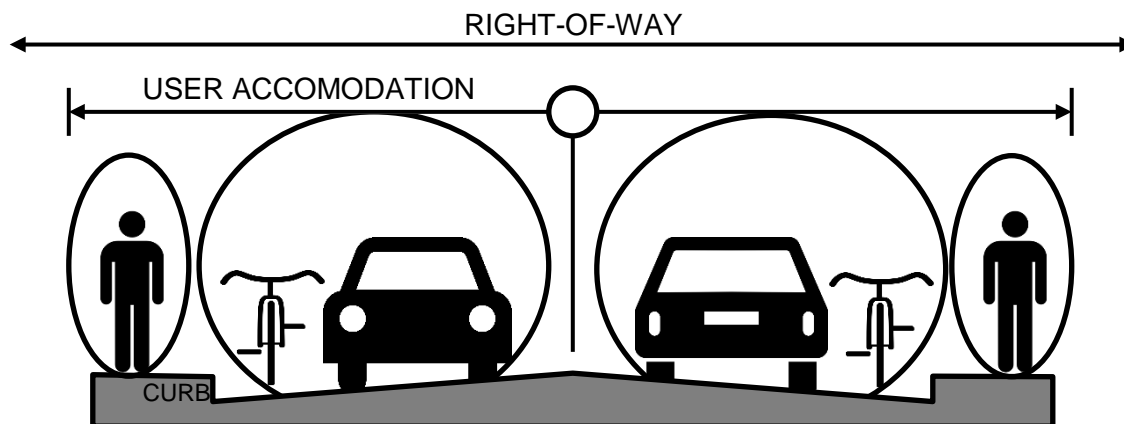


Figure 9-3 : Shared Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Accommodation

#### 9-204.04 SHARED BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATION

In sparsely developed rural and low-density suburban areas, curbed roadway sections bounded by sidewalk are less common. In these areas, pedestrians and cyclists often use the roadway shoulder (see Figure 9-4). It should be noted that a shoulder with a typical four (4) percent cross slope is not considered an acceptable ADA compliant pedestrian route, although pedestrians may use it to stay out of the travel lanes or unimproved roadside areas. Key attributes include the following:

- A preferred shared bicycle/pedestrian accommodation is to provide an off-street shared-use path
- Pedestrians and bicyclists share the shoulder
- Common in rural or sparsely developed areas
- Appropriate for areas with infrequent pedestrian and bicycle use
- Typical travel lanes combined with wide shoulders provide for increased separation between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles. Wider shoulders also provide clearance for emergency stopping and maneuvering
- Typical travel lanes combined with narrow shoulders provide maneuvering width for truck and bus traffic within the travel lane, reducing encroachment into opposing lanes and the shoulder. However, conflicts between bicycles and pedestrians are more likely
- Narrow travel lanes combined with wide shoulders provide greater separation between bicyclists and pedestrians, but may result in motor vehicle traffic operating closer to the center line or encroaching on the shoulder

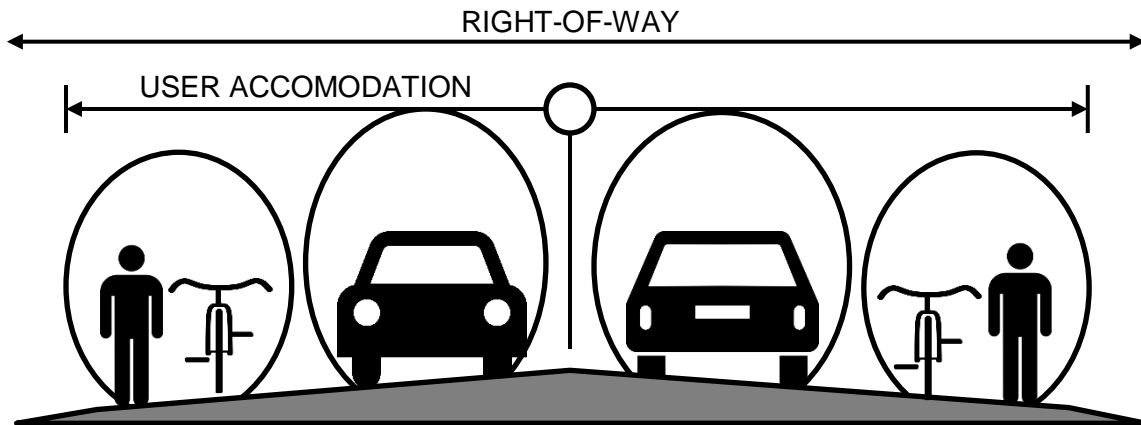


Figure 9-4: Shared Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodation

**9-204.05 SHARED ACCOMODATION ALL USERS**

Vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians are sometimes accommodated in one shared travel lane (see Figure 9-5). This condition occurs when there is low user demand and speeds are very low (i.e. local streets), or when severe constraints limit the feasibility of providing shoulders. Key attributes include the following:

- All users share the roadway
- Appropriate where user demands and motor vehicle speeds are very low or when severe constraints limit the feasibility of providing separate accommodation

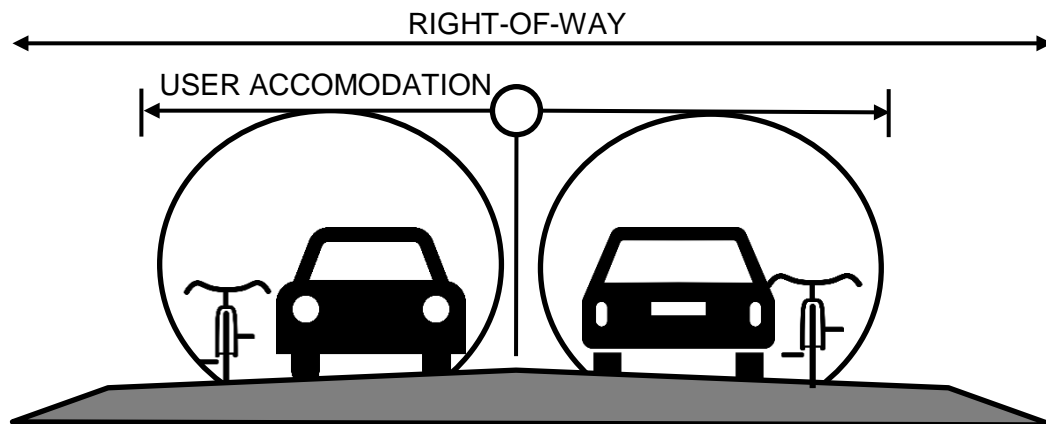


Figure 9-5: Shared Accommodation for All Users



**9.205.00 FACILITIES NOT GENERALLY WARRANTING MULTIMODAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Some transportation facility designs may not warrant the provision of dedicated multimodal accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists and/or transit riders. Typical exclusions for separate multimodal accommodations include:

- Low-speed, low-volume residential context streets where pedestrians and bicyclists can comfortably share the roadway with motor vehicles
- Rural streets where shoulders provide space for the occasional pedestrian or bicyclist
- On side road tie-ins where there is no existing sidewalk or bicycle accommodation and widening of construction limits for sidewalk or bicycle accommodation would result in disproportionate impacts to adjacent property
- High-speed controlled access highways would not typically warrant sidewalks
- Sidewalks are not required in rural areas where curb and gutter is placed at the back of the useable shoulder solely for the purpose of reducing construction limits and/or meeting drainage/ storm sewer requirements

### CHAPTER 3 – TDOT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDANCE

#### **9-300.00 GENERAL**

As noted in TDOT's *Multimodal Access Policy* (see Section 9-1001.00), pedestrian facilities shall be designed and built to accommodate persons with disabilities in accordance with the access standards required by the ADA to the maximum extent feasible or to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable. Sidewalks, shared-use paths, street crossings, and other infrastructure shall be constructed so that all pedestrians, including those with disabilities, can travel independently.

Furthermore, on November 7, 2014, TDOT began using the United States Access Board's *Proposed Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (2011)*. These guidelines serve as the *Public Rights-of-Ways Accessibility Guidelines*, or [PROWAG](#).

TDOT's *Roadway Design Guidelines* are consistent with current ADA and [PROWAG](#) guidance. If any portion is determined to be in conflict with future ADA or [PROWAG](#) guidance, that portion shall be considered void.

#### **9-301.00 ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BY PROJECT TYPE**

Wherever pedestrian facilities are intended to be a part of a transportation facility, federal regulations (28 CFR Part 35) require that those pedestrian facilities meet ADA guidelines. All new construction or alteration of existing transportation facilities must be designed and constructed to be accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. FHWA is one of the federal agencies designated by the Department of Justice to ensure compliance with the ADA for transportation projects.

All projects shall review and evaluate the existing pedestrian circulation and connectivity within the scope of the project to address and correct identified deficiencies not meeting ADA, [PROWAG](#), and TDOT requirements.

All **new construction** projects will be constructed to meet current accessibility requirements.

All **alteration** projects funded and developed by or for the Department on state right of way shall evaluate the existing pedestrian circulation and connectivity. Any deficiencies should be identified (i.e. Maintenance Division's Resurfacing PS&E report or Strategic Transportation Investment Division's Report) and included with the project scope. All other projects developed by or for Divisions other than Roadway Design shall follow the same scoping requirements regardless of funding type, funding percentage, or letting type.

Roadway **maintenance** activities do not warrant addressing and correcting ADA deficiencies.

All **local program projects** administered by the Program Development and Administration Division should follow the same guidance based on project type. Projects developed and let by local agencies should follow the same guidance since all local agencies are obligated to fulfill FHWA required ADA elements.

### **9-301.01 NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

New construction projects address the construction of a new roadway, interchange, or other transportation facility where none existed before. For these projects, pedestrians' needs are assessed and included in the project. All pedestrian facilities included in these projects must fully meet the accessibility criteria when built to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable.

TDOT's design development process will assess and ensure that accessibility requirements are addressed during the earliest stages possible to reduce or prevent potential conflicts with various planning, right-of-way, environmental, utilities, or other highway design related issues. Project scopes may also need to be expanded to meet pedestrian needs.

### **9-301.02 ALTERATION PROJECTS**

A highway alteration project is a change to any portion of an existing facility (site, structure, or improvement of a pedestrian or vehicular route) located in the highway right-of-way that affects or could affect usability, access, circulation, or use of the facility. Alterations could affect the structure, grade, function and use of the roadway. Any project that affects or could affect the usability of a pedestrian facility is classified as an alteration project.

- All new pedestrian facilities included in an alteration project that are put in place within an existing developed right-of-way must meet applicable ADA, PROWAG, and TDOT requirements to the maximum extent feasible.
- All existing pedestrian facilities disturbed by construction of an alteration project must be replaced. The replacement facilities must meet applicable ADA, PROWAG, and TDOT requirements to the maximum extent feasible.

Alteration projects are re-construction projects. These include, but are not limited to; Existing roadway widening, Realignment of a roadway (vertical or horizontal), Bridge replacement, Bridge repair, [Enhancement](#), Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) installation, Raised median, Resurfacing, Road Safety Audit (RSA), and Traffic signal installation or retrofit. These projects can potentially trigger a variety of ADA requirements. The following apply to alteration projects:

- If pedestrian facilities are present at intersections, curb ramps are required.
- Warrants for the installation of crosswalk markings and applicable signs should be evaluated.
- An alteration project shall not decrease or have the effect of decreasing the accessibility of a pedestrian facility or an accessible connection to an adjacent building or site below the ADA accessibility requirements in effect at the time of the alteration.
- Within the construction limits of an alteration project, any existing connection from a pedestrian access route to a crosswalk (marked or unmarked) that is missing a

- required curb ramp must have a curb ramp installed that meets applicable accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible.
- A crosswalk served by a curb ramp must also have an existing curb ramp in place on the receiving end unless there is no curb or sidewalk on that end of the crosswalk. If a sidewalk is present and there is no existing curb ramp in place on the receiving end, an accessible curb ramp must be provided. This requirement must be met regardless of whether the receiving end of the crosswalk is located within the project's limits.
  - Within the construction limits of an alteration project, evaluate all existing curb ramps to determine whether curb ramp design elements meet the accessibility criteria. Modify existing curb ramps that do not meet the accessibility criteria to meet applicable accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible. This may also trigger modification of other adjacent pedestrian facilities to incorporate transitional segments in order to ensure specific elements of a curb ramp will meet the accessibility criteria.
  - Within the construction limits of an alteration project that includes hot mix asphalt overlay of an existing roadway and *does not* include reconstruction, realignment, or widening of the roadway, evaluate all existing marked and unmarked crosswalks. If it is not possible to meet the applicable accessibility requirements for crosswalks to the maximum extent feasible, document this in the project file.
  - Within the construction limits of an alteration project, evaluate all existing crosswalks (marked or unmarked) to determine whether crosswalk design elements meet the accessibility criteria. Modify crosswalk slopes to meet the applicable accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible.

### **RESURFACING PROJECTS**

**Resurfacing** PS&E reports should identify all ADA deficiencies. The typical resurfacing project limits termini includes the whole intersection; therefore, a resurfacing work on any leg of a signalized intersection requires upgrading existing facility to meet ADA, [PROWAG](#), and TDOT requirements. If there are no existing pedestrian facilities on any approach, addressing the deficiencies or installing curb ramps are not allowed. If pedestrian facilities are installed in a future project, the future project shall meet ADA, PROWAG, and TDOT requirements.

The following pavement restoration and rehabilitation acts are typically not considered alterations: Spot pavement repair; Liquid-asphalt sealing, chip seal (Bituminous Surface Treatment- BST), or crack sealing; or Lane restriping that does not alter the usability of the shoulder.

### **SIGNALIZATION PROJECTS**

**New Signalization** projects generally involve construction of a traffic signal system where an un-signalized intersection previously existed to improve the existing intersection traffic operations.

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Project cost is not an acceptable reason to fail to construct or delay completing ADA required improvements for accessibility compliance when existing pedestrian facilities are present.

In the case of a future pedestrian facility, pedestrian signals systems and related components will not be installed and must be added later when pedestrian facilities are constructed.

Projects involving upgrades to **existing signalized** intersection(s) must upgrade deficient curb ramps and pushbuttons when alterations described in section R209.2 of PROWAG are made to the existing signal system. If no pedestrian facilities exist at the intersection, any existing pedestrian signal phasing and associated pedestrian signal heads and pushbuttons shall be removed.

**EXCEPTIONS**

It may not always be possible to fully meet the applicable accessibility requirements during alterations of existing facilities. If such a situation is encountered, consult with the TDOT ADA Coordinator to develop a workable solution to meet the accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible. Cost is not to be used as a justification for not meeting the accessibility criteria. Physical terrain or site conditions that would require structural impacts, environmental impacts, or unacceptable impacts to the community in order to achieve full compliance with the accessibility criteria are some of the factors that can be used to determine that the maximum extent feasible is achieved. If it is determined to be virtually impossible to meet the accessibility criteria for an element, complete the Multimodal Design Deviation form and submit for approval. Documentation for the decision, along with the signed deviation form, should be included in the project folder.

If there is uncertainty as to whether a project meets the definition of an alteration project, consult with the TDOT ADA Coordinator at [TDOT.ADA@tn.gov](mailto:TDOT.ADA@tn.gov).

**9-301.03 MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

Roadway maintenance activities are not considered alterations and do not require simultaneous improvements to pedestrian accessibility under the ADA. Maintenance activities include actions that are intended to preserve the roadway system, retard future deterioration and maintain the functional condition of the roadway without increasing the structural capacity. Typical maintenance activities consist of re-tracing existing pavement markings, pothole patching, mowing, roadside ditch cleaning, guardrail repair, and trash pickup, and do not warrant addressing and correcting existing ADA deficiencies.

Signal maintenance activities consist of adding/replacing system feature such as (e.g., replacing controller cards, modifying existing detection devices, firmware upgrade, adding controller cabinet pedestal and/or foundation pad, relocating controller cabinet, installing ground boxes, installing new traffic signal cables, installing conduit, saw cutting concrete for loop detection installation or replacement, repair/upgrade existing vehicle detection systems, replacing bulbs, repair/upgrade of the existing signal heads, and replacing signal pole or mast

arm assembly). However, if the modification creates a negative impact to the existing sidewalk or existing pedestrian push buttons are not accessible, ADA improvements or upgrades must be installed.

## CHAPTER 4 – PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

### **9-400.00 GENERAL**

Pedestrian travel is a vital transportation mode. It is used at some point by nearly everyone and is a critical link to everyday life for many. Designers must be aware of the various physical needs and abilities of pedestrians in order to ensure facilities provide universal access.

Under Tennessee law, pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections, driveways, and marked crosswalks. However, pedestrians must act responsibly, using pedestrian signals and sidewalks where they are available.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires pedestrian facilities to be designed and constructed so they are readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. This chapter provides accessibility criteria for the design of pedestrian facilities that meet applicable state and federal standards.

The pedestrian facilities included in a project should be determined during the project planning phase based on access control of the highway, local transportation plans, comprehensive plans and other plans (such as Safe Route to School Plans developed by schools and school districts), the roadside environment, existing and projected pedestrian volumes, user age group(s), and the continuity of local walkways along or across the roadway.

If an alteration project scope proposes to exclude curb ramps, they can be funded and installed separately. However, all work must be completed **before** the project (i.e. resurfacing) or at the same time, **not after**. See the [Supplement to the 2013 DOJ/DOT Joint Technical Assistance on the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements to Provide Curb Ramps when Streets, Roads, or Highways are Altered through Resurfacing](#). For any project in which this applies, add a special note that specifies the project number for which the curb ramps will be installed.

If a project is a maintenance project, curb ramps are not required at the time of the improvement. Alteration and maintenance projects are defined in the [Department of Justice/Department of Transportation Joint Technical Assistance on the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements to Provide Curb Ramps when Streets, Roads, or Highways are Altered through Resurfacing](#) document.

### **9-401.00 PROVISION OF PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**

Pedestrian facilities typically include sidewalks, shared-use paths, and sidepaths. Pedestrian facilities can either be immediately adjacent to streets and highways or separated

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from them by a buffer. Pedestrian demand and accommodation is usually aligned with surrounding land uses and should ideally be evaluated in the planning process to provide ample pedestrian space and roadside elements. For example, recommended sidewalk widths along urban commercial streets in dense areas will be wider than on urban collectors in residential areas.

Designing pedestrian facilities extends much further than the ADA/PROWAG design criteria discussed in Chapter 3. Similarly, comfortable and convenient pedestrian access to and from transit stops and stations presents important opportunities to strengthen and expand the transportation system and provide more travel options for the public.

**9-402.00 RECOMMENDED PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**

Where pedestrian facilities are provided along state roadways, they shall, to the extent it is not structurally impracticable, meet the minimum widths shown in Table 9-1. Accommodation can be provided by either dedicated pedestrian sidewalks or shared-use paths, which are facilities that serves pedestrians, bicyclists and other users such as skaters. Sidepaths are essentially shared-use paths that are parallel with the street or highway. Sidewalks are typically provided on both sides of the street, where a shared-use path is typically provided on only one side. A sidewalk may be provided on the opposite side of the street from the shared-use path.

