

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
Transportation Mobility and Safety Division**

**STANDARD PRACTICE
for
US and NC Bicycle Route Designation**

A. TOPIC OWNER

Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard practice is to establish guidelines for US and NC Bicycle Route Designations.

C. OVERVIEW

The procedure set forth in the Standard Practice for Bicycle Route Designation shall be utilized in the engineering investigation and evaluation for a requested route:

1. All formal requests for new or modified bicycle routes shall be submitted to the Director of the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation on the Route Change Request Form with a map indicating location for initial approval. The requestor shall also copy the State Signing and Delineator Engineer.
2. A review of new or modified bicycle routes should be completed by the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. This review should be coordinated with the appropriate NCDOT Regional Traffic Engineer and Division Traffic Engineer.

D. CRITERIA

The review for route additions may include but not be limited to the following criteria:

- Network Connectivity
- Connectivity to Scenic Sites
- Presence of Dedicated Bicycle Facilities
- Non-motorist crashes and crash rates (future)
- Annual Average Daily Traffic
- Truck Percentages
- STAA Routing
- 85th percentile vehicle speeds, posted speed limits
- Grades
- Paved Shoulder Widths
- Roadside Appurtenances
- Shy Distance
- Bridge Configuration
- Pavement Condition
- Pavement Marking Condition
- Presence of Rumble Strips
- Shoulder Condition
- On Street Parking
- Sight Distance
- Bicycle Level of Service

D