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## SIGNED BICYCLE ROUTES

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Signed bicycle routes are best implemented on existing low traffic volume residential or secondary roadways where the need for additional construction is not necessary.

### DEFINITION

A signed bicycle route is typically designated along more lightly traveled residential or secondary roads and is indicated by signs with or without a specific route number. This type of facility should have appropriate directional and informational markers. Signed bicycle routes are designated by the jurisdiction having authority over the roadways included in the bicycle route system. Adding pavement width to the existing roads signed as bicycle routes is not normally required; however, choosing routes with minimal traffic hazards is typically part of the process to create a good route. Bicycle routes are often utilized to direct bicyclists to less-congested roadways that may follow the same general corridor as more heavily traveled arterial highways.

## WHEN TO CONSIDER THIS TYPE OF FACILITY

A bicycle route is a suggested route to get to a specific destination. It may include stretches of other designated bicycle facilities, but in general, a bicycle route does not require that the road include any special bicycle facilities. For instance, a signed bicycle route may designate a preferred set of roads from a school to a residential neighborhood. A network of such routes may be connected to provide bicyclists with a safe and appealing way to get around the community. Planning for a bicycle route begins by defining the purpose and need for the facility.

- Designating a bicycle route is a cost-effective way to inform bicyclists of a safer way to get to their destinations.
- A bicycle route should have a well-defined origin and destination.
- A bicycle route should be part of a comprehensive bicycle system.

## PRINCIPAL PLANNING CONCERNS WITH BICYCLE ROUTES

- Roadways to be recommended as bicycle routes should have low traffic volume and low posted speed limits.
- Scenic, direct routes are preferred by bicyclists.
- Bicycle route signs should include directional arrows to guide the bicyclist at intersections with other roadways.
- The route should be field checked to avoid potential design and traffic hazards.
- A map showing the bicycle routes in an area is a good way to inform bicyclists about the bicycle route network. Mapping encourages greater use of these facilities.

## PLANNING AND DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Some key elements of bicycle route selection include roadways with adequate width, high quality pavement, less dangerous intersections, curves with good sight distance and hills without steep grades. Such traffic conditions as motor vehicle volume, posted speed limits, and high percentages of truck traffic should also be considered. Another important consideration should be that the system of signed routes connects origins and destinations that are of interest to bicyclists.



Mapped and signed bicycle route systems provide information on safer places to bicycle.