

bicyclists is required when the route changes character. Also, wrong-way bicycle travel will occur on the street beyond the ends of bike paths because of the inconvenience of having to cross the street. However, alternating from Class IV to Class II may be appropriate due to the presence of many driveways or turning movements. The highway context or community setting may also influence the need to alternate bikeway classifications.

Topic 1003 - Bikeway Design Criteria

1003.1 Class I Bikeways (Bike Paths)

Class I bikeways (bike paths) are facilities with exclusive right of way, with cross flows by vehicles minimized. Motor vehicles are prohibited from bike paths per the CVC, which can be reinforced by signing. Class I bikeways, unless adjacent to an adequate pedestrian facility, (see Index 1001.3(n)) are for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians, therefore any facility serving pedestrians must meet accessibility requirements, see DIB 82. However, experience has shown that if regular pedestrian use is anticipated, separate facilities for pedestrians maybe beneficial to minimize conflicts. Please note, sidewalks are not Class I bikeways because they are primarily intended to serve pedestrians, generally cannot meet the design standards for Class I bikeways, and do not minimize vehicle cross flows. See Index 1003.3 for discussion of the issues associated with sidewalk bikeways.

- (1) *Widths and Cross Slopes.* See Figure 1003.1A for two-way Class I bikeway (bike path) width, cross slope, and side slope details. The term “shoulder” as used in the context of a bike path is an unobstructed all weather surface on each side of a bike path with similar functionality as shoulders on roadways with the exception that motor vehicle parking and use is not allowed. **The shoulder area is not considered part of the bike path traveled way.**

Experience has shown that paved paths less than 12 feet wide can break up along the edge as a result of loads from maintenance vehicles.

- (a) **Traveled Way. The minimum paved width of travel way for a two-way bike path shall be 8 feet, 10-foot preferred. The minimum paved width for a one-**

way bike path shall be 5 feet. It should be assumed that bike paths will be used for two-way travel. Development of a one-way bike path should be undertaken only in rare situations where there is a need for only one-direction of travel. Two-way use of bike paths designed for one-way travel increases the risk of head-on collisions, as it is difficult to enforce one-way operation. This is not meant to apply to two one-way bike paths that are parallel and adjacent to each other within a wide right of way.

Where heavy bicycle volumes are anticipated and/or significant pedestrian traffic is expected, the paved width of a two-way bike path should be greater than 10 feet, preferably 12 feet or more.

Another important factor to consider in determining the appropriate width is that bicyclists will tend to ride side by side on bike paths, and bicyclists may need adequate passing clearance next to pedestrians and slower moving bicyclists.

See Index 1003.1(16) Drainage, for cross slope information.

- (b) **Shoulder. A minimum 2-foot wide shoulder, composed of the same pavement material as the bike path or all weather surface material that is free of vegetation, shall be provided adjacent to the traveled way of the bike path when not on a structure;** see Figure 1003.1A. A shoulder width of 3 feet should be provided where feasible. A wider shoulder can reduce bicycle conflicts with pedestrians. Where the paved bike path width is wider than the minimum required, the unpaved shoulder area may be reduced proportionately. If all or part of the shoulder is paved with the same material as the bike path, it is to be delineated from the traveled way of the bike path with an edgeline.

See Index 1003.1(16), Drainage, for cross slope information.

- (2) *Bike Path Separation from a Pedestrian Walkway.* If there is an adjacent pedestrian

walkway, the edge of the traveled way of the bike path is to be separated from the pedestrian walkway by a minimum width of 5 feet of unpaved material. The 5-foot area of unpaved material may include landscaping or other features that provide a continuous obstacle to deter bike path and walkway users from using both paths as a single facility. These obstacles may be fences, railings, solid walls, or dense shrubbery. Flexible delineators, poles, curbs, or pavement markers are not to be used because they will not deter users from using both paths as a single facility. These obstacles between the pedestrian walkways and bike paths are not to obstruct stopping sight distance along curves or corner sight distance at intersections with roadways or other paths.

- (3) *Clearance to Obstructions.* **A minimum 2-foot horizontal clearance from the paved edge of a bike path to obstructions shall be provided.** See Figure 1003.1A. 3 feet should be provided. Adequate clearance from fixed objects is needed regardless of the paved width. If a path is paved contiguous with a continuous fixed object (e.g., fence, wall, and building), a 4-inch white edge line, 2 feet from the fixed object, is recommended to minimize the likelihood of a bicyclist hitting it. **The clear width of a bicycle path on structures between railings shall be not less than 10 feet.** It is desirable that the clear width of structures be equal to the minimum clear width of the path plus shoulders (i.e., 14 feet).

The vertical clearance to obstructions across the width of a bike path shall be a minimum of 8 feet and 7 feet over shoulder. Where practical, a vertical clearance of 10 feet is desirable.