The sidewalk widths listed are minimum widths. The widths provided in design should be determined in consultation with the local agency and based on the expected volume of pedestrians at build-out of the land use along the project corridor. Locally adopted sidewalk standards may differ and should be coordinated with local agencies. Final determination of the appropriate dimensions will be made by TDOT. Additional guidance on the design of shared-use paths is provided in Chapter 6.

Minimum Pedestrian Facilities Design Guidelines (When Provided)		
Roadway Classification / Context	Sidewalk / Walkway	Width
Rural Roadways ( < 2,000 ADT)	Sidewalks on both sides	SW (5 ft)
	Shared-Use Path	SUP (10 ft)
Rural Roadways ( > 2,000 ADT)	Sidewalks on both sides	SW (5 ft)
	Shared-Use Path	SUP (10 ft)
Suburban Roadways	Sidewalks on both sides	SW (5 ft)
	Sidewalk + Shared-Use Path	SUP (10 ft)
Major Arterials (Residential)	Sidewalks on both sides	SW (6 ft)
Minor Arterial and Urban Collector (Residential)	Sidewalks on both sides	SW (5 ft)
All Commercial Area Urban Streets	Sidewalks on both sides	SW (6 ft)
All Industrial Area Streets	Sidewalks on both sides	SW (5 ft)
SW = Sidewalk, SUP = Shared-Use Path		

**Table 9-1: Minimum Pedestrian Facilities for Various Roadway Functional Classifications and Context**



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Pedestrian facilities should be separated from the roadway curb to provide a pedestrian buffer, to serve as a place to locate mailboxes, to serve as a planting strip or furnishing zone, to serve as a place for transit stops/shelters, and to benefit driveway slopes. Table 9-2 provides minimum and preferred separations, or buffers, from the back of curb to the nearest edge of the sidewalk or shared-use path. Note the buffer can be paved, but its width not included in the minimum pedestrian facility width listed in Table 9-1. Shoulders, bicycle lanes, or parking lanes on the road-side of the curb can be included in the buffer width, however some separation from the curb to the edge of the sidewalk is still recommended as a place to locate mailboxes and benefit driveway slopes. If a buffer equal to the minimum separation guidance is not feasible on higher speed routes, the designer should consider the placement of a positive protective device (i.e. a barrier).

<b>Pedestrian Facility Separation Requirements (ft.)</b>		
Posted Speed	Buffer (Min.)*	Buffer Preferred
≤ 35 mph	0	5
40 mph	5	8
45 - 55 mph	12	16.5
≥ 60 mph	16.5	24

\*A 5-foot buffer (min.) shall be provided between the travel lane and a shared-use path, see Section 9-606.00 for additional guidance.

**Table 9-2: Pedestrian Facility Buffer Requirements by Vehicle Operating Speed**

On rural sections with a paved shoulder, the minimum pedestrian facility buffer is either five (5) feet from the edge of the paved shoulder or the dimensions listed in Table 9-2, whichever is greater. Under constrained conditions, a seven (7)-foot minimum buffer from the edge of the shoulder for speeds of 45 mph and above may be allowed with completion of a *Multimodal Design Deviation Form* and subsequent approval by TDOT (see Section 9-908.00). Where a ditch is present, the sidewalk should be placed on the far side of the ditch. If the appropriate buffer cannot be attained, a physical barrier is needed.

**9-403.00      SIDEWALK DESIGN ON CURBED ROADWAYS**

Most sidewalks are located along streets with curb and gutter in urban, suburban, and rural town center contexts. In suburban settings, the sidewalk is normally not adjacent to building frontages as it may be in more densely developed urban and town settings. In more densely developed locations, sidewalks may be closely integrated with other roadside functions such as street trees/landscaping, street furniture, bicycle racks, sidewalk café seating and building frontages. The portion of the roadside area behind the curb that is dedicated to pedestrian travel is typically referred to as the pedestrian “throughway” zone or pedestrian access route and must be designed to meet ADA and other pedestrian needs. PROWAG guidelines require a pedestrian access route be provided within sidewalks and other pedestrian circulation paths located in the public right-of-way. A pedestrian access route is defined as a continuous and unobstructed path of travel provided for pedestrians with disabilities within or coinciding with a pedestrian circulation path. While the PROWAG has not yet been adopted

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nationally as standard, TDOT has adopted it, and accessibility in public rights-of-way is required by the ADA.

Throughway zones that provide direct routes, with few meanders, are typically preferred by those with visual impairments. Additional guidance concerning the throughway zone's width, cross slope, grade, and pavement markings is provided below.

Width - The throughway zone is intended for pedestrian travel. Its width should vary by context and the pedestrian activity generated by the adjacent and area land use. A minimum continuous and clear pedestrian throughway zone width of five (5) feet must be maintained. In constrained conditions, it is permissible to have a clear width of four (4) feet, if passing areas five (5) feet in width are provided no more than 200 feet apart. This minimum width of four (4) feet must be maintained around items commonly placed within the sidewalk area, including sign posts, luminaire supports, signal poles, etc. In commercial areas, the minimum recommended throughway zone is six (6) feet, due to the anticipated higher level of pedestrian activity.

Cross Slope – TDOT's standard throughway zone cross slope is 1.5 percent. If necessary due to design constraints or in spot locations, a cross slope between one (1) and two (2) percent is allowable. The two (2) percent maximum is a requirement of the ADA and PROWAG for pedestrian access routes. The two (2) percent maximum cross slope applies across driveways. A cross slope of less than one percent would not shed water well after a rain event. Pooled water can become slippery, obscure surface discontinuities, freeze in cold weather, and degrade the sidewalk, increasing the need for maintenance. Sidewalks typically slope and drain towards the roadway, where the stormwater is collected in the roadway's curb and gutter network. In unique situations the sidewalk may slope and drain away from the roadway. In these instances, the designer must ensure the stormwater will not pond and collect on the throughway zone.

Grade - Longitudinal grades, which run parallel to the pedestrian path of travel, can be challenging for pedestrians if they are too steep. PROWAG requires that longitudinal grades not exceed five (5) percent for pedestrian access routes outside of a street or highway right-of-way and for pedestrian access routes within street crossings. Pedestrian access routes adjacent to roadways with grades steeper than five (5) percent may match, but not exceed, the general grade of the roadway.

Pavement Markings – Pavement markings are typically not applied to the throughway zone, except at certain crosswalk locations. Marked crosswalks are designed to keep pedestrians together where motorists can see them, and where they can cross more safely across the flow of vehicular traffic. They also aid visually impaired users to remain within the crosswalk area. Marked crosswalks are required at designated school crossings and at signalized intersections that have sidewalks with curb ramp access. Marked crosswalks should be considered at other non-signal controlled locations that have high pedestrian activity.

**9-404.00      SIDEWALK DESIGN ON NON-CURBED ROADWAYS**

The majority of sidewalks are along streets with curb. However, sidewalks can and do exist along streets without curb, typically in rural and some suburban areas. When the street does not have curb, the sidewalk should be placed a minimum of five (5) feet measured from the outside edge of shoulder to the inside edge of the sidewalk. If a roadside ditch is present,

the sidewalk should be placed on the far side of the ditch from the roadway for added lateral separation. When the sidewalk is parallel to a roadway with a posted speed limit of 45 mph or more, greater lateral offset is recommended from the edge of the travel lane. If the sidewalk is located within the clear zone of a high-speed roadway, consideration should be given to a crash-worthy barrier to protect the users of the sidewalk.

The design guidance provided in the previous section on curbed roadways also applies to sidewalk design without curb. For example, the standard cross slope of the sidewalk is 1.5 percent, and must be at least one (1) percent, but no more than two (2) percent. The two (2) percent maximum is a requirement of the ADA and PROWAG for pedestrian access routes. Cross slopes less than one (1) percent can lead to ponding and mud accumulation on the sidewalk. Additionally, the graded areas adjacent to the sidewalk must allow water to drain off and away from the sidewalk.

#### **9-405.00 PEDESTRIAN TREATMENTS AND MARKINGS AT INTERSECTIONS**

Crosswalks should ideally be located and designed to minimize the walking distance across the vehicle traveled way. This could include applying pedestrian-supportive design treatments such as reducing lane widths, minimizing turning radii, providing pedestrian refuge islands, constructing curb extensions, and limiting the use of turn lanes. Pavement markings and curb ramp placement also have a large impact on crossing distances.

Marked crosswalks are a place designated for pedestrians to cross a road. Marked crosswalks are designed to keep pedestrians together where motorists can see them, and where they can cross more safely across the flow of vehicular traffic. Marked crosswalks can be one of two pavement marking configurations: 1) Longitudinal, which is sometimes referred to as “continental”, or 2) transverse. Longitudinal markings should be used where added emphasis is needed for the crosswalk, or where local preference dictates. Longitudinal and transverse crosswalks are shown in TDOT Standard Drawing T-M-4. The designer is required to adhere to crosswalk design requirements contained in the MUTCD as well as PROWAG.

Crosswalks should be even and not slippery. Asphalt or concrete is the preferred walking surface. A different look can be achieved by using stamped concrete, which is available in a variety of colors and shapes. It is important to ensure crosswalk visibility. Textured crosswalks must be marked with transverse reflective lines. In general, brick, granite and cobble-stones should not be used in crosswalks due to maintenance issues concerning “pop-outs” and their tendency to create an uneven walking surface.

Where on-street parking is present, and minimum radii can be met at the intersection, the designer should consider curb extensions to further minimize the distance required to travel by pedestrians. The lateral offset of the curb extension should be at least one foot from any through movement traffic such as motor vehicles or bicycle lanes. Refer to Section 9-703.00 for additional information on curb extensions.

At uncontrolled intersections, such as roundabouts, single-lane entries and exits are preferred for pedestrian crossings. Splitter islands should be designed to fully accommodate pedestrians as a refuge location.

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At signalized intersections where pedestrian signals are newly installed, replaced, or significantly modified, the installation of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and countdown pedestrian displays is required. If there are no existing or planned sidewalks/pedestrian facilities, pedestrian signals of any kind are not required.

See Table 9-2A for information regarding pedestrian safety countermeasures. It is important to note that when using this table, the TDOT AADT ranges for the three columns are **AAADT<10,000; 10,000<AAADT>15,000; AAADT>15000.**

Roadway Configuration	Speed Limit								
	≤30 mph			35 mph			≥40 mph		
	Vehicle AADT <9,000			Vehicle AADT 9,000–15,000			Vehicle AADT >15,000		
2 lanes*	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 4 5 6	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 4 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7
3 lanes with raised median*	1 2 3 4 5	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 4 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 4 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7
3 lanes w/o raised median†	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 4 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 4 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7	1 3 5 6 7
4+ lanes with raised median‡	1 3 5	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7	1 3 5 7
4+ lanes w/o raised median‡	1 3 5 6 7 8	1 3 5 6 7 8	1 3 5 6 7 8	1 3 5 6 7 8	1 3 5 6 7 8	1 3 5 6 7 8	1 3 5 6 7 8	1 3 5 6 7 8	1 3 5 6 7 8

\*One lane in each direction    †One lane in each direction with two-way left-turn lane    ‡Two or more lanes in each direction

Given the set of conditions in a cell,

- # Signifies that the countermeasure should always be considered, but not mandated or required, based upon engineering judgment at a marked uncontrolled crossing location.
- # Signifies that the countermeasure is a candidate treatment at a marked uncontrolled crossing location.

The absence of a number signifies that the countermeasure is generally not an appropriate treatment, but exceptions may be considered following engineering judgment.

- 1 High-visibility crosswalk markings, parking restriction on crosswalk approach, adequate nighttime lighting levels
- 2 Raised crosswalk
- 3 Advance Yield Here To (Stop Here For) Pedestrians sign and yield (stop) line
- 4 In-Street Pedestrian Crossing sign
- 5 Curb extension
- 6 Pedestrian refuge island
- 7 Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon
- 8 Road Diet

This table was developed using information from: Zegeer, C. V., Stewart, J. R., Huang, H. H., Lagerwey, P. A., Feaganes, J., & Campbell, B. J. (2005). Safety effects of marked versus unmarked crosswalks at uncontrolled locations: Final report and recommended guidelines (No. FHWA-HRT-04-100); Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 2009 Edition, Chapter 4F. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons; the Crash Modification Factors (CMF) Clearinghouse website (<http://www.cmfclearinghouse.org/>); and the Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System (PEDSAFE) website (<http://www.pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/>).

**Table 9-2A: Pedestrian Safety Countermeasures**

Source: Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Crossing Locations (2018), p. 1

**9-406.00 CURB RAMPS AND DETECTABLE WARNING SURFACES**

Right-of-Way Plans for new construction or reconstruction projects shall accommodate the appropriate curb ramp and truncated dome surface details shown on the current Standard Drawings. The curb ramp Standard Drawings detail multiple layouts of curb ramps and blended transitions that can be used at intersections depending upon the site layout, topography, and right-of-way constraints. Perpendicular design curb ramps are the preferred type to be used.

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Parallel curb ramps and blended transitions are appropriate for areas with right-of-way constraints. Designers should indicate the type ramp to be used at each intersection on the plans. Designers should use the estimated quantities for a 90-degree intersection on a 0.0% grade when calculating quantities for intersections other than 90 degrees or with grades other than 0.0%. Limits of payments for curb ramps are shown on the standard drawings.

Ramps shall be indicated on the Right-of-Way Plans for field review. Ramps adjacent to lowered curb for driveways may be eliminated.

Detectable warning surfaces (truncated domes) shall be used with all curb ramps.

Refer to the RP-H-Series Standard Drawings for details. Additional information concerning curb ramps and truncated domes is provided in the following paragraphs.

A curb ramp, blended transition, or a combination of curb ramps and blended transitions shall connect the pedestrian facility at each pedestrian street crossing. Perpendicular curb ramps have a running slope that cuts through or is built up to the curb at right angles or meets the gutter break at right angles where the curb is curved. Parallel curb ramps have a running slope that is in-line with the direction of sidewalk travel and lowers the sidewalk to a level turning space where a turn is made to enter the pedestrian street crossing. Blended transitions are raised pedestrian street crossings, depressed corners, or similar connections between the pedestrian access route at the level of the sidewalk and the level of the pedestrian street crossing that have a grade of 5 percent or less. Blended transitions are often essentially large radius parallel curb ramps.

In general, perpendicular design curb ramps are preferable when geometric conditions allow their use. Typically, two curb ramps must be provided at each street corner. In alterations where existing physical constraints prevent two curb ramps from being installed at a street corner, a single blended transition is permitted at the corner. Detailed design information can be found in TDOT Standard Drawings RP-H-3 through RP-H-9.

The running slope of curb ramps shall be a minimum of five (5) percent and a maximum of 8.3 percent but shall not require the ramp length to exceed 15 feet.

Detectable warning surfaces indicate the boundary between pedestrian and vehicular routes where there is a flush connection. They serve the need of people with vision impairments. Typical placement locations include at curb ramps and pedestrian refuge islands. However, PROWAG guidance notes that detectable warning surfaces are not required at cut-through pedestrian refuge islands that are less than six feet in length because detectable warning surfaces must extend two (2) feet (minimum) on each side of the island and be separated by a minimum two (2)-foot length of island without detectable warning surfaces. Installing detectable warning surfaces at cut-through pedestrian islands that are less than six feet in length would compromise the effectiveness of detectable warning surfaces. Where a cut-through pedestrian refuge island is less than six feet in length and the pedestrian street crossing is signalized, the signal should be timed for a complete crossing of the street.

Detectable warning surfaces should also not be provided at crossings of residential driveways since the pedestrian right-of-way continues across residential driveway aprons. However, where commercial driveways are provided with yield or stop control, detectable

warning surfaces should be provided at the junction between the pedestrian route and the driveway vehicle route.

Detectable warning surfaces shall contrast visually with the adjacent gutter, street, or pedestrian facility surface; either light-on-dark or dark-on-light. On TDOT projects, detectable warning surfaces are bright yellow. Detectable warning surfaces extend two (2) feet in the direction of pedestrian travel. At curb ramps, detectable warning surfaces extend the full width of the ramp. Examples of TDOT-compliant detectable warning surfaces are shown in TDOT Standard Drawing RP-H-3.

When a project's limits begin or end at an intersection, all approaches to the intersection must be upgraded with similar multimodal features such that pedestrians of all abilities can traverse the intersection. Where curb ramps are installed, they must be installed in all quadrants of an intersection that are connected by pedestrian facilities.

### **9-407.00 MIDBLOCK PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS**

This section addresses several ways to facilitate non-intersection pedestrian crossings at medians and refuge islands and midblock crossings.

Wide multilane streets are often difficult for pedestrians to cross, particularly when operating speeds are high and there are insufficient gaps in vehicular traffic because of heavy volumes. Raised medians and traffic islands with a pedestrian refuge area should be considered on roadways with one or more of the following conditions:

- Two-way arterial with intermediate to high speeds (greater than 35 mph), moderate to high average daily traffic (ADT), and high pedestrian volumes
- Significant pedestrian crash history
- Near a school or other community center
- Crossing distance exceeds 30 feet
- Midblock transit stops
- Complex or irregularly shaped intersections

Median refuge islands should be considered in curbed sections of roadways in urban and suburban areas, particularly in areas where there are mixtures of significant pedestrian and vehicle traffic (more than 12,000 ADT) and intermediate or high travel speeds. On non-curbed sections of roadways, median refuge islands are applicable on roadways with posted speeds of  $\leq 40$  mph or design speeds  $\leq 45$  mph. Table 9-3 provides guidance for when a location is a candidate for a midblock crosswalk (C), when a midblock crosswalk may be considered with additional pedestrian crossing enhancements (P), and when a midblock crosswalk should not be installed without additional enhancements (N). These additional enhancements could include median refuge islands (which reduce crossing distance along with increasing safety for pedestrians), raised crosswalks, and pedestrian signalization. For additional guidance, refer to the footnotes provided at the bottom of Table 9-3.

**TDOT – ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
**Section 9 – Multimodal Design**

English

4/10/2018

Recommendations for Installing Midblock Crosswalks*					
Vehicle ADT	Speed Limit**	Roadway Type (Number of Travel Lanes and Median Type)			
		Two lanes	Three lanes	Multilane (four or more lanes) with raised median***	Multilane (four or more lanes) without raised median
≤ 9,000	30 mi/h	C	C	C	C
	35 mi/h	C	C	C	P
	40 mi/h	P	P	P	N
>9,000 to 12,000	30 mi/h	C	C	C	P
	35 mi/h	C	P	P	P
	40 mi/h	P	P	N	N
>12,000 to 15,000	30 mi/h	C	P	P	N
	35 mi/h	C	P	P	N
	40 mi/h	N	N	N	N
> 15,000	30 mi/h	C	P	N	N
	35 mi/h	P	N	N	N
	40 mi/h	N	N	N	N

\* These guidelines include intersection and midblock locations with no traffic signals or stop signs on the approach to the crossing. They do not apply to school crossings. A two-way center turn lane is not considered a median. Crosswalks should not be installed at locations that could present an increased safety risk to pedestrians, such as where there is poor sight distance, complex or confusing designs, a substantial volume of heavy trucks, or other dangers, without first providing adequate design features and/or traffic control devices. Adding crosswalks alone will not make crossings safer, nor will they necessarily result in more vehicles stopping for pedestrians. Whether or not marked crosswalks are installed, it is important to consider other pedestrian facility enhancements (e.g., raised median, traffic signal, roadway narrowing, enhanced overhead lighting, traffic-calming measures, curb extensions), as needed, to improve the safety of the crossing. These are general recommendations; good engineering judgment should be used in individual cases for deciding where to install crosswalks.

