

South Carolina Department of Transportation
Traffic Engineering Guidelines

NUMBER: TG-8

SUBJECT: "Share the Road with Bicyclists" (R9-25-24) Sign

BACKGROUND: Even though bike paths, and bike lanes are gradually becoming more available for use by cyclists, the vast majority of bicycle travel has been, and will continue to be, on conventional streets and roadways that cyclists must share with motorists. In fact, one of the most promising changes for cyclists--the wide outside lane on multi-lane facilities--is dependent on the sharing of that lane by motorists and cyclists. The most common complaint of cyclists is that often motorists do not respect the cyclists' right (under S. C. Code 56-5-3420) to share the same roadway.

This guideline has been developed to provide a device that will serve to advise motorists of the law and their responsibility to act accordingly. The "Share the Road with Bicyclists" (R9-25-24) sign is for use in advising motorists that cyclists may be present (on the road posted) traveling in the same (or opposing) direction. This device will also serve to remind cyclists of their responsibility to be thoughtful of motorists who may be occasionally impeded by the cyclist's relatively slower speed. The W11-1 (Bicycle Crossing sign) is still appropriate for situations where bicycle traffic crosses a road.

GUIDELINE: The "Share the Road with Bicyclists" sign may be used on facilities where there are no designated bicycle lanes, and no adjacent bicycle paths. This sign can be used on roads meeting any of the following conditions:

- Observed bicycle traffic.
- A higher than normal potential for conflict between cyclists and motorists, such as at the end of designated bicycle lanes, or at narrow bridges (those with no shoulders).
- Part of a formally adopted municipal, county, or the state bicycle route system.
- One or more documented bicycle/motor vehicle accidents.
- Expected presence of number of cyclists, such as during an organized bicycle ride or event where the road will also continue to be open to motorists. (Under this condition, the signs should be mounted on portable type assemblies, to be in place only during the event).
- Where a traffic engineering study indicates a need for this type of sign.

It is generally inappropriate to use this sign along roadways with designated bicycle lanes or a usable parallel bicycle path.

When located on roads of the state system in accordance with this guideline, the responsibility for fabrication and erection shall be the same as for other regulatory signs.

The "Share the Road with Bicyclists" sign should be located in accordance with the standard practice for signs advising (warning) motorists of a condition requiring a high degree of judgment. For example, if much of the bicycle traffic on a road enters from an intersecting road, the sign should be located 750 feet in advance of that intersection (rural) or 250 feet in advance (urban).

The sign shall have the bicycle symbol in black on a fluorescent yellow-green reflectorized background in the top portion of the panel and the message "SHARE THE ROAD" in black on a white reflectorized background in the lower portion. See the attached layout.

Approved:



Director of Traffic Engineering

12-20-2018

Date

Original Guideline Signed on October 16, 1996