- (4) *Signing and Delineation.* For application and placement of signs, see the California MUTCD, Section 9B. For pavement marking guidance, see the California MUTCD, Section 9C.
- (5) *Intersections with Highways.* Intersections are an important consideration in bike path design. Bicycle path intersection design should address both cross-traffic and turning movements. If alternate locations for a bike path are available,

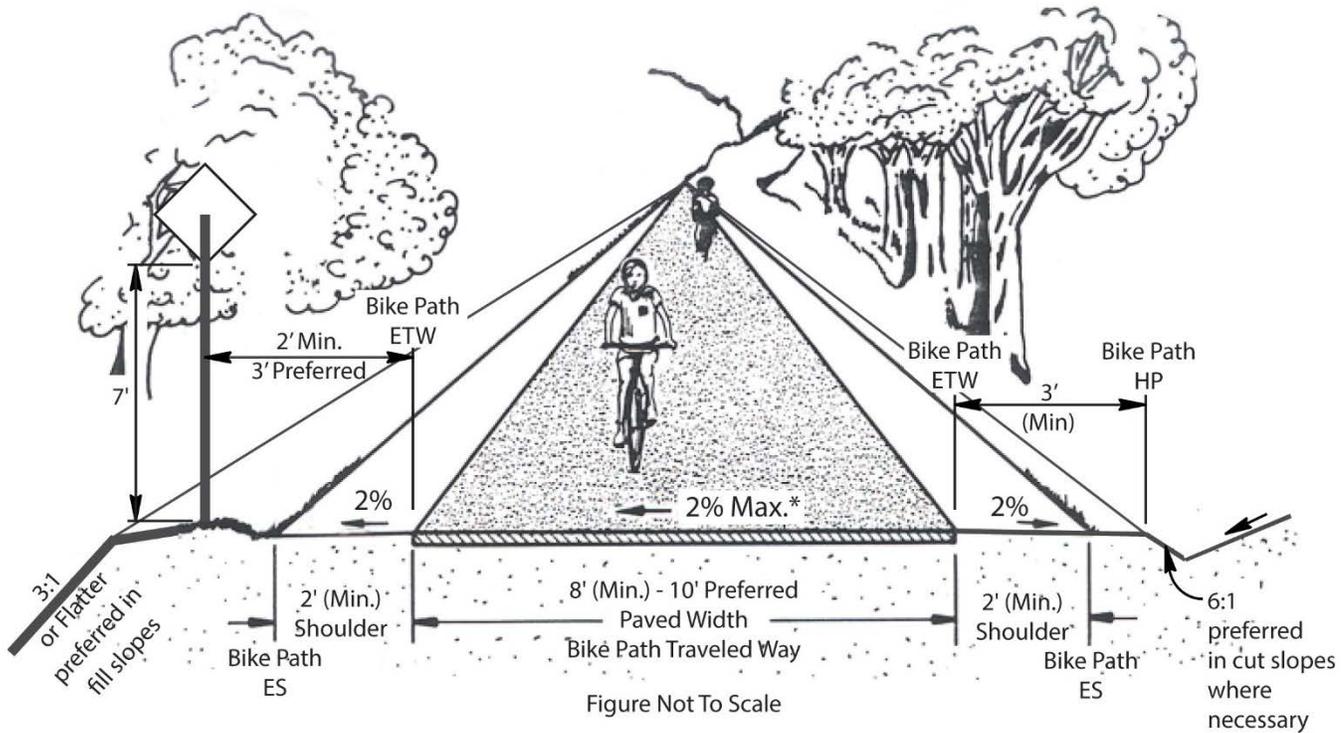
the one with the most beneficial intersection characteristics should be selected.

Where motor vehicle cross traffic and bicycle traffic is heavy, grade separations are desirable to eliminate intersection conflicts. Where grade separations are not feasible, assignment of right of way by traffic signals should be considered. Where traffic is not heavy, "STOP" or "YIELD" signs for either the path or the cross street (depending on volumes) may suffice.

Bicycle path intersections and their approaches should be on relatively flat grades. Stopping sight distances at intersections should be checked and adequate warning should be given to permit bicyclists to stop before reaching the intersection, especially on downgrades. When contemplating the placement of signs the designer is to discuss the proposed sign details with their Traffic Liaison so that conflicts may be minimized. Bicycle versus motor vehicle collisions may occur more often at intersections, where bicyclists misuse pedestrian crosswalks; thus, this should be avoided.

When crossing an arterial street, the crossing should either occur at the pedestrian crossing, where vehicles can be expected to stop, or at a location completely out of the influence of any intersection to permit adequate opportunity for bicyclists to see turning vehicles. When crossing at midblock locations, right of way should be assigned by devices such as "YIELD" signs, "STOP" signs, or traffic signals which can be activated by bicyclists. Even when crossing within or adjacent to the pedestrian crossing, "STOP" or "YIELD" signs for bicyclists should be placed to minimize potential for conflict resulting from turning autos. Where bike path "STOP" or "YIELD" signs are visible to approaching motor vehicle traffic, they should be shielded to avoid confusion. In some cases, Bike Xing signs may be placed in advance of the crossing to alert motorists. Ramps should be installed in the curbs, to preserve the utility of the bike path. Ramps should be the same width as the bicycle paths. Curb cuts and ramps should

Figure 1003.1A
Two-Way Class I Bikeway (Bike Path)



NOTES:

- (1) See Index 1003.1(13) for pavement structure guidance of bike path.
- (2) For sign clearances, see California MUTCD, Figure 9B-1.
- (3) The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities provides detailed guidance for creating a forgiving Class I bikeway environment.

* 1% cross-slope minimum.