\*\* Where the speed limit exceeds 40 mi/h, marked crosswalks alone should not be used at unsignalized locations.

\*\*\* The raised median or crossing island must be at least 4 ft. wide and 6 ft. long to serve adequately as a refuge area for pedestrians, in accordance with MUTCD and AASHTO guidelines.

C = Candidate sites for marked crosswalks . Marked crosswalks must be installed carefully and selectively. Before installing new marked crosswalks, an engineering study is needed to determine whether the location is suitable for a marked crosswalk. For an engineering study, a site review may be sufficient at some locations, while a more in-depth study of pedestrian volume, vehicle speed, sight distance, vehicle mix, and other factors may be needed at other sites. It is recommended that a minimum utilization of 20 pedestrian crossings per peak hour (or 15 or more elderly and/or child pedestrians) be confirmed at a location before placing a high priority on the installation of a marked crosswalk alone.

P = Possible increase in pedestrian crash risk may occur if crosswalks are added without other pedestrian facility enhancements. These locations should be closely monitored and enhanced with other pedestrian crossing improvements, if necessary, before adding a marked crosswalk.

N = Marked crosswalks alone are insufficient, since pedestrian crash risk may be increased by providing marked crosswalks alone. Consider using other treatments, such as traffic-calming treatments, traffic signals with pedestrian signals where warranted, or other substantial crossing improvement to improve crossing safety for pedestrians.

Adapted from Source: Safety Effects of Marked versus Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations: Final Report and Recommended Guidelines, Table 11 FHWA, 2005

**Table 9-3: Recommendations for Installing Midblock Crosswalks**

**TDOT – ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
**Section 9 – Multimodal Design**

**English**

**4/10/2018**

MUTCD-compliant signing and pavement markings are to be provided to make the refuge island conspicuous to motorists. Overhead street lighting should also be considered. Median refuge islands typically have an open, flat cut and do not ramp up and down due to the short width. If the island is sufficiently large, then ramps that meet ADA requirements (8.3% maximum grade) can be used. It is best to provide a slight grade (two (2) percent or less) to permit water and silt to drain from the area. For roadway posted speeds above 40 mph/design speeds above 45 mph, clear zone criteria between the median and travel lane typically eliminates the applicability of median refuge islands. Recommended median design criteria includes:

- The desirable median width is at least eight (8) feet wide to allow the pedestrian to wait comfortably in the center, four (4) feet from moving traffic. A wider median is necessary if it must also serve the purpose of providing a left-turn bay for motor vehicle traffic at intersections.
- If the desired eight (8) feet cannot be achieved, a width of six (6) feet, or four (4) feet (minimum) will be sufficient. To provide the needed width, especially in a downtown or other commercial environment, consider narrowing travel lanes to an appropriate width (see Table 9-6 for acceptable lane widths).
- Median island cut-throughs shall be designed to have a minimum width of five (5) feet to ensure a passing space is provided.
- Detectable warning surfaces are to be separated by a minimum length of two (2) feet in the direction of pedestrian travel.
- Pedestrian access routes of shared-use paths through a median island must be a minimum of the same width as the shared-use path. The width of the island should be eight (8) feet to ensure a bicycle can fit within the island.

The placement of midblock signals is called for in some locations. The primary signalized treatment that should be considered at midblock or non-intersection crossings is the High intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon:

- A HAWK Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon should be examined where the PPH exceeds 20 and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile motor vehicular speeds exceed 35 mph. When an engineering study finds that installation of a pedestrian hybrid beacon is justified, the following design guidelines should be met:
  - The pedestrian hybrid beacon should be installed at least 100 feet from side streets or driveways that are controlled by stop or yield signs.
  - Parking and other sight obstructions should be prohibited for at least 100 feet in advance of and at least 20 feet beyond the marked crosswalk, or site accommodations should be made through curb extensions or other techniques to provide adequate sight distance.
  - The installation should include suitable standard signs and pavement markings.
  - If installed within a signal system, the pedestrian hybrid beacon should be coordinated.



#### 9-408.00 CURB EXTENSIONS/BULB-OUTS

On streets with curb and on-street parking or shoulders, curb extensions can be used to extend the sidewalk or curb line into the shoulder or parking lane, which reduces the effective street width at the intersection. Curb extensions can:

- Reduce the crossing distance of pedestrians
- Improve the sight distance and sight lines for both pedestrians and motorists
- Create adequate space for curb ramps and landings where the existing sidewalk space is narrow
- Provide additional storage space for pedestrians waiting to cross
- Prevent parked cars from encroaching into the crosswalk area

In general, curb extensions should extend the width of the shoulder or parking lane, with the face of curb approximately one foot from the edge line of the through travel lane. Curb extensions may not be needed or desirable on every leg of an intersection if the street leg is narrow, parking is not permitted, or the curb extension would interfere with a bicycle lane or the ability of the design vehicle to negotiate a right turn. Storm drainage from the street must also be considered by the designer to ensure ponding does not occur. Low-level landscaping that does not conflict with sight distance or intersection sight triangle requirements is recommended on curb extensions to provide alignment cues for pedestrians with vision impairments and to increase the visibility of the extension to approaching motorists. Curb extensions are not typically appropriate at high-speed rural intersections or where channelized right turns are warranted.

#### 9-409.00 PEDESTRIAN CONSIDERATIONS AT ROUNDABOUTS

The lower speeds and shorter crossing distances associated with roundabouts with single-lane entries and exits are desirable for non-motorized users. Pedestrian crossings at roundabouts are typically uncontrolled, relying on the design of the roundabout to create low motor vehicle speeds. Because roundabouts use splitter islands to divide entering and exiting motor vehicle traffic on each leg, pedestrians only have to cross one direction of traffic at a time. These crosswalks should be placed at least one car length before the yield line at the roundabout entrance.

Providing crossings for pedestrians with vision impairments is challenging at roundabouts. At signalized intersections, these pedestrians often rely on accessible pedestrian signals to determine where and how to cross. Roundabouts do not directly interrupt flow and typically do not have signal control. Walking across roundabouts with multilane entries and/or exits creates additional difficulties for the visually impaired, and crosswalk enhancements may be needed. The designer should be familiar with the crosswalk design requirements in the MUTCD and the PROWAG. For example, PROWAG requires the use of HAWK Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) to assist the visually impaired when crossing an approach to a multilane roundabout. PHBs are not required by PROWAG or any other source for single-lane roundabout crossings. Additional guidance concerning accessible crossings at roundabouts can be found in NCHRP 674 *Crossing Solutions at Roundabouts and Channelized Turn Lanes for Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities*.

## 9-410.00 PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATION AT SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS

When designing pedestrian signals, consider the needs of all pedestrians, including older pedestrians and pedestrians with disabilities who might walk at a significantly slower pace than the average pedestrian. Determine whether there are pedestrian generators in the project vicinity that might attract older people and pedestrians with disabilities, and adjust signal timing accordingly.

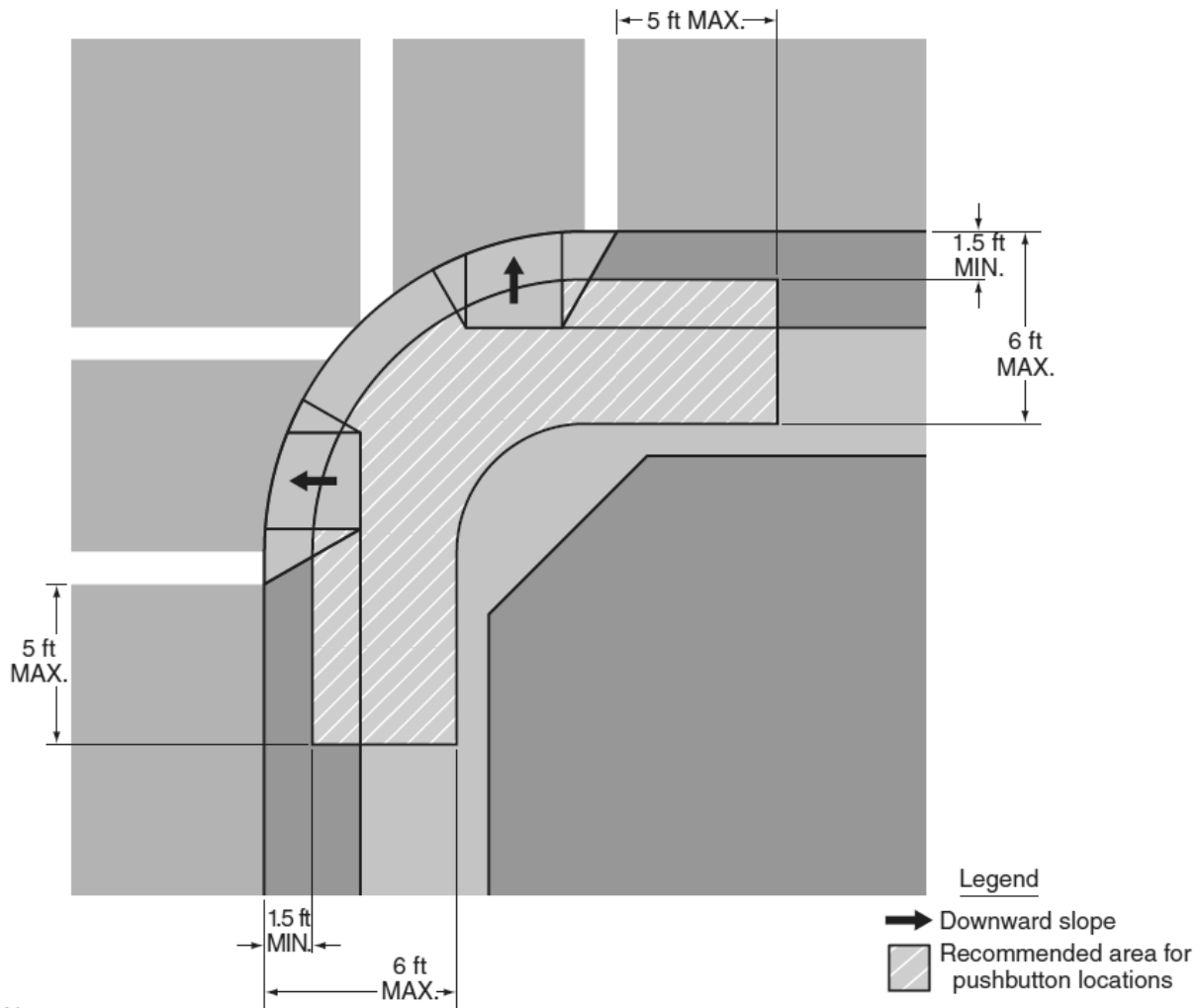
If pedestrian pushbuttons are used, they should be capable of easy activation and conveniently located near each end of the crosswalks. Pedestrian pushbuttons should be located to meet all of the following criteria (see Figure 9-6):

- Unobstructed and adjacent to a level all-weather surface to provide access from a wheelchair
- Where there is an all-weather surface, a wheelchair accessible route from the pushbutton to the ramp
- Between the edge of the crosswalk line (extended) farthest from the center of the intersection and the side of a curb ramp (if present), but not greater than five (5) feet from said crosswalk line
- Between 1.5 and six (6) feet from the edge of the curb, shoulder, or pavement
- With the face of the pushbutton parallel to the crosswalk to be used
- At a mounting height of approximately 3.5 feet, but no more than four (4) feet, above the sidewalk

Where there are physical constraints that make it impractical to place the pedestrian pushbutton adjacent to a level all-weather surface, the surface should be as level as feasible.

Where there are physical constraints that make it impractical to place the pedestrian pushbutton between 1.5 and six (6) feet from the edge of the curb, shoulder, or pavement, it should not be farther than 10 feet from the edge of curb, shoulder, or pavement.

Where two pedestrian pushbuttons are provided on the same corner of a signalized location, the pushbuttons should be separated by a distance of at least 10 feet. However, where there are physical constraints on a particular corner that make it impractical to provide the 10-foot separation between the two (2) pedestrian pushbuttons, the pushbuttons may be placed closer together or on the same pole.



Notes:

1. Where there are constraints that make it impractical to place the pedestrian pushbutton between 1.5 feet and 6 feet from the edge of the curb, shoulder, or pavement, it should not be further than 10 feet from the edge of curb, shoulder, or pavement.
2. Two pedestrian pushbuttons on a corner should be separated by 10 feet.

**Figure 9-6: Pedestrian Pushbutton Location Detail**

Source: MUTCD2009 Edition Figure 4E-3

APS - At all locations where pedestrian signals are newly installed, replaced, or significantly modified, the installation of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and countdown pedestrian displays is required. When APS and countdown pedestrian display improvements are made, they are to be made for all locations associated with the system being improved. APS includes audible and vibrotactile indications of the WALK interval. Installation of these devices may require improvements to existing sidewalks and curb ramps to ensure ADA compliance. APS includes:

- APS pushbuttons shall have a locator tone that operates during the DON'T WALK and the flashing DON'T WALK intervals only

- APS pushbuttons must have both audible and vibrotactile indications of the WALK interval
- APS pushbutton controls and signs shall be installed facing the intersection and be parallel to the crosswalk served
- An APS pushbutton shall have a tactile arrow that indicates the crossing direction activated by the pushbutton
- An APS pushbutton provides high contrast (light-on-dark or dark-on-light) against its background
- If extended pushbutton press features are available, the APS pushbutton shall be marked with three braille dots forming an equilateral triangle in the center of the pushbutton
- If additional crossing time is provided by an extended pushbutton press feature, then an R10-32P (MUTCD) plaque shall be mounted adjacent to or integral with the APS pushbutton
- If the pedestrian clearance time is sufficient only to cross from the curb or shoulder to a median to wait for the next cycle, then an additional APS pushbutton shall be provided in the median
- The desirable spacing between the APS pushbuttons is 10 feet minimum (5 feet minimum spacing on medians and islands), if feasible
- If the spacing between the APS pushbuttons is 10 feet or greater, the audible WALK indication shall be a percussive tone
- If the spacing between the APS pushbuttons is less than 10 feet, the audible WALK indication shall be a speech walk message, and a speech pushbutton information message shall be provided

Refer to the MUTCD for further design guidance.

#### **9-411.00 PEDESTRIAN TREATMENTS AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS**

The design of pedestrian facilities that cross railroad tracks often presents challenges due to the conflicting needs of pedestrians and trains. Whenever practicable, align pedestrian crossings perpendicular to the tracks. Crossing surfaces may be constructed of timber planking, rubberized materials, or concrete. Concrete materials generally provide the smoothest and most durable crossing surfaces. When detectable warning surfaces are used at railroad crossings, place them per the MUTCD stop line placement criteria.

#### **9-412.00 BARRIERS AND RAILINGS FOR PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**

When safety rails are needed to protect a pedestrian or bicyclist from steep slopes, drop-offs, or other non-vehicular hazards along a sidewalk or shared-use path, TDOT Standard Drawing S-BPR-1 should be referenced.

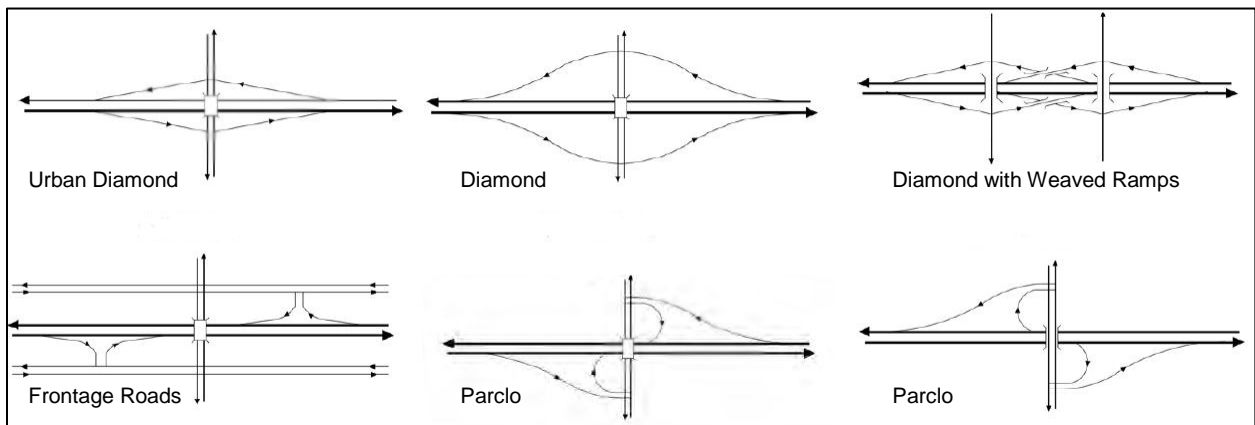
**9-413.00 SIGHT DISTANCE TRIANGLES**

The visibility of all users is to be evaluated at intersections. Vehicle operators and bicyclists need to be able to see crossing pedestrians, and pedestrians need to be able to see both motor vehicles and bicyclists. Identifying sight triangles can help determine the optimal configuration of pedestrian crossings. See Section 2-132.00 (Intersection Sight Distance) of the TDOT *Roadway Design Guidelines* and the RD01-SD series of TDOT Standard Drawings for determining sight distance at an intersection.

Visibility is impacted by both speed and the configuration of the intersection. There are multiple benefits in multimodal intersection configurations to proactively manage motorized vehicle speeds at intersection locations. The primary objective at intersections and interchanges is to create a clear, distinct, and predictable travel path for all users through the intersection.

**9.414.00 INTERCHANGE CONSIDERATIONS**

Crossing pedestrian facilities through an interchange functional area has a greater potential for conflict because of higher travel speeds, possibly higher volumes and more complex lane configurations. Interchange crossings designed in a manner like intersection crossings are more compatible to pedestrians. For new construction projects where pedestrian (and bicyclist) activity is expected to be high, the designer should consider an interchange configuration that is more accommodating to these users. These types include diamond interchanges and partial cloverleaf (Parclo) interchanges that do not have free-flow turn lanes on the arterial. Examples are shown in Figure 9-7. If a diverging diamond interchange configuration is selected, current guidance recommends placing pedestrians and bicyclists in the median between the ramps.



**Figure 9-7: Pedestrian and Bicyclist Accessible Interchange Configurations**

Examples of interchange configurations that are more difficult to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists include trumpet interchanges, partial and full cloverleaf interchanges with free-flow turn lanes, and single point interchanges (SPUI). Examples are shown in Figure 9-8.

