



**California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC)
Agenda Item Report**



Meeting Date: May 2, 2024 Item Number: 24-05	From: John Liu, Caltrans
Sponsored By: Kevin Murai, Caltrans	Presented By: John Liu, Caltrans
Description: Proposal to add a new Class IV bikeway sign to CA MUTCD Chapter 9B	

Recommendation:

Motion by the committee to recommend inclusion of a proposed CYCLE TRACK sign and changes to the CA MUTCD – Section 9B.106 “Class IV Bikeway Signing.”

Agency Making Request/Sponsor:

John Liu, Caltrans / Kevin Murai, Caltrans

Background:

Class IV bikeways, known as cycle tracks or separated bikeways, are for the exclusive use by bicyclists and are separated from vehicular traffic by means such as grade separation, flexible posts, inflexible physical barriers, or on-street parking ([Streets and Highway Code 890.4](#)).

Design Information Bulletin (DIB) 89, signed in 2015, provided initial design guidance to supplement the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) publication [Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide](#). It did not address signing other than to reference traffic operations guidance. However, no signing was developed for Class IV bikeways. BIKE LANE signs are not the correct descriptions and CYCLE TRACK signs have not been approved.

The FHWA considers separated bikeways to be bike lanes and are signed and marked as such. Unlike in the CA MUTCD, there is no requirement in the Federal MUTCD for bike lanes to be signed. In California, Class IV bikeways are not considered bike lanes because Class IV bikeways, unlike Class II bike lanes, are not mandatory use facilities for bicyclists. A bicyclist can choose to ride in either a Class IV bikeway or the vehicle lane. Where a Class II bike lane is present, a bicyclist must ride in it in accordance to [CVC 21208](#).

There is no vehicle code that restricts motor vehicles from traveling or parking on Class IV bikeways nor restricts pedestrians or any other types of road user from using Class IV bikeways. Therefore, a regulatory sign is currently not the appropriate type of sign for a Class IV bikeway. However, it is possible that future legislation may regulate use of



California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) Agenda Item Report



Class IV bikeways. In the meantime, any Class IV bikeway signing would be more appropriate as a guide sign with wording such as CYCLE TRACK.

Class IV bikeways often transition to Class II bike lanes at right-turn lanes or at driveways. At such transitions, any bikeway signing should have the appropriate BEGIN and END signs to notify the bicyclist where the bikeway is a mandatory use facility.

In sum, the proposal is signing a Class IV bikeway using a green CYCLE TRACK guide sign, presented in Attachment A as a modified Bicycle Route (D11-1) sign or a modified Bicycle Directional (D11-1a) sign with a supplemental CYCLE TRACK plaque.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Potential CYCLE TRACK Class IV signing

Attachment B – Proposed change to Chapter 9B of the CA MUTCD



ATTACHMENT A

Attachment A – Potential CYCLE TRACK Class IV signing



Modified D11-1 CYCLE TRACK sign



D11-1a with modified D11-1bP CYCLE TRACK sign

Table 9B-1(CA). California Bicycle Facility Sign and Plaque Minimum Sizes

Sign or Plaque	Sign Designation	Section	Shared-Use Path	Roadway
Bicycle Parking	G93C(CA)	9B.23	24 x 18	24 x 18
Memorial Bikeway	G12-3(CA)	9B.20	36 x 16	---
Bike Path Exclusion	R44A(CA)	9B.08	12 x 24	---
BICYCLES MOTOR-DRIVEN CYCLES MUST EXIT	R44B(CA)	9B.101(CA)	---	30 x 36
BICYCLES MUST EXIT	R44C(CA)	9B.101(CA)	---	30 x 30
Bike Lane	R81(CA)	9B.04	---	12 x 8
BEGIN	R81A(CA)	9B.04	---	12 x 5
END	R81B(CA)	9B.04	---	8 x 5
PASS Bicycle 3 FT MIN	R117(CA)	9B.102(CA)	---	30 x 30 *
EXCEPT Bicycle	R118(CA)	9C.04	---	18 x 15 *
Bicycle Route Number Marker	SG45(CA)	9B.21	12 x 18	12 x 18
BIKE TURN-OUT XX FT	SR64A(CA)	9B.105(CA)	---	30 x 30
BIKE TURN-OUT (with arrow)	SR64B(CA)	9B.105(CA)	---	30 x 30
Bicycle Route Name Marker	S17(CA)	9B.21	24 x 6	24 x 6

* Other sign sizes are available, see specific California Sign Specification

CYCLE TRACK	TBD	9B.106(CA)		
-------------	-----	------------	--	--



ATTACHMENT B

Attachment B – Proposed change to Chapter 9B of the CA MUTCD

Note that the sign codes below are temporary for the purposes of the proposal. If the CTCDC approves the CYCLE TRACK sign, Caltrans HQ Traffic Signs will proceed with working on new sign specifications and codes.

Proposal:

Note:

Black text is consistent with the Federal MUTCD.

Blue text is current text as amended for use in California.

~~Struck-out red~~ text is to be deleted from the CA MUTCD.

Red text is newly proposed text.

Section 9B.106 (CA) Class IV Bikeway Signing

Option:

CYCLE TRACK (D11-1(MOD)) sign may be installed on a Class IV bikeway.

The BEGIN (M4-14) and END (M4-6) signs may be used below the (D11-1(MOD)) sign to mark the beginning or end of a Class IV bikeway.

Support:

The (D11-1(MOD)) signs are shown in Figure 9B-2(CA).