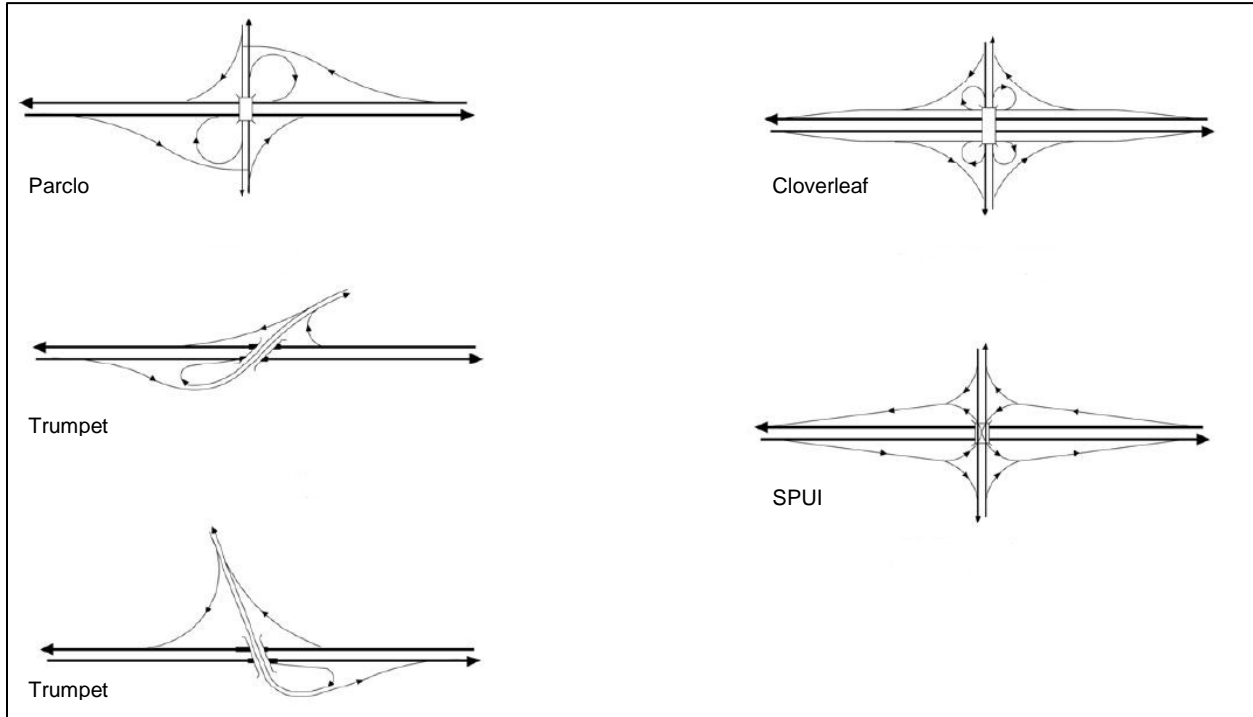


Figure 9-8: Pedestrian and Bicyclist Challenging Interchange Configurations

Figure 9-9 illustrates options for pedestrian facilities design through an interchange functional area. The preferred configuration for improved pedestrian safety in an interchange will not provide the motor vehicle free right turn, and will realign ramps to intersect perpendicular to the crossroad (see off-ramp terminal in Figure 9-9). However, given the modal priorities and operational performance needs of those priorities, this configuration may not always be practicable. In some cases, it is possible to align the pedestrian facility to cross an off ramp with a more direct path for the crossing.

Consider the inclusion of a refuge island when there are multiple travel lanes. This configuration may also require additional speed management, signing, or pavement marking treatments on the ramp.

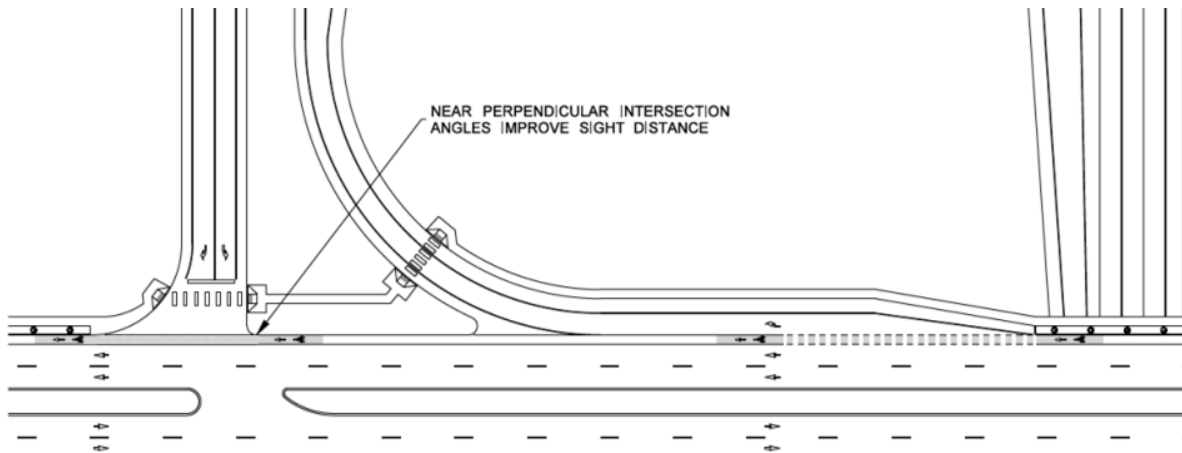


Figure 9-9: Interchange Ramps

#### 9-415.00 BRIDGE CONSIDERATIONS

Bridge projects can be used to make critical new connections in pedestrian networks. In some locations, a truly cohesive network may only exist with bridge connections for non-motorized users. In others, a new bridge may provide a more direct route than the ones currently available. For bridges that already exist, improving both the safety and comfort of non-motorized users may require that the bridge be retrofitted with more appropriate, separated facilities.

Pedestrian accommodations should be provided on bridges whenever possible. Bridges should also accommodate pedestrian facilities traveling under them so they do not create a barrier. Providing pedestrian accommodation during initial construction generally costs less than retrofitting later. Current design guidance generally provides adequate flexibility on how to best accommodate these users in bridge design projects.

**9-416.00 ILLUMINATION AND SIGNING**

Illumination of pedestrian crossings and other walkways is an important design consideration because lighting has a major impact on a pedestrian's sense of security. Illumination provided solely for vehicular traffic is not always effective in lighting parallel walkways for pedestrians.

Consider pedestrian-level (mounted at a lower level) lighting for pedestrian circulation paths, intersections, and other pedestrian crossing areas with high nighttime pedestrian activity, such as shopping districts, transit stops, schools, community centers, and other major pedestrian generators or areas with a history of pedestrian crashes.

**9-417.00 WORK ZONE PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATION**

The ADA requires that a public entity maintain its pedestrian facilities in operable working condition, including maintenance of their accessibility features. Construction and maintenance activities often temporarily disrupt these facilities. When this occurs, provide access and mobility for pedestrians through and around work zones. Address this in the temporary traffic control plans if the project occurs in a location accessible to pedestrians. The designer must determine pedestrian needs in the proposed work zone during the public input process and through field visits.

Some work zone considerations include:

- Separate pedestrians from conflicts with work zone equipment and operations
- Separate pedestrians from traffic moving through or around the work zone
- Provide pedestrians with alternate routes that have accessible and convenient travel paths that duplicate, as closely as feasible, the characteristics of the existing pedestrian facilities

Provide walkways that are clearly marked and pedestrian barriers that are continuous, rigid, and detectable to vision-impaired persons who navigate with a cane. Also, keep:

- The pedestrian head space clear
- Walkways free from pedestrian hazards such as holes, debris, and abrupt changes in grade or terrain
- Access along sidewalks clear of obstructions such as construction traffic control signs
- A minimum clear width path throughout, four (4) feet for pedestrians or 10 feet for pedestrians and bicyclists

Consider the use of flaggers if pedestrian generators such as schools are in the work zone vicinity. Consider spotters who are prepared to help pedestrians through the work zone.

Provide for advance public notification of sidewalk closures in the contract special provisions and plans.



Where transit stops are affected or relocated because of work activity, provide an accessible route to temporary transit stops.

Refer to MUTCD Chapter 6D “Pedestrian and Worker Safety” for additional guidance.

**9-418.00 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO TRANSIT STOPS**

The location of transit stops is an important element in providing appropriate pedestrian facilities. Newly constructed transit stops must conform to ADA requirements. Locate and design newly constructed transit stops so that they are accessible from the sidewalk. A transit stop on one side of a street usually has a counterpart on the opposite side because transit routes normally function in both directions on the same roadway. Provide adequate crossing facilities for pedestrians. When locating a transit stop, consider transit ridership and land use demand for the stop. Also, take into account compatibility with the following roadway/traffic characteristics:

- ADT
- Traffic speed
- Crossing distance
- Crash history
- Sight distance
- Connectivity to a pedestrian access route
- Traffic generator density

If any of these elements suggests an undesirable location for a pedestrian crossing, consider a controlled crossing or another location for the transit stop. See Section 9-700.00 for additional information concerning transit stop placement.

## **CHAPTER 5 – BICYCLE FACILITIES**

### **9-500.00 GENERAL**

This chapter is a guide for designing bicycle facilities within state highway right-of-way or for projects using state or federal-aid funds under TDOT's control. Guidance in this chapter includes options for intersection and interchange design. Unique design challenges are resolved using expertise and guidance from the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and others involved in the design process.

Bicycle facilities come in a variety of designs that vary by separation from motorized vehicular travel and other users. Except for on very low-speed, low-volume residential streets where pedestrians and bicyclists can comfortably share the roadway with motor vehicles, total physical separation is recommended to increase bicyclists' safety. This can be accomplished with shared-use paths and cycle tracks.

Proposed multimodal facilities must allow sufficient width to allow all users to adhere to the Tennessee Bicycle Laws contained in TCA 55-8-175, which covers expectations of cyclists as well as motor vehicles in regard to occupying public space and safely passing cyclists in a motor vehicle.

### **9-501.00 TYPES OF BICYCLE FACILITIES**

TDOT has adopted the following types of bicycle facilities, generally considered from least protected to most protected from vehicle conflicts. Each is discussed in more detail in the sections that follow.

- On-street shared-use lanes
- Bicycles on shoulders
- Striped on-street bicycle lanes
- Buffered on-street bicycle lanes
- Separated bicycle lanes / cycle tracks
- Shared-use paths / sidepaths

#### **9-501.01 ON-STREET SHARED-USE LANES**

A shared lane is a combined motor vehicle and bicycle lane. Shared lanes are generally appropriate on local roads and streets, preferably with lower traffic volumes, and only with posted speed limits of 35 mph and below. Shared lanes employ pavement markings and signage to indicate the combined use. Shared lane markings (aka "sharrows") are pavement markings specifically used to indicate a shared lane or intersection space. The position of the marking is detailed in TDOT Standard Drawing T-M-11.

The speed of cyclists can vary significantly between users, and depends on the experience, fitness level of the user, bicycle technology, and roadway grade. If a shared lane is

proposed on a hill, a conventional bicycle lane should be considered in the upgrade direction of travel allowing for slower bicycles to climb outside of motor vehicular operation.

### **9-501.02 BICYCLES ON SHOULDERS**

Many rural state highways are used by bicyclists for commuting between cities or for recreation/touring. Providing and maintaining paved shoulders can significantly improve convenience and safety for both bicyclists and motorists along such routes.

Accommodating bicycle users on the shoulder is common on state highways, particularly on rural facilities with posted speeds of 40 mph and above. Shoulder improvements to facilitate bicycle travel include widening the shoulders, improving roadside maintenance (including periodic sweeping), and removing surface obstacles such as drain grates that are not compatible with bicycle tires. A four (4)-foot usable shoulder must be present when the Average Daily Traffic is 1,000 or more and the posted speed limit is 40 mph or above in order to designate a roadway as a bike route (with signage). If shoulder rumble strips are present, provide for at least four (4) feet of usable shoulder between the rumble strip and the outside edge of shoulder. If guardrail or barrier is located adjacent to the shoulder, increase the dimension to five (5) feet of usable shoulder. Refer to Section 9-502.00 for further guidance.

Accommodating bicycle use on shoulders is appropriate at many locations. Note, however, that bicycle-on-shoulder accommodations are not dedicated bicycle facilities, and bicycle users do not have the same operating privileges as with striped on-street bicycle lanes. In rural to suburban/urban transition areas consider converting the shoulder to a protected buffered bicycle lane, both to encourage speed management of motor vehicle users through the transition and to establish a dedicated special-use lane for cyclists to tie into the local bicycle network.

### **9-501.03 STRIPED ON-STREET BICYCLE LANES**

Conventional striped on-street bicycle lanes are at-grade, all-weather pavement and adjacent to motor vehicle traffic lanes. They are designated by a single six (6)-inch solid white stripe between the motor vehicle lane and bicycle lane and supplemented with signs. The following geometric design criteria are established for bicycle lanes, and summarized below.

- Typical bicycle lane width (rideable surface) is five (5) feet on roadways with curb and gutter
- Minimum width is four (4) feet
- Maximum width is eight (8) feet, but should typically be buffered so that they are not mistaken for a motor vehicle or parking lane
- Along sections of roadway with curb and gutter, a usable width of four (4) feet measured from the longitudinal joint between the gutter and bicycle lane to the center of the bicycle lane pavement marking line is recommended; in areas where four (4) feet cannot be achieved due to constraints, the absolute minimum width is three (3) feet
- Buffered or separated bicycle lanes are preferred to non-buffered or non-separated lanes and required on facilities with speed limits above 45 mph

**TDOT – ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
**Section 9 – Multimodal Design**

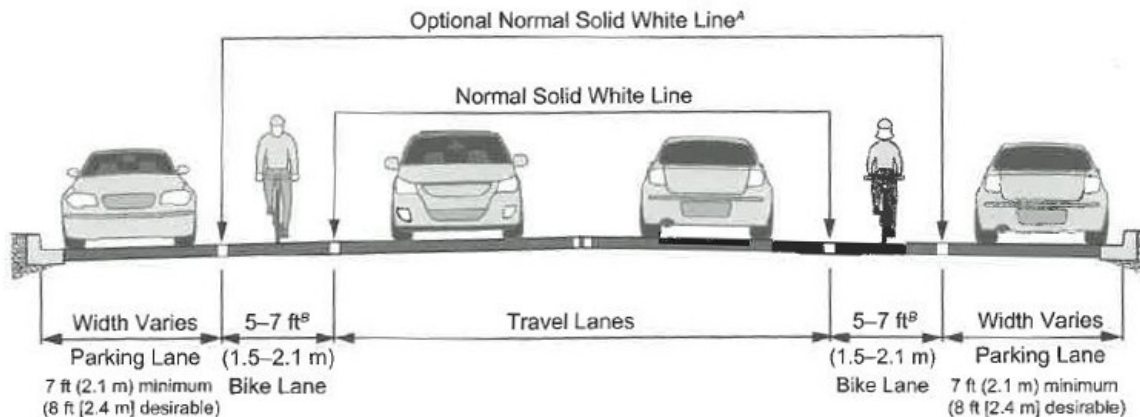
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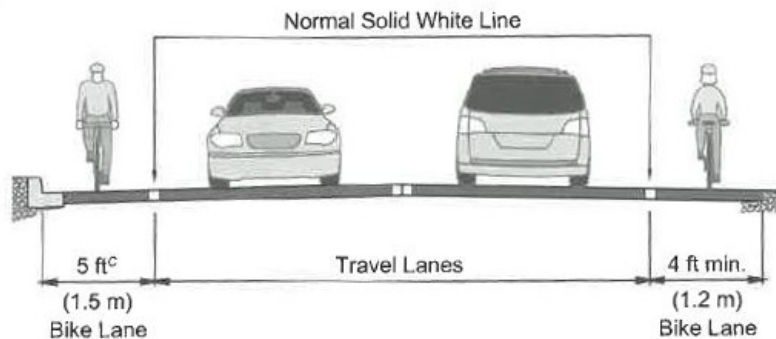
- Minimum bicycle lane width adjacent to on-street parking is five (5) feet unless there is a marked buffer between the bicycle lane and on-street parking. Bicycle lane widths of six (6) or seven (7) feet are preferred adjacent to on-street parking lanes. Where on-street parking is permitted, delineating the bicycle lane with two stripes, one on the street side and one on the parking side, is preferable to a single stripe
- For bicycle lanes four (4) to five (5) feet wide, an additional two (2)- to one (1)-foot offset (respectively) from the edge of the paved shoulder is required to vertical elements over six (6) inches in height (such as guardrail)
- Gutter seams, drainage inlets, and utility covers should be flush with the pavement and oriented to prevent conflicts with bicycle tires (perpendicular to direction of travel)
- Bicycle lanes on one-way streets should generally be on the right side of the traveled way and should always be provided on both legs of a one-way couplet. The bicycle lane may be placed on the left side of a one-way street if it decreases the number of conflicts (e.g., those caused by driveway openings, heavy bus traffic, or parking) and if bicyclists can safely and conveniently transition in and out of the bicycle lane. If sufficient width exists, the bicycle lanes can be striped on both sides of a one-way street
- Where on-street parking is provided, bicycle lanes are generally striped on the left side of the parking lane

Refer to Section 9-502.00 for further guidance. Additionally, TDOT Standard Drawings T-M-11 through T-M-14 should be referenced concerning signing and pavement markings for bicycle lanes. Any deviation from these Standard Drawings requires approval by the TDOT Roadway Design Division. Refer to Section 9-908.00 for additional information concerning the multimodal facility design deviation process and forms.

- T-M-11: SIGNING AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS FOR BICYCLE LANES OR ROUTES
- T-M-12: SIGNING AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS FOR BICYCLE LANES ON URBAN ROADWAYS
- T-M-13: SIGNING AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS FOR BICYCLE LANES
- T-M-14: SIGNING AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS FOR BICYCLE LANES AT INTERSECTIONS



**On Street Parking**



**Parking Prohibited**

Notes:

- <sup>A</sup> An optional normal (4–6-in./100–150-mm) solid white line may be helpful even when no parking stalls are marked (because parking is light), to make the presence of a bicycle lane more evident. Parking stall markings may also be used.
- <sup>B</sup> Bike lanes up to 7 ft (2.1 m) in width may be considered adjacent to narrow parking lanes with high turnover.
- <sup>C</sup> On extremely constrained, low-speed roadways (45 mph [70 km/h] or less) with curbs but no gutter, where the preferred bike lane width cannot be achieved despite narrowing all other travel lanes to their minimum widths, a 4-ft (1.2-m) wide bike lane can be used.

Source: AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 4th Edition

**Figure 9-10: Striped On-Street Bicycle Dimensions**

**9-501.04 BUFFERED ON-STREET BICYCLE LANES**

Buffered bicycle lanes are conventional bicycle lanes paired with a designated buffer space separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent motor vehicle travel lane and/or parking lane. The buffer space is created with pavement markings. When a buffer is placed between the traveled way and a bicycle lane, it improves safety by separating bicyclists from moving motor vehicles. A buffer can also be placed between on-street parking lanes and bicycle lanes. When that configuration is selected, bicyclists have less risk of being hit by a car door being opened from a parked car. Both locations are acceptable, and the preferred placement of the

buffer(s) depends upon local conditions. Buffered bicycle lanes provide the following advantages when compared to conventional bicycle lanes.

- Provide greater distance between bicyclists and motor vehicles
- Provide space for faster moving bicyclists to pass slower moving bicyclists without having to encroach into the motor vehicle travel lane
- Provide a greater space for bicycling without making the bicycle lane appear so wide that it might be mistaken for a travel lane or a parking lane
- Appeal to a wider range of bicyclists and encourages bicycling

#### **9-501.05      SEPARATED BICYCLE LANES / CYCLE TRACKS**

Separated bicycle lanes, also referred to as a cycle track or protected bicycle lanes, include bicycle lanes, a buffer area, and some type of vertical feature that reduces the likelihood of encroachment into the bicycle lane by motor vehicles and increases user comfort. The most common type of vertical separator used within the buffer area is a pavement-mounted flexible tubular marker or delineator. Use of dual-faced curbing, raised medians, or the parking zone adjoining the buffer area can also accomplish the same task.

For added separation between bicyclists and motorists, the bicycle lanes can be curb separated and raised (not at-grade with the street). When a raised and curb-separated bicycle facility is provided, it is considered part of the street-side zone; however, it cannot be combined with other zone areas because the intent is also segregation from pedestrians. The raised and curb-separated facility is dedicated for bicycle users and delineated with pavement markings and signing. In instances of multiple driveway entrances occurring across an elevated/separated bicycle facility, the designer should strive to keep the bicycle facility elevated across entrances to yield a better user experience for cyclists.

Dimensions for separated bicycle lanes should typically follow the guidance provided for other bicycle facilities noted in Chapters 5 and 6.

#### **9-501.06      SHARED-USE PATH / SIDEPATH**

Shared-use paths are designed for both transportation and recreational purposes and are used by pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and other users. Where a shared-use path is designed to parallel a roadway, the facility is referred to as a sidepath and a physical separation between the path and the vehicular traveled way should be provided in accordance with this chapter.

As with any roadway project, shared-use path projects need to serve and fit into the context of multimodal activity along and across the corridor. When designing shared-use paths, the bicyclist may not be the critical design user for every element of design. For example, the crossing speeds of most intersections between roads and pathways should be designed for pedestrians, as they are the slowest users. The design goal is to efficiently accommodate all intended users, and minimize conflict potential between modes to the maximum extent possible.

**TDOT – ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
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Since shared-use paths serve both bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as other types of users, they are addressed separately in Chapter 6.

**TDOT – ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
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**9-502.00 BICYCLE FACILITY SELECTION**

Table 9-4 below provides guidance for the minimum bicycle accommodations under various ADT volumes and posted speeds for rural cross sections. Table 9-5 provides guidance for the minimum bicycle accommodations for urban cross sections. Wide outside lanes are 14 to 15 feet wide.

<b>Minimum Bicycle Facility Guidance for Rural (Shoulder and Ditch) Cross Sections</b>				
ADT		< 2,000	2,000 - 10,000	> 10,000
Posted Speed Limit	≤ 35 mph	SL or WOL	SL or WOL	WOL
	40 - 45 mph	PS (4 ft)	PS (4-6 ft)	PS (6-8 ft)
	> 45 mph	PS (4-6 ft)	PS (6-8 ft)	PS (10 ft)
SL = Shared Lane, PS = Paved Shoulder, WOL = Wide Outside Lane/Sharrows				

**Table 9-4: Bicycle Facility Guidance for Rural Cross Sections**

<b>Minimum Bicycle Facility Guidance for Urban (Curb and Gutter) Cross Sections</b>				
ADT		< 2,000	2,000 - 10,000	> 10,000
Posted Speed Limit	≤ 35 mph	SL or WOL	SL or WOL	WOL or BL (5 ft)
	40 - 45 mph	BL (5 ft)	BL (5 ft) or BBL (4 ft*)	BL (5 ft) or BBL (4 ft*) or SBL (4 ft*)
	50 - 55 mph	BBL (4 ft*) or SBL (5 ft*)	BBL (4 ft*) or SBL (5 ft*)	BBL (4 ft*) or SBL (5 ft*)
	> 55 mph	SUP	SUP	SUP
SL = Shared Lane		BBL = Buffered Bike Lane	SUP = Shared-Use Path	
PS = Paved Shoulder		SBL = Separated Bike Lane		
BL = Conventional Bike Lane		WOL = Wide Outside Lane		
* Add buffer a minimum of 3 feet in width; when on-street parking is present place 2 feet of the buffer adjacent to the parking lane				

**Table 9-5: Bicycle Facilities on Urban Roadways Design Guidance**



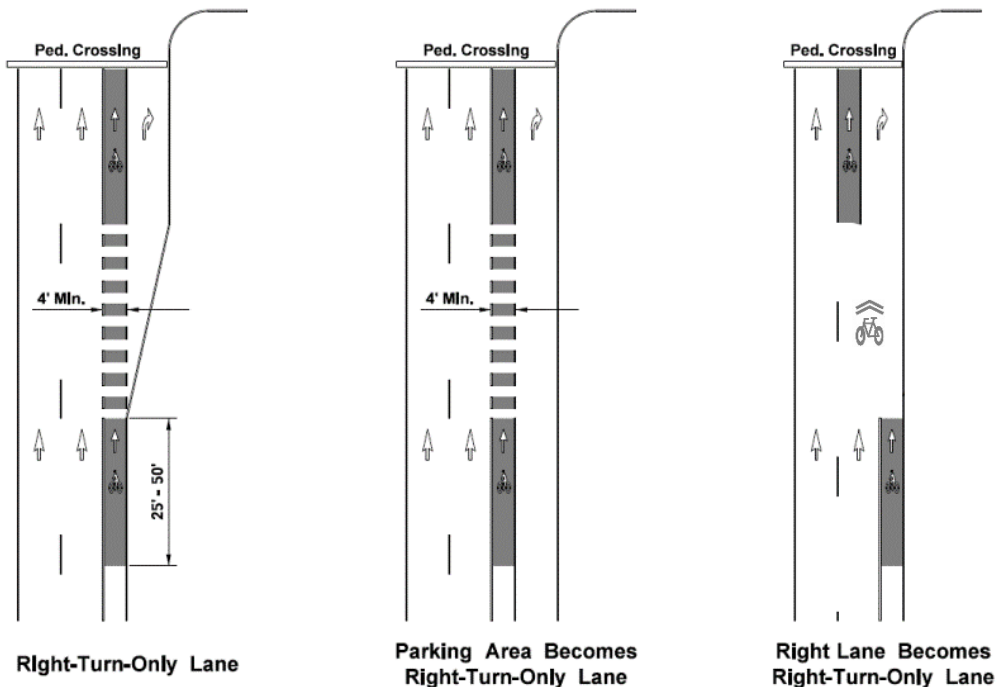
**9-503.00 BICYCLES AT INTERSECTIONS**

The principle objective when designing intersections for bicycle mobility and safety performance is to provide a visible, distinct, predictable, and clearly designated path leading to and through the intersection while managing potential conflicts between all other users and cyclists.

Several proven state-of-the-practice intersection treatments are presented within this section. However, pavement marking or aspects about the configuration may not currently be supported by the MUTCD. At the time of publication, bicycle boxes have received Interim Approval from FHWA and are allowed for use upon making the request to FHWA.

**9-504.00 APPROACH THROUGH LANES**

The approach to intersections needs to balance the bicycle user’s safety needs with the mobility needs of other users. The conflict between right-turning vehicles and through bicyclists is a serious crash risk at many intersections. Clear delineation of user lanes and potential conflict areas is currently the treatment most commonly used to manage the approach to intersections. Dotted lines can be used to identify the conflict area. Colored pavement markings can be used to further enhance and delineate the conflict area. Figure 9-11 shows different applications of the approach through-lane marking treatment most likely to be encountered.



**Figure 9-11: Right Turn Movements Across Bicycle Lanes**

9-505.00 BICYCLE BOXES

Bicycle boxes are designated areas for bicyclists positioned across and in front of the bicycle and motor vehicle lanes as shown in Figure 9-12. Bicycle boxes are used at signalized intersections and increase both mobility and safety performance for the bicycle mode. Applying a bicycle box assists mobility performance by prioritizing the bicycle movement at an intersection and enables a cyclist to more easily position for a left-turn movement. Bicycle boxes have also been found to prevent cyclist and motor vehicle encroachment into the pedestrian crossing, reducing conflicts with pedestrians at intersections. Bicycle safety performance is improved by increasing the visibility of the cyclist, and by reducing conflicts between motor vehicles making a right turn and the bicycle through movement (also known as “right-hook” conflict).

Bicycle boxes are not desirable on multi-lane streets. In situations where bicycle boxes are being considered across through and left-turn lanes, the bicycle box should extend across the entire intersection. The exception to this is if more than one left turn lane is present, then the bicycle box shall only extend across the right-most left-turn lane adjacent to the through lanes. Special accommodations should be made to allow the cyclists to potentially cross with a pedestrian movement to avoid cyclists crossing in front of through moving traffic during a phase change.

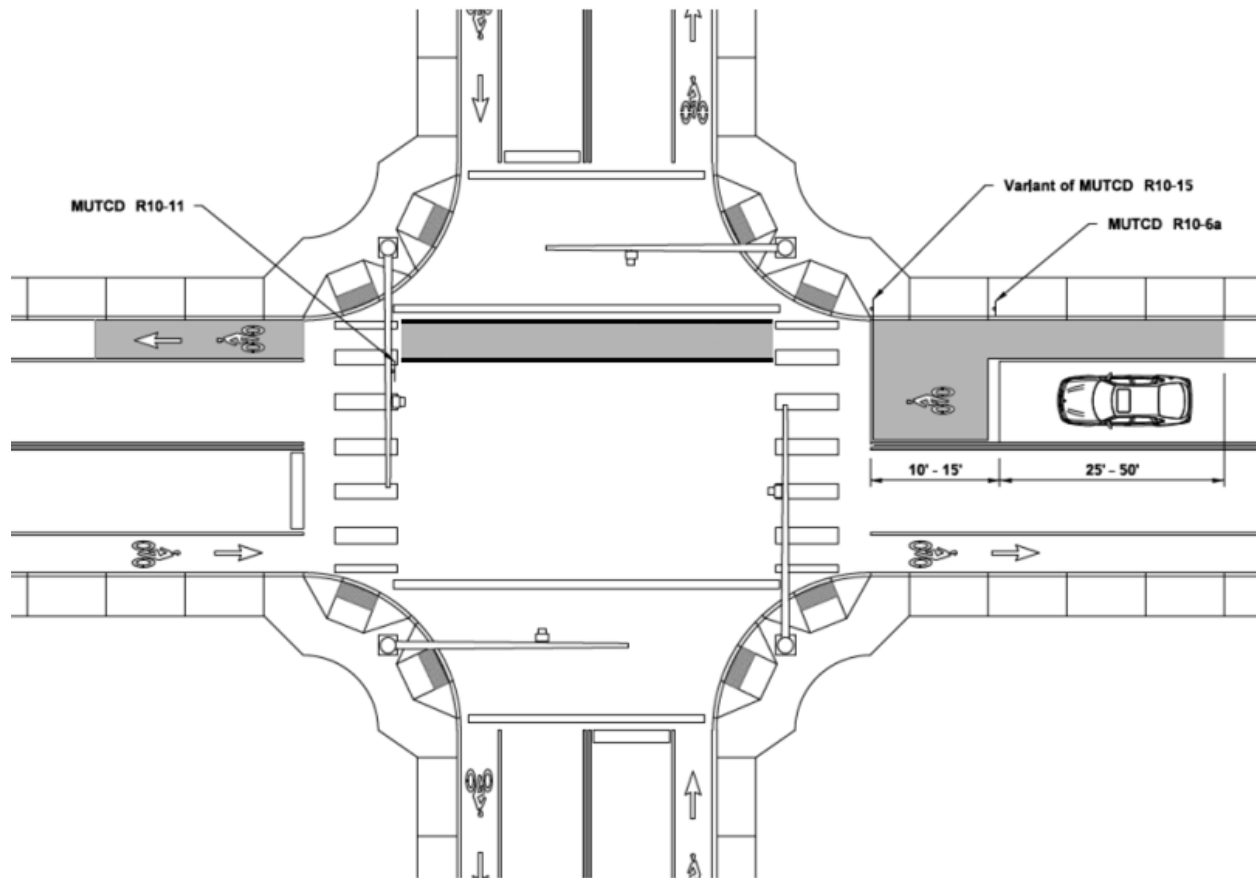


Figure 9-12: Typical Bicycle Box Application

**9-506.00 DRAINAGE GRATES / INLETS / JUNCTIONS**

When drainage grates or manhole covers are in a bicycle lane, their effect on bicyclists can be minimized by providing three (3) feet of lateral clearance between the edge of a drainage inlet grate and the bicycle lane stripe. Grates and manhole covers should be installed and maintained level with the surface of the bicycle lane. Provide drainage inlet grates on bicycle facilities that have openings narrow enough and short enough that bicycle tires will not be caught by the grates. Replace existing grates that are not designed for bicycles with a TDOT-approved grate with an opening four (4) inches or less center to center and perpendicular to the direction of travel.

Design considerations for usability of the bicycle lane should take into consideration the ability for cyclists to continue to utilize facilities during rain events with corresponding drainage gutter spreads.

**9-507.00 PAVEMENT MARKINGS**

All bicycle signing, marking, signalization and traffic control is governed by the MUTCD.

9-508.00 RAILROAD CROSSINGS

The design of bicycle facilities that cross railroad tracks often presents challenges due to the conflicting needs of bicyclists and trains. Whenever practicable, align bicycle crossings perpendicular to the tracks to minimize potential problems related to crossing the tracks (see Figure 9-13). Crossing surfaces may be constructed of timber planking, rubberized materials, or concrete. Concrete materials generally provide the smoothest and most durable crossing surfaces.

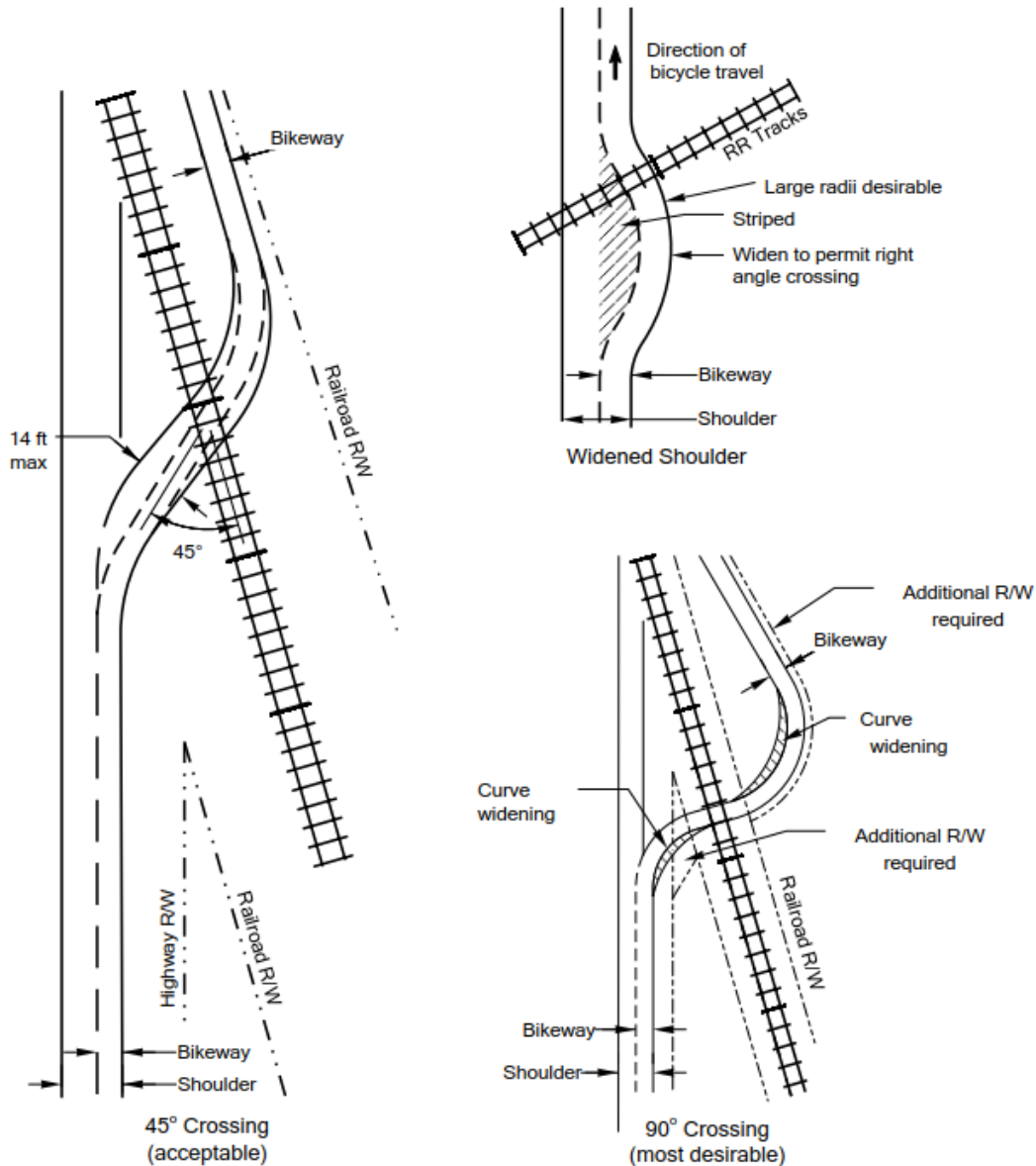


Figure 9-13: Bicycle / Railroad Crossings

Whenever a bicycle lane crosses railroad tracks, continue the crossing at least as wide as the bicycle lane. Wherever possible, design the crossing at right angles to the rails. Where a

skew is unavoidable, widen the shoulder or bicycle lane to permit bicyclists to cross at right angles.

#### **9-509.00 BRIDGE CONSIDERATIONS**

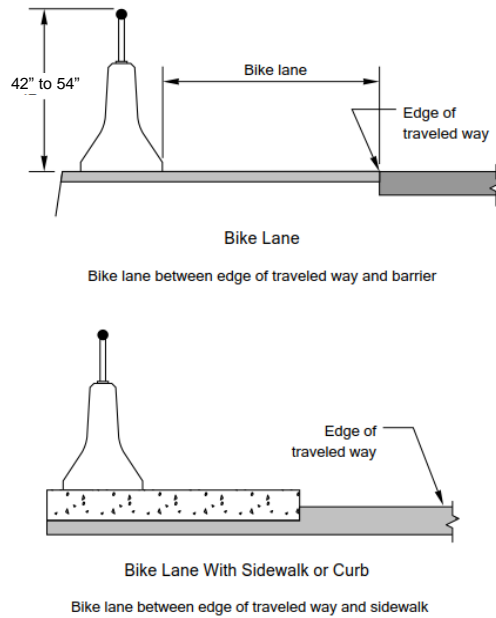
Bridge projects can be used to make critical new connections in bicycle networks. In some locations, a truly cohesive network may only exist with bridge connections for non-motorized users. In others, a new bridge may provide a more direct route than the ones currently available. For bridges that already exist, improving both the safety and comfort of non-motorized users may require a bridge to be retrofitted with more appropriate, separated facilities.

Bridges should also accommodate bicycle facilities traveling under them so they do not create a barrier. Providing bicycle accommodation during initial construction generally costs less than retrofitting later.

#### **9-510.00 BARRIERS AND RAILINGS**

When safety rails are needed to protect a bicyclist from steep slopes, drop-offs, or other non-vehicular hazards along a bicycle facility or shared-use path, TDOT Standard Drawing S-BPR-1 should be referenced.

When the edge of the bicycle lane is within five (5) feet of a barrier or railing, provide a barrier height of 42 inches or more to reduce the potential for bicyclists to fall over the barrier (see Figure 9-14). On a bridge or bridge approach where high-speed, high-angle impacts with a railing, fence or barrier are more likely to occur (such as short radius curves with restricted sight distance or at the end of a long, descending grade) or in locations with site specific safety concerns, a higher, 48-inch or 54-inch railing should be considered. When the bicycle facility is adjacent to a barrier, consider a single slope barrier to mitigate for pedal movement conflicts. On structures, the bridge railing type and height are part of the structure design. Contact the TDOT Headquarters Bridge and Structures Office for additional information.



**Figure 9-14: Barrier and Railing Application**

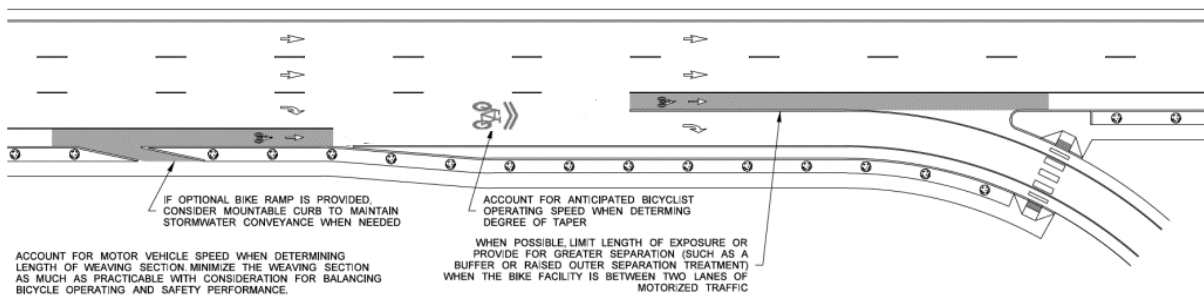
**9-511.00 SIGHT DISTANCE TRIANGLES**

See Section 9-413.00 for a discussion on sight distance triangles. The concepts are the same for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

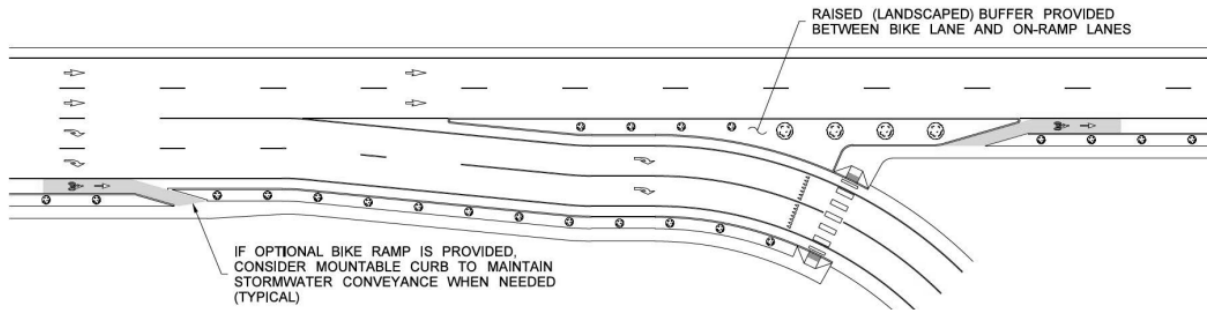
**9.512.00 INTERCHANGE CONSIDERATIONS**

See Section 9-414.00 for a discussion on interchange considerations. Many of the concepts are the same for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

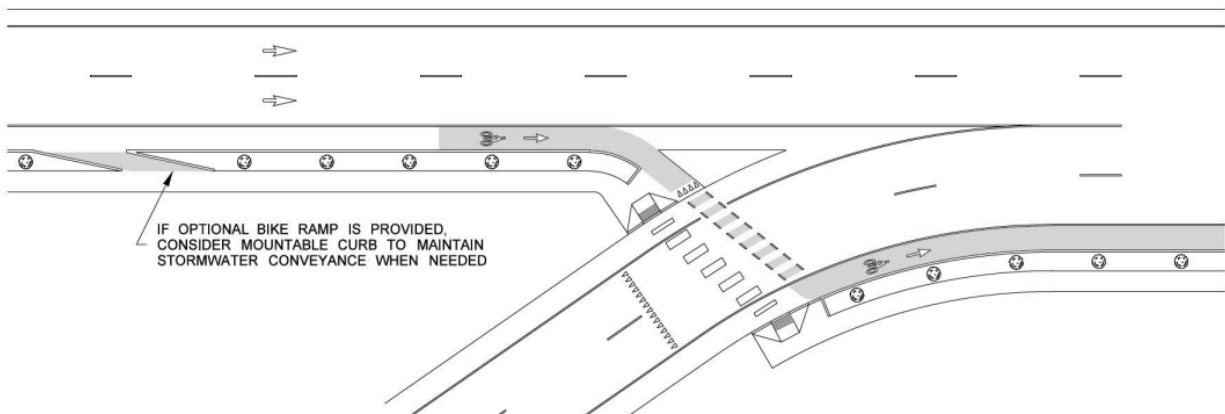
Additional pavement marking and separated path configurations for bicycle facilities through interchanges are provided in Figure 9-15 through Figure 9-17.



**Figure 9-15: Optional Separated Bicycle Facility Across Free-Flow Exit Ramp**



**Figure 9-16: Non-Optional Separated Bicycle Facility Across Two-Lane Free-Flow Exit Ramp**



**Figure 9-17: Separated Bicycle Facility Across Free-Flow Entrance Ramp**

**CHAPTER 6 – SHARED-USE PATHS**

**9-600.00 GENERAL**

A shared-use path is a combined bikeway and pedestrian facility located within an independent right-of-way, or located within the street right-of-way, and physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier.

Most shared-use paths are designated for two-way travel and are designed for both transportation and recreational purposes. Shared-use path design is similar to roadway design, but on a smaller scale and with lower design speeds. Shared-use paths are also to be used by pedestrians, skaters, and other non-motorized users and should be designed accordingly.

As with any roadway project, shared-use path projects need to serve and fit into the context of multimodal activity along and across the corridor. When designing shared-use paths, the bicyclist may not be the critical design user for every element of design. For example, the crossing speeds of most intersections between roads and pathways should be designed for pedestrians, as they are the slowest users. The design goal is to efficiently accommodate all intended users, and minimize conflict potential between modes to the extent possible. Additionally, when designing such facilities, wayfinding should be considered to ensure that all users have adequate information to direct them to their intended destinations.

When a shared-use path is located along a roadway, it is often referred to as a sidepath. Sidepaths also have to be carefully designed at all public street and private driveway intersections due to their two-way operation.

**9-601.00 DESIGN SPEED**

The design speed for a shared-use path is based on the bicycle user and is dependent on the terrain and the expected conditions of use. The minimum design speed for shared-use paths is 18 mph. All design plan title sheets shall include proposed facility design speed and capacity.

**9-602.00 GRADES**

Where shared-use paths are contained within a roadway right-of-way, the grade shall not exceed the general grade established for the adjacent roadway. Where shared-use paths are not contained within a roadway right-of-way, the grade shall be five (5) percent maximum.



### **9-603.00 HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL CURVES**

Geometric design of horizontal curves, vertical curves, stopping sight distance, and horizontal sight distance shall generally follow the guidelines in the latest edition of the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.

The minimum horizontal curve radius is 60 feet. At a location where a design deviation is granted for a curve with a radius less than 60 feet, a Curve or Turn Warning Sign shall be placed in advance of the curve (see MUTCD Chapter 9B for additional guidance).

When minimum radius curves cannot be obtained because of right-of-way, topographical, or other constraints, consider installing the following mitigation measures to slow bicyclists when approaching curves: intermittent curves to slow or maintain desired speeds, standard curve warning signs and supplemental pavement markings in accordance with the MUTCD, perpendicular stripes painted on the pathway in decreasing intervals to provide the perception of increased speed and changes in pavement texture to encourage reductions in speed at tight curve approaches. The negative effects of tight radius curves can also be partially offset by widening the pavement through the curves. Shared-use paths should not be superelevated in curves (see Standard Drawing RD01-TS-8).

### **9-604.00 PATH WIDTHS**

The standard shared-use path width is 10 feet, with two (2)-foot clear zones on either side of the path. In constrained locations, the width can be reduced to eight (8) feet when severe constraints are present. However, it must be recognized that narrower widths will yield lower levels of service during peak hour use of the facility. A design deviation request must be made in order to utilize widths less than 10 feet. As part of the design deviation request, a level of service study demonstrating acceptable operations with the narrower widths may be required.

On bridges or in tunnels, it is common to pave the entire shared-use path, including clear zones. This usable width can be advantageous for emergency, patrol, and maintenance vehicles and allows for maneuvering around pedestrians and bicyclists who may have stopped. It also keeps the structure uncluttered of any loose gravel shoulder material.

### **9-605.00 ADA REQUIREMENTS**

Shared-use paths must meet all applicable ADA/PROWAG requirements to the maximum extent feasible or to the extent it is not structurally impracticable.

### **9-606.00 OFFSETS FROM ROADWAY**

When the shared-use path is located parallel to a curbed roadway with a design speed of 45 mph or less, a five (5)-foot minimum lateral offset from the edge of the adjacent travel lane is required. If a shoulder is not present, a five (5)-foot minimum lateral offset from the back of curb is preferred. If a shoulder is present with curb, the shoulder width can be included in the five (5)-foot lateral clearance width, unless the shoulder is utilized as a bicycle lane. Additional separation beyond the minimum is preferred when feasible.

When the roadway does not have curb, the minimum buffer between the shared-use path is either five (5) feet from the edge of the paved shoulder or the dimensions listed in Table 9-2, whichever is greater. Where a ditch is present, the shared-use path should be placed on

the far side of the ditch. If the appropriate buffer cannot be attained, a physical barrier may be required.

When driveways are present, the minimum five (5)-foot lateral offset allows the sloped driveway apron to be placed without interfering with the shared-use path cross slope.

If the shared-use path is located within the clear zone of the roadway, consideration should be given to a crash-worthy barrier to protect the users of the path.

#### **9-607.00 PATH CLEARANCES**

A two (2)-foot wide clear zone, or lateral clearance, with maximum 6:1 fill slope on each side of the paved surface is to be provided. Sections bound by a structure, such as a pedestrian/bicycle rail, may reduce the lateral offset to one foot (see Standard Drawing RD01-TS-8).

The minimum vertical clearance shall be 10 feet, to the maximum extent feasible. In locations with extreme limitations the clearance may be reduced to eight (8) feet.

#### **9-608.00 CROSS SLOPES**

The standard cross slope for shared-use paths is 1.5 percent, and always at least one (1) percent, but no more than two (2) percent. A cross slope of less than one (1) percent would not shed water after a rain event. The two (2) percent maximum is a requirement of the ADA and PROWAG for pedestrian access routes. Graded areas adjacent to the shared-use path must allow water to drain off and away from the path.

At fill sections, the typical crown is placed on center with a maximum 1.5 percent cross slope. Cut and fill sections may use a single slope from the cut edge toward the fill section with a maximum 1.5 percent cross slope.

#### **9-609.00 DRAINAGE**

Shared-use paths in cut sections or adjacent to gravity/retaining walls need to consider additional drainage requirements to minimize ponding after a rain event. No concentrated offsite runoff over the shared-use path is allowed. TDOT Standard Drawing RP-S-9 provides guidance for pedestrian-scale drainage structures adjacent to shared-use paths.

#### **9-610.00 STRUCTURES ON PATHS**

The proposed structure width must follow the above paved path guideline with an additional one-foot lateral clearance on both sides and proper safety rail (see Standard Drawing RD01-TS-8).

#### **9-611.00 INTERSECTIONS AND CROSSINGS DESIGN**

At intersections with roadways, the path design should clearly define who has the right-of-way and provide sight distance for all users at shared-use path and roadway intersections. The common types of shared-use path/roadway at-grade intersection crossings are midblock and adjacent.

Midblock crossings are located between roadway intersections. When possible, locate the path crossings far enough away from intersections to minimize conflicts between the path users and turning motor vehicle traffic. It is preferable for midblock path crossings to intersect the roadway at an angle as close to perpendicular as practicable. A minimum 60-degree crossing angle is acceptable to minimize right-of-way needs.

The primary considerations when designing midblock crossings include traffic, right-of-way assignments, traffic control devices, sight distances for both path users and motor vehicle operators, refuge island use, access control, and pavement markings.

Adjacent path crossings occur where a path crosses an existing intersection of two roadways, a T intersection (including driveways), or a four-way intersection. It is desirable to integrate this type of crossing close to an intersection so that motorists and path users recognize one another as intersecting traffic. The path user faces potential conflicts with motor vehicles turning left and right from the parallel roadway and on the crossed roadway.

#### **9-612.00      SIGHT DISTANCE TRIANGLES**

See Section 9-413.00 for a discussion on sight distance triangles.

#### **9-613.00      BARRIERS AND RAILINGS**

See Sections 9-412.00 and 9-511.00.

#### **9-614.00      SIGNING AND MARKING**

The public may confuse shared-use paths parallel to the roadway with sidewalks. Since bicycles are prohibited from use on sidewalks in many areas, pedestrian-scale signing should be considered to denote shared-use paths. Adequate signing is also needed where shared-use paths intersect roadways and other paths.

Pavement markings are considered optional on shared-use paths; however, on TDOT projects they are required. Sections 9B and 9C of the MUTCD should be referenced for shared-use path signing and pavement marking guidance, along with TDOT Standard Drawing T-M-10.

Special attention should be paid to the bike route begin/end signs and intersection warning sign requirements in Standard Drawing T-M-10.

Additionally, curve and steep grade warning signs are recommended where applicable on shared-use paths. At a minimum, curve warning signs shall be placed in advance of curves with radius that are less than 60 feet. Grade warning signs shall be placed based on engineering judgement, but should be considered when the grade exceeds five (5) percent.

Warning signs shall be placed a minimum of 100 feet in advance of locations where the curve radius is smaller than the required 60 feet. They shall also be placed two (2) feet (minimum) offset from paved surfaces (see Standard Drawing RD01-TS-8). All path

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intersections with roadways shall have proper pavement marking and signage for both facilities (see Standard Drawing T-M-10). All signs shall adhere to the minimum sizes specified in the MUTCD, Section 9B.02.

## **CHAPTER 7 – TRANSIT FACILITIES**

### **9-700.00 GENERAL**

This chapter provides general siting and design information for bus transit facilities. It is intended for TDOT engineering and planning staff, local transit providers, developers, and local agencies engaged in the collaborative development of transit facilities on or adjacent to state highways and state or federally-funded projects. Facilities for more advanced Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), street trolleys, light rail, and heavy rail transit services and their vehicles/stations are not addressed in this chapter. Guidance for the design and operation of these facilities can be found in AASHTO's *Guide for Geometric Design of Transit Facilities on Highways and Streets*.

### **9-701.00 ACCOMMODATING TRANSIT USERS**

Transit serves a vital transportation function by providing people with freedom of movement and access to employment, schools, community and recreational facilities, medical care, and shopping centers. Transit directly benefits those who choose this form of travel, as well as those who have no other choice or means of travel. Transit also benefits motor vehicle users by helping to reduce congestion on roadway networks.

A vital part of the success of a transit system depends on the availability of convenient access to transit stations, stops, and park-and-ride facilities. Accordingly, transit user accommodations along and across roadways served by transit (and on streets that lead to transit corridors) should provide pedestrian and bicycle access to and from these facilities. Users also commonly access transit by personal car and taxi, as well as other modes of transit. Transit user accommodations are typically applicable:

- Within a 0.75-mile pedestrian and bicycle catchment area of an existing fixed-route transit facility (i.e., stop, station, or park-and-ride lot). A catchment area is defined by a radial distance from a transit facility per Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines - this includes crossing and intersecting streets.
- Between transit stops/stations and local destinations. Midblock crosswalks should be considered at transit stops located more than 0.25 miles of a signalized or stop controlled intersection.

### **9-702.00 BUS STOP ACCESSIBILITY**

Waiting for, boarding, and alighting from transit typically takes place in the sidewalk corridor. Transit stops should be located where boarding and alighting areas are accessible. Specific requirements for transit stops are provided in PROWAG, Section R308 *Transit Stops and Transit Shelters*.

Within the boarding areas, accessibility requirements mandate that slopes be like those of the throughway zone of the sidewalk: the grade parallel to the road must equal the roadway slope to the maximum extent practicable, while the cross slope (perpendicular to the road) shall be a maximum of two (2) percent.

Each boarding and alighting area must provide a clear area five (5) feet wide (parallel to the roadway) by eight (8) feet long (perpendicular to the roadway) to accommodate the extension of assistive lifts from accessible buses and allow for wheelchairs to maneuver onto and off of the lift. This space should be clear of all obstructions. In constrained corridors with infrequent bus service and low sidewalk volumes, it may overlap other clear spaces, such as the pedestrian access route.

#### **9.703.00 CURB EXTENSIONS / BUS BULBS**

Bus bulbs are curb extensions utilized primarily for serving a bus stop. Curb extensions are typically applicable along curbed streets with on-street parking or shoulders. Curb extensions are typically six (6) feet in width. Their length should allow passengers to use the front and back doors of a bus. For reference, a standard bus is 40 feet long and an articulated bus is 60 feet long.

Besides reducing the pedestrian crossing distances, curb extensions can reduce the impact to parking compared to typical bus zones, mitigate traffic conflicts with autos for buses merging back into the traffic stream, make crossing pedestrians more visible to drivers, and create additional space for passenger queuing and amenities on the sidewalk, such as a shelter and/ or a bench.

#### **9-704.00 BUS STOPS AND TURNOUTS**

TDOT promotes public transportation services on state highways, including transit routes and stops. On limited access facilities, bus stops are only allowed at designated locations.

The bus stop is the point of contact between the passenger and the transit services. Bus stops may be located either within the travel lane, or outside the travel lane in a turnout (see Figure 9-18). The simplest bus stop is a location by the side of the road. The highest quality bus stop is an area that provides passenger amenities and protection from the weather. Bus stops are typically maintained by the transit agency. The bus boarding and alighting pad, the path to the shelter, and the area within the shelter must meet the requirements for universal access.

Transit agencies identify bus stop locations, including on State Routes and/or state right-of-way. Transit agencies shall ensure bus stops have adequate sight distance and universal access requirements at the proposed locations. TDOT strongly recommends that transit agencies coordinate with TDOT on new or updated bus stop locations, especially if passenger amenities and shelters are to be constructed within state right-of-way. Transit agencies shall contact the TDOT Office of Community Transportation (OCT) for coordination and guidance purposes. The goal of this coordination and collaboration is to meet the needs of transit users and motorists while also improving pedestrian safety and connectivity. This collaborative development and planning of transit facilities is important not only for the Department, but also for the public transit agencies, to fulfill their ADA Transition Plans. Since TDOT adopted PROWAG all future projects using federal funds shall meet the requirements of PROWAG Section R308 “Transit Stops and Transit Shelters”.

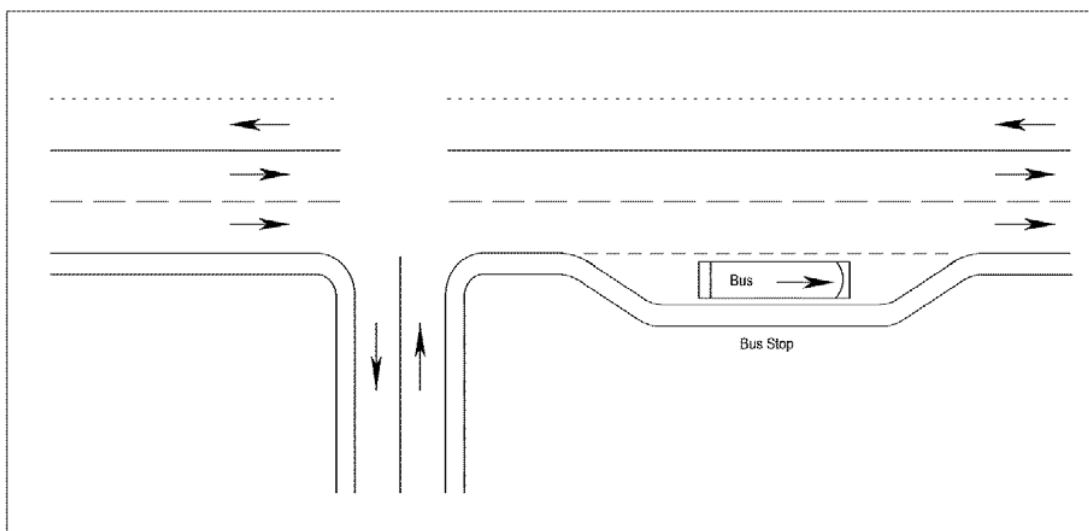


Figure 9-18: Bus Turnout Example

#### 9-705.00 BUS STOP PLACEMENT GUIDANCE

The information in this section is offered as an example of good practice, and is not intended to be binding by either the transit agency or TDOT. Placement of bus stops addresses the needs and convenience of transit providers, riders, and highway or street operations. Basic considerations include:

- The need for convenient service for patrons
- Access for people with disabilities
- Convenient passenger transfers to other intersecting bus routes or transfer points
- Connection to nearby pedestrian circulation systems
- Presence and width of sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps
- Pedestrian activity through intersections
- Ability of the stop to accommodate transit dwell time and the loading/unloading of wheel chairs and bicycles
- Adequate curb space for the number of buses expected at the stop at one time
- Ease of re-entering traffic stream (if a turnout)
- Design characteristics and operational considerations of the highway or street
- Presence of on-street automobile parking and truck delivery zones
- Traffic control devices near the bus stop, such as signals or stop signs
- Volumes and turning movements of other traffic, including bicycles
- Proximity and traffic volumes of nearby driveways
- Street grade

- Proximity to rail crossings
- Accommodating transit priority equipment at signalized intersections
- Transit queue bypass at signalized intersections
- Often stops are paired on each side of a highway or street
- Proximity to intersections

Where blocks are exceptionally long or where bus patrons are concentrated well away from intersections, midblock bus stops and midblock crosswalks may be beneficial (see Section 9-407.00 for more information on midblock crossings.)

It is common to clearly mark the bus stop as a NO PARKING zone or as a BUS ONLY zone with signs and/or curb painting.

Typically, the preferred location for bus stops at an intersection is the near or far side of the intersection. Intersection stops provide the best pedestrian accessibility from both sides of the street and the cross streets. General considerations for locating stops near intersections include:

- Consider a near-side stop on two-lane streets where vehicles cannot pass a stopped bus
- Consider a far-side stop on streets with multiple lanes where vehicular traffic may pass uncontrolled around the bus
- On streets where vehicular traffic is controlled by a signal, the bus stop may be located either on the near side or on the far side, but the far side is preferable
- Where it is not desirable to stop the bus in a lane and a bus turnout is warranted, a far side or midblock stop is generally preferred
- When locating a bus stop in the vicinity of a driveway, consider issues related to sight distance, blocking access to development, and potential conflicts between automobiles and buses

Bus stops may be placed at midblock locations on long blocks or to serve a major transit generator. At midblock bus stops, crosswalks should be considered based on pedestrian and bicycle access patterns. If a midblock crosswalk is provided, it should be placed behind the bus stop so passengers do not cross in front of the bus, where they are hidden from passing traffic. The sections that follow discuss these three types of bus stop locations in more detail:

- Far-side, with a stop located just past an intersection
- Near-side, with a stop located just prior to an intersection
- Midblock, with a stop located away from an intersection



**9-705.01 FAR-SIDE BUS STOPS**

Sight distance conditions generally favor far-side bus stops, especially at unsignalized intersections. A driver approaching a cross street on the through lanes can see any vehicles approaching from the right. With near-side stops, the view to the right may be blocked by a stopped bus. Where the intersection is signalized, the bus may block the view of one of the signal heads. Advantages of far-side bus stops include:

- Right turns can be accommodated with less conflict
- Minimum interference is caused at locations where traffic is heavier on the approach side of the intersection
- Stopped buses do not obstruct sight distance for vehicles entering or crossing from a side street
- At a signalized intersection, buses can often find a gap to enter the traffic stream, except where there are heavy turning movements onto the street with the bus route
- Waiting passengers assemble at less-crowded sections of the sidewalk away from the intersection corners
- Buses in the bus stop do not obscure traffic control devices or pedestrian movements at the intersection

Disadvantages of far-side bus stops include:

- Intersections may be blocked if other vehicles park illegally in the bus stop or if more buses than the stop can accommodate arrive at the same time
- If signal priority is not used, the bus stops at the red light and again at the far-side stop, interfering with traffic and efficient bus operations

**9-705.02 NEAR-SIDE BUS STOPS**

Advantages of near-side bus stops include:

- May be considered in cases where a far-side bus stop location does not provide a secure, convenient, or feasible boarding location for passengers
- Minimum interference is caused where traffic is heavier on the departure side than on the approach side of the intersection
- Less interference is caused where the cross street is a one-way street from right to left
- Passengers generally exit the bus close to the crosswalk
- There is less interference with traffic turning onto the bus route street from a side street

Disadvantages of near-side bus stops include:

- Can cause conflicts with right-turning traffic

- Buses often obscure sight distance to stop signs, traffic signals, or other control devices, as well as to pedestrians crossing in front of the bus
- Where the bus stop is too short to accommodate buses arriving at the same time, the overflow may obstruct the traffic lane
- If a queue bypass or bus lane is not used at a signalized intersection, then vehicles waiting at a red signal may block buses from accessing the bus stop, which will require the bus to wait through multiple signal cycles to enter and then depart the bus stop

### **9-705.03 MIDBLOCK BUS STOPS**

Midblock stop areas are desirable under the following conditions: where traffic or physical street characteristics prohibit a near- or far-side stop adjacent to an intersection, or where large factories, commercial establishments, or other large bus passenger generators exist. Locate a midblock stop at the far side of a pedestrian crosswalk (if one exists), so that parked buses do not block an approaching motorist's view of pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Advantages of midblock bus stops include:

- Buses cause a minimum of interference with the sight distance of both vehicles and pedestrians
- Stops can be located adjacent to major bus passenger generators and attractors

Disadvantages of midblock bus stops include:

- Increases walking distance for passengers crossing at intersections
- Buses may or may not have difficulty reentering the flow of traffic
- Driveway access may or may not be negatively impacted

### **9-706.00 BUS TURNOUTS**

A bus turnout is a recessed curb area located adjacent to the traffic lane. Bus turnouts are desirable only under certain conditions because of the delay created when the bus must reenter traffic. They should typically not be located on the near side of signalized intersections due to the difficulty for buses to reenter the traffic stream (queued vehicles block the turnout on the red cycle and moving traffic prevents reentry on the green cycle).

Bus turnouts have the following advantages:

- Allow traffic to proceed around the bus, reducing delay for other traffic
- Maximize vehicular capacity of high-volume vehicle mobility priority streets
- Clearly define the bus stop
- Passenger loading and unloading can be conducted in a more relaxed manner

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- Reduce potential for rear-end crashes

Bus turnouts have the following disadvantages:

- Make it more difficult for buses to reenter traffic, increasing bus delay and average travel time for buses
- Difficulty of buses pulling parallel to curb, reducing accessibility
- Greater crash risk for buses pulling back into traffic than buses stopped in traffic lane
- Use additional space and might require right-of-way acquisition

Typical bus turnouts consist of a 40 to 60-foot long entrance taper, a stopping area that is 40 to 60 feet long (for a standard and articulated bus, respectively), and a 40 to 60-foot long exit taper.

**CHAPTER 8 – VEHICLE FACILITIES SUPPORTING MULTIMODAL ACCOMMODATION**

**9-800.00 GENERAL**

Multimodal roadway design requires consideration of all existing and planned modes in the design process. The design process often requires a flexible approach to applying conventional roadway design criteria for the vehicle traveled way in order to provide an appropriate level of accommodation for other users such as pedestrians and bicycles. This chapter addresses some the elements of traveled way design that may require unique and creative designs.

**9-801.00 VEHICLE TRAVEL LANE AND SHOULDER WIDTHS**

Multimodal roadway design is often controlled or impacted by the required widths of vehicle travel lanes. Table 9-6 provides recommended lane width ranges for multimodal roadway design by functional classifications across a range of land use contexts. Lane width can affect the operation and safety of all modes along a roadway and should be carefully selected.

Travel Lane Widths (ft)					
Context / Roadway	Rural	Rural (Town)	Suburban	Urban	Urban (Core)
Principal Arterial	11 to 12	11 to 12	11 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12
Minor Arterial	11 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12
Collector	11 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12
Local	9 to 12	9 to 12	9 to 12	10 to 12	9 to 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 11-foot lanes are required for design speeds of 45 mph or greater. The values assume rural areas have design speeds of 45 mph or greater, except on local streets.</li> <li>• Curbside lanes with fixed-route transit service should be 11 feet wide (min.).</li> </ul>					

**Table 9-6: Travel Lane Width Range by Context and Functional Classification**

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Multimodal roadway design is also often influenced or impacted by the required widths of roadway shoulders where they are used. Table 9-7 provides recommended lane width ranges for multimodal roadway shoulder design by functional classifications across a range of land use contexts.

Recommended Minimum Paved Shoulder Widths (ft) for Multimodal Accommodations			
Context / Roadway	Rural & Rural (Town)	Suburban	Urban & Urban (Core)
Principal Arterial	4 to 10	4 to 10	4
Minor Arterial	4 to 10	4 to 10	4
Collector	4 to 6	4 to 6	4
Local	0 to 4	0 to 4	0 to 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoulders narrower than four (4) feet may be appropriate in constrained areas where separate pedestrian accommodation is provided and shared bicycle/motor vehicle accommodation is suitable. Examples of these conditions are where design speeds are less than 45 miles per hour and traffic volumes are relatively low (less than 4,000 vehicles per day), or where the design speed is 30 miles per hour or less.</li> <li>• For shoulders four (4) to five (5) feet wide, an additional two (2)- to one (1)-foot offset (respectively) from the edge of the paved shoulder is required to vertical elements over 6 inches in height (such as guardrail).</li> <li>• Five (5)-foot minimum width shoulders are recommended when the shoulder will be designated as a bicycle lane. Refer to Table 9-4 and Table 9-5 for further guidance.</li> </ul>			

**Table 9-7: Paved Shoulder Width Range by Context and Functional Classification**

For arterial and collector roadways, the combined width of the outside lane plus shoulder available for bicycle and motor vehicle travel is an important design element. Where there is bicyclist demand and no dedicated bicycle facility, A 14-foot outside lane/shoulder width combination will allow a motor vehicle to pass a bicyclist without needing to change lanes (on a multilane section) or swerve into the oncoming lane (on a two-lane section) and is the recommended combined width for collector and arterial streets under these conditions.

**9-802.00 DESIGN VEHICLES AND CONTROL VEHICLES**

The Design Vehicle influences the selection of design criteria related to turning radii such as curb-return radii and lane width. It is not always practical or desirable to choose the largest Design Vehicle that might occasionally use a roadway, because the larger turning radius negatively impacts pedestrian crossing distances, crosswalk design, speed of turning vehicles/pedestrian safety, right-of-way, etc. and may be inconsistent with the adjacent land use context and multimodal objectives for the street. In contrast, selection of a smaller Design Vehicle in the design of a facility regularly used by large vehicles will create frequent operational problems.

The Design Vehicle must be regularly accommodated without encroachment into the opposing traffic lanes. A condition that uses the Design Vehicle concept arises when large vehicles regularly turn at an intersection with high volumes of opposing traffic (such as a bus route).

The Control Vehicle is an infrequent user of a facility that must be accommodated, but encroachment into the opposing traffic lanes, multiple-point turns, or minor encroachment into the street-side is acceptable on roadways with lower speeds (35 mph and below) and lower volumes (generally 10,000 ADT and below).

The roadway should normally be designed for the largest Design Vehicle that will use the facility with considerable frequency (for example, a bus on bus routes, a semi-tractor trailer on primary freight routes), but not the largest vehicle that might occasionally be present. In urban environments, the largest frequent users of roadways are often buses (on bus routes) and package delivery trucks on non-bus routes.

### **9-803.00 DESIGN SPEED CONSIDERATIONS IN MULTIMODAL DESIGN**

Design speed influences other design criteria such as horizontal and vertical alignment, lane width, shoulder width, grade, and stopping sight distance. The selected design speed should be a logical one with respect to the anticipated operating speed, topography, the adjacent land use, and the functional classification of the highway.

The boundary between high-speed design and low-speed design is in the range of 45 to 50 mph (design speed). On rural, high-speed roadways (50 mph design speed and above), above minimum design criteria for specific design elements should be used, where practical. On lower speed facilities (45 mph design speed and below), use of above-minimum design criteria may encourage travel at speeds higher than the appropriate speed for the land use context.

Urban streets generally have running speeds of 20 to 45 mph. The traditional design speed approach would propose design speeds of 30 to 60 mph. However, this may contribute to undesirably high travel speeds. As a result, a concept called target speed should be considered. Target speed is a concept that applies to urban and suburban environments; it is not applicable to high-speed rural roadways where designing a “forgiving” road for vehicles is a primary consideration.

The basis of target speed is that the current practice of creating a forgiving roadway for motor vehicles increases operating speed, creating a more dangerous street for all users including motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Target speed reverses the use of operating speed in design. Instead of designing to current and sometimes undesirably high vehicle operating speeds, it promotes constraining operating speeds through design.

On roadways with existing or planned high levels of multimodal activity, the target speed concept should be considered as an element of the design process. Target speed should be set at the highest speed at which vehicles should operate on a roadway in a specific context, consistent with the level of multimodal activity generated by adjacent land uses to provide both mobility for motor vehicles and a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. The target speed is designed to become the posted speed limit.

Regardless of whether called “design speed” or “target speed”, urban roadways should have design elements that promote safer operating speeds consistent with the multimodal activity along the facility and the context of the project area.

#### **9-804.00 ON-STREET PARKING CONSIDERATIONS**

On-street parking should only be provided on low-speed streets with operating speeds of 35 mph or less. When a proposed project is to include on-street parking, parallel parking is typically recommended. Parallel parking serves as a good traffic calming tool, and provides a buffer between the travel lane and the sidewalk (where a sidewalk exists). The allowance for on-street parking should be based on the function and width of the street, the adjacent land use, and traffic volume, as well as existing and anticipated traffic operations.

Most vehicles will parallel park within six to 12 inches of the curb face and will occupy approximately seven (7) feet of actual street space. Therefore, the recommended minimum width of a parking lane is eight (8) feet, inclusive of the gutter pan. However, on urban collector streets within residential neighborhoods where only passenger vehicles need to be accommodated in the parking lane, seven (7)-foot wide parking lanes are acceptable. In many urban areas, a total width of 36 feet, consisting of two 11-foot travel lanes and seven (7)-foot parking lanes on each side, is frequently used.

In urban areas, central business districts, and commercial areas where significant pedestrian crossings are likely to occur, the design of the parking lane/intersection relationship must be considered. When the parking lane is carried through the intersection, motorists may utilize the parking lane as an additional lane for right turn movements. Such movements may cause operational inefficiencies and turning vehicles may mount the curb and strike such roadside elements as traffic signals, utility poles, or luminaire supports. One method to address this issue is to end the parking lane at least 20 feet in advance of the intersection and create a curb extension. Curb extensions also shorten the crossing width for pedestrians and improve safety by making the pedestrian more visible to the motorist. See Section 9-408.00 for additional information related to curb extensions.

#### **9-805.00 INTERSECTION CURB RADIUS CONSIDERATIONS**

The curb radii used at both signalized and unsignalized intersections should be selected by the designer based on safety, operations, and convenience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles. Curb radii should be appropriate for the largest Design Vehicle that regularly makes a specific turning movement. Due to constraints of adjacent development and pedestrian/bicyclist considerations in urban areas, it is usually not practical to provide the full curb radii that would be necessary for the occasional Control Vehicle.

Larger intersection curb radii (over 25 feet) have disadvantages for pedestrians and bicyclists because they can increase pedestrian crossing distance and the speeds of turning vehicles, creating increased safety risks. Large radii also move pedestrians out of the driver’s line of sight and make it more difficult for pedestrians to see approaching vehicles, and vice-versa.



Smaller curb radii allow for shorter pedestrian and bicyclist crossing distances, which reduces exposure to moving vehicles, decreases walk time, and increases signal efficiency. The trade-off is the infrequent Control Vehicle may need to encroach into the opposing traffic lanes, make multiple-point turns, have minor encroachment into the street-side to make the turn, or take a different route.

The designer must ensure that infrastructure such as signal poles, signal cabinets, light poles, street furniture, etc. does not conflict with the Control Vehicle if areas outside the designated turn/travel lanes will be utilized. Additionally, on-street parking and bicycle lanes shall be considered when designing a curb radius, as they will increase a vehicle's effective turning radius, allowing the curb radius to be smaller than it would normally be.

At intersections of roadways where trucks make frequent right turns, a raised channelization island between the through lanes and the right-turn lane may be a better alternative than an overly large corner radius. If designed correctly, a raised island can achieve the following:

- Allow pedestrians to cross fewer lanes at a time
- Allow motorists and pedestrians to judge the right turn/pedestrian conflict separately
- Reduce pedestrian crossing distance, which can improve signal timing for all users
- Balance vehicle capacity and truck turning needs with pedestrian safety
- Provide an opportunity for landscape and hardscape enhancement

The following design practices for right-turn lane channelization islands should be used to provide improved safety and convenience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists:

- The provision of a channelized right-turn lane is appropriate on signalized approaches where right-turning volumes are high or large vehicles frequently turn and conflicting pedestrian volumes are low
- Provide a yield sign for the channelized right-turn lane unless a continuous receiving lane is provided
- Tighter angles are preferred
- Provide at least a 60-degree angle between vehicle flows, which reduces turning speeds and improves the yielding driver's visibility of pedestrians and vehicles
- Place the crosswalk across the right-turn lane about one car length back from where drivers yield to traffic on the other street, allowing the yielding driver to respond to a potential pedestrian conflict first, independently of the vehicle conflict, and then move forward, with no more pedestrian conflict
- Provide raised, ADA compliant, islands for pedestrian refuge
- Curbed channelization islands must include curb ramps or at-grade cut-through paths for pedestrians. At-grade cut-through paths should be at least five (5) feet wide to provide room for two users of wheelchairs to pass in opposite directions. Cut-through paths should be designed to allow for water to drain from the island area to the travel lanes.

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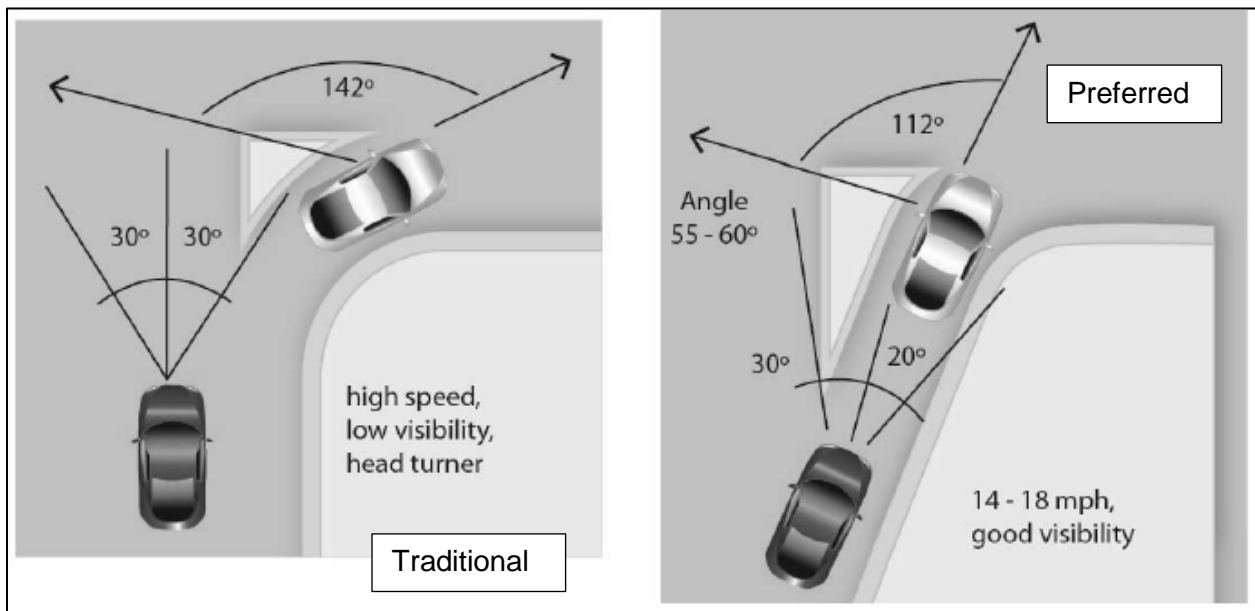
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Detectable warnings are required at the transition between cut-through paths and vehicular travel ways (assuming the island is at least six feet wide)

- Unless the turning radii of trucks or buses need to be accommodated, the pavement of the channelized right-turn lane should be no wider than 16 feet; and to slow vehicles, the width of the travel lane should be restricted to 12 feet by marking the edge lines and using cross-hatching based on engineering judgment
- Signalization of the channelized right-turn lane can reduce vehicle-pedestrian conflicts and may be appropriate where:
  - There are multiple right-turn lanes
  - Crash data show a high frequency of vehicle-pedestrian crashes, or
  - There are other concerns such as restricted sight distance or vehicle speeds are high on the turning roadway

Figure 9-19 shows the preferred channelized right-turn island design. When creating this design, it is often necessary to allow large trucks to turn into multiple receiving lanes or the opposing lane. This design is therefore often not practical for right-turn lanes onto roads with only one through lane.



**Figure 9-19: Preferred Right-Turn Island Design**

**9-806.00 CROSSWALKS AT MIDBLOCK LOCATIONS**

See Section 9-407.00.

**9-807.00 ROAD DIETS**

See RDG Sections 1-300 (Road Reconfiguration) and 1-400 (Road Diet) for guidance.

**CHAPTER 9 – ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**9-900.00 GENERAL**

The following information includes a number of various roadway design considerations that a designer may need to take into consideration when designing multimodal roadway facilities along a state roadway.

**9-901.00 SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL USERS**

Right-of-way and design constraints often pose challenges when retrofitting a multimodal design onto an existing street cross section. For low-volume and low-speed streets, many of the design modifications (narrow lanes, reduced lanes, adding sidewalks/walkways, adding bicycle lanes, etc.) are easy to make, requiring few trade-offs. Retrofitting multimodal street concepts on higher volume or higher speed streets is more challenging.

Speed is a primary consideration when evaluating potential adverse impacts of lane width on safety. On high-speed, rural two-lane highways, an increased risk of cross-centerline head-on or cross-centerline sideswipe crashes is a concern because drivers may have more difficulty staying within the travel lane. On any high-speed roadway, the primary safety concerns with reductions in lane width are crash types related to roadway departure.

In a low-speed urban environment, the effects of reduced lane width are different. On these facilities, the risk of roadway departure crashes is less. The design objective is often how to best distribute limited cross-sectional width to maximize safety for a wide variety of street users. Narrower lane widths may be chosen to manage or reduce speed and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians. Lane widths may be adjusted to incorporate other cross-sectional elements, such as medians for access control, bicycle lanes, on-street parking, transit stops, and landscaping.

**9-902.00 SPEED CONSIDERATIONS IN MULTIMODAL DESIGN**

All roadway users, particularly pedestrians and bicyclists, are safer when motorists' speeds are lower. The design of a roadway should be consistent with the level of multimodal activity generated by adjacent land uses to provide both mobility and a safer environment for all users.

On higher speed roads, the speed differential between vehicles and bicyclists or pedestrians should be a major factor in determining multimodal facility selection along a corridor. The likelihood of being killed or seriously injured increases exponentially with an increase in speed differential between motorized and non-motorized users, and between cyclists and pedestrians. Increased speed differential also presents additional challenges for all users for things such as pedestrians judging gaps between vehicles when crossing a road, or a motorist judging the distance required to pass a cyclist.

Along corridors with large speed differentials between users, facilities separated by buffers or other physical elements for each user are recommended. Aside from increased safety, there is a direct correlation between speed differential and user comfort for all modes.

### **9-903.00 SIGNAL CONSIDERATIONS IN MULTIMODAL DESIGN**

The MUTCD, ITE's *Traffic Engineering Handbook*, and TDOT's *Traffic Design Manual* provide guidance for the warrants, design, and operation of traffic signals. Traffic signal design is complex, and specific to the roadway corridor and each project intersection. However, supplemental recommendations for the roadway designer and operator to consider in multimodal environments are provided below.

Pedestrian pushbuttons, marked crosswalks, and pedestrian signals should be provided at all signalized locations with existing or planned sidewalks, and within all suburban or urban land use contexts. Pedestrian pushbuttons and signals shall be used where there are existing or proposed marked crosswalks at signalized intersections. On state or federally funded new signal installations, or where an existing signal is modified, the pedestrian pushbuttons and signals shall have audible guidance to meet the accessibility requirements in the United States Access Board's *Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way* (PROWAG). The installation of APS are not required at existing crosswalk locations if the existing pedestrian signals and pushbuttons are in working order and do not need to be modified for other reasons. If marked crosswalks are not present, and will not be added, pedestrian signals are not required.

Signal cycle lengths of up to 120 seconds are typically acceptable to optimize vehicular traffic movements. The typical maximum cycle length is 150 seconds. However, short cycle lengths of 60–90 seconds are more appropriate for urban areas with high pedestrian and/or bicyclist activity. Expecting pedestrians or bicyclists to wait 120 seconds or more before receiving a walk signal is not preferred. When developing a signal cycle plan, the designer should weigh the effects on all users, vehicular, pedestrian, and cyclists.

Concerning pedestrian signals, many municipalities in Tennessee place their signals under flash operation late at night and into the early morning. This practice should not be done, especially on multilane routes, if pedestrian activity is expected late at night. Such areas could include where late night events occur. Traffic controllers cannot accept a pedestrian push button call when in flash operation.

When a project's limits begin or end at an intersection, all approaches to the intersection should be upgraded with similar multimodal features such that pedestrians and cyclists can safely traverse the intersection. If curb ramps are installed, they must be installed in all quadrants of an intersection with curb. If vehicular lanes are modified, signal heads will typically need to be replaced or shifted, along with possible modifications to the signal cabinet.

### **9-904.00 MULTIMODAL ACCOMMODATIONS IN RESURFACING PROJECTS**

TDOT's *Roadway Design Guidelines* (Section 1-200.12) specify certain pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations to be incorporated into resurfacing projects. Curb ramps shall be installed/retrofitted where they are missing or are not compliant with ADA/PROWAG guidance, to the maximum extent feasible. When a project's limits begin or end at an intersection, all approaches to the intersection must be upgraded with similar multimodal features such that pedestrians and cyclists of all abilities can traverse the intersection. Where curb ramps are installed, they must be installed in all four quadrants of an intersection.

Additionally, TDOT promotes that when the existing shoulders are adequate, resurfacing projects provide a good opportunity to incorporate pavement markings for bicycle lanes. Also, where the existing catch basin grates adjacent to the curb are parallel-type grates, TDOT will install bicycle-friendly perpendicular-type catch basin grates.

#### **9-905.00 MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

As an element of the design process, the designer should consult with all local agencies to determine partnering opportunities for multimodal facility maintenance beyond routine activities of the department. The purpose of this consultation would be to clearly understand which agency will be responsible for maintaining specific elements of the pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities within the design project.

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including shared-use paths, installed along state routes are typically maintained by the state in unincorporated areas and by the local agency in incorporated areas. Transit access facilities, such as bus stops, are typically maintained by the local transit agency responsible for transit operations.

In incorporated areas, some local agencies may be better equipped to maintain these facilities than others. It may be advantageous to discuss the maintenance capabilities of the local agency and develop a special maintenance agreement. It is important to set elements and expectations of the required maintenance activity for the multimodal facility type, and discuss the anticipated methods for maintaining the facility. Maintenance discussions should typically consider the following activities:

- Sweeping
- Pavement repair and rehabilitation
- Signing
- Pavement markings
- Special signalization
- Snow removal
- Lighting

**9-906.00 PAVEMENT CONSIDERATIONS IN MULTIMODAL DESIGN**

Different surface materials, patterns and textures are useful tools to better establish zones for users and align with the context of a corridor, but along with ADA requirements the following requirements must be met when entertaining their use.

Surfaces should be smooth, free of rough textures, openings and gaps. Expansion and contraction joints are allowed but must not create a level change of more than 0.25 inches.

Pedestrian zone surfaces should be as visually uniform as possible as people with even minor levels of visual impairment may mistake visual contrast in the pathway with changes in grade. Along these lines, designers are required to have clearly defined sidewalk edges to provide navigational cues for people with visual impairments.

Permeable pavers and asphalt are allowed, but special considerations for maintenance should be included in any design to ensure that the riding or walking surface continues to function free from debris that might cause loose material and water and ice to eventually collect on the surface.

**9-907.00 WORK ZONE MULTIMODAL MOBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

When existing pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities are disrupted, closed, or relocated in a temporary traffic control zone, the temporary facilities should be easily detectable and include accessibility features consistent with the features present in the existing facilities.

An alternative route should be provided whenever the pedestrian or bicycle route is blocked. Warning signs should be provided when an alternative circulation path is provided or a barricade is constructed. Signage must be compliant with the current edition of the MUTCD, Part 6 for Temporary Traffic Control.

Design of temporary facilities in the public right-of-way should typically conform to the requirements for permanent facilities where feasible.

**9-908.00 MULTIMODAL DESIGN DEVIATION FORM**

Designing a multimodal facility/roadway is not a one-size-fits-all approach. It requires an analysis of various site conditions to determine appropriate treatments and solutions. Using standard design elements, criteria, and dimensions may not be possible in these contexts that are often in constrained right-of-way. Applying flexibility in the geometric design process is often justified. Despite the range of flexibility that exists with respect to the controlling elements of design, there are situations in which the accepted criteria are not applicable to the project circumstances or could not reasonably be met. For such instances, when it is appropriate, the design deviation process allows for the use of criteria other than the normally accepted values.

TDOT's *Multimodal Design Deviation Form* should be used whenever the designer recommends the use of design elements, criteria or dimensions not in conformance with the standards outlined in this Chapter 9 of the *Roadway Design Guidelines*. TDOT will view the design deviation request more favorably if guidance from another source is provided. Other sources could include, but are not limited to, AASHTO, NACTO, FHWA, NCHRP, or design guidance from other states. The *Multimodal Design Deviation Form* is part of the DDocs.exe and can be downloaded from TDOT's *Roadway Design Standard Design and Survey CADD Files and Documents* website at [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/roadway-design/documents/cadd\\_files/DDocs.zip](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/roadway-design/documents/cadd_files/DDocs.zip).

**CHAPTER 10 – REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**9-1000.00 GENERAL**

References and supporting information are provided in TDOT's *Multimodal Project Scoping Manual*. The *Multimodal Project Scoping Manual* is available on TDOT's *Roadway Design Additional Resources* website at:

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/roadway-design/additional-resources.html>.

**9-1001.00 TDOT'S MULTIMODAL ACCESS POLICY**



TDOT's *Multimodal Access Policy* is provided on the following pages.



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 <p><b>DEPARTMENTAL POLICY</b>          State of Tennessee          Department of Transportation</p>	<b>Policy Number: 530-01</b>
<p><b>Approved By:</b></p> 	<b>Effective Date:</b> <b>July 31, 2015</b>
<b>SUBJECT: Multimodal Access Policy</b>	

- I. **RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** Multimodal Transportation Resources Division
- II. **AUTHORITY:** T.C.A. 4-3-2303. If any portion of this policy conflicts with applicable state or federal laws or regulations, that portion shall be considered void. The remainder of this policy shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.
- III. **PURPOSE:** To create and implement a multimodal transportation policy that encourages safe access and mobility for users of all ages and abilities through the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of new construction, reconstruction and retrofit transportation facilities that are federally or state funded. Users include, but are not limited to, motorists, transit-riders, freight-carriers, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- IV. **APPLICATION:** All Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) employees, consultants and contractors involved in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of state and federally funded projects, and local governments managing and maintaining transportation projects with funding through TDOT’s Local Programs Development Office.
- V. **DEFINITIONS:**
  - a. **Highway:** A main road or thoroughfare, such as a street, boulevard, or parkway, available to the public for use for travel or transportation
  - b. **Multimodal:** For the purposes of this policy, multimodal is defined as the movement of people and goods on state and functionally-classified roadways. Users include, but are not limited to, motorists, transit-riders, freight-carriers, bicyclists and pedestrians, including those with disabilities.
  - c. **Reconstruction:** Complete removal and replacement of the pavement structure or the addition of new continuous traffic lanes on an existing roadway.
  - d. **Retrofit:** Changes to an existing highway within the general right-of-way, such as adding lanes, modifying horizontal and vertical alignments, structure rehabilitation, safety improvements, and maintenance.
  - e. **Roadway:** The portion of a highway, including shoulders, that is available for vehicular, bicycle or pedestrian use.

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Policy Number: 530-01
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Effective Date: 7/31/15
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VI. POLICY: The Department of Transportation recognizes the benefits of integrating multimodal facilities into the transportation system as a means to improve the mobility, access and safety of all users. The intent of this policy is to promote the inclusion of multimodal accommodations in all transportation planning and project development activities at the local, regional and statewide levels, and to develop a comprehensive, integrated, and connected multimodal transportation network. TDOT will collaborate with local government agencies and regional planning agencies through established transportation planning processes to ensure that multimodal accommodations are addressed throughout the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of new construction, reconstruction and retrofit transportation facilities as outlined in TDOT's Multimodal Access Policy Implementation Plan.

VII. PROCEDURES:

A. TDOT is committed to the development of a transportation system that improves conditions for multimodal transportation users through the following actions:

1. Provisions for multimodal transportation shall be given full consideration in new construction, reconstruction and retrofit roadway projects through design features appropriate for the context and function of the transportation facility.
2. The planning, design and construction of new facilities shall give full consideration to likely future demand for multimodal facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements. If all feasible roadway alternatives have been explored and suitable multimodal facilities cannot be provided within the existing or proposed right of way due to environmental constraints, an alternate route that provides continuity and enhances the safety and accessibility of multimodal travel should be considered.
3. Multimodal provisions on existing roadways shall not be made more difficult or impossible by roadway improvements or routine maintenance projects.
4. Intersections and interchanges shall be designed (where appropriate based on context) to accommodate the mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians to cross corridors as well as travel along them in a manner that is safe, accessible, and convenient.
5. While it is not the intent of resurfacing projects to expand existing facilities, opportunities to provide or enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities shall be given full consideration during the program development stage of resurfacing projects.
6. Pedestrian facilities shall be designed and built to accommodate persons with disabilities in accordance with the access standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Sidewalks, shared use paths, street crossings

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(including over- and under-crossings) and other infrastructure shall be constructed so that all pedestrians, including those with disabilities, can travel independently.

7. Provisions for transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists shall be included when closing roads, bridges or sidewalks for construction projects where pedestrian, bicycle, or transit traffic is documented or expected.
- B. It is TDOT's expectation that full consideration of multimodal access will be integrated in all appropriate new construction, reconstruction and retrofit infrastructure projects. However, there are conditions where it is generally inappropriate to provide multimodal facilities. Examples of these conditions include, but are not limited to:
1. Controlled access facilities where non-motorized users are prohibited from using the roadway. In this instance, a greater effort may be necessary to accommodate these users elsewhere within the same transportation corridor.
  2. The cost of accommodations would be excessively disproportionate to the need and probable use. Excessively disproportionate is defined as exceeding twenty percent (20%) of the cost of the project. The twenty percent figure should be used in an advisory rather than an absolute sense, especially in instances where the cost may be difficult to quantify. Compliance with ADA requirements may require greater than 20% of project cost to accommodate multimodal access. Costs associated with ADA requirements are NOT an exception.
  3. Areas in which the population and employment densities or level of transit service around the facility, both existing and future, does not justify the incorporation of multimodal alternatives.
  4. Inability to negotiate and enter into an agreement with a local government to assume the operational and maintenance responsibility of the facility.
  5. Other factors where there is a demonstrated absence of need or prudence, or as requested by the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.
- C. Exceptions for not accommodating multimodal transportation users on State roadway projects in accordance with this policy shall be documented describing the basis and supporting data for the exception, and must be approved by TDOT's Chief Engineer and Chief of Environment or their designees.
- D. The Department recognizes that a well-planned and designed transportation network is responsive to its context and meets the needs of its users. Therefore, facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with current applicable laws and regulations, using best practices and guidance, including but not limited to the following: TDOT Standard Drawings and guidelines, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) publications, Institute of

**TDOT – ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDELINES**  
**Section 9 – Multimodal Design**

**English**

**4/10/2018**

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Transportation Engineers (ITE) publications, the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) publications, the Public Rights-of-Ways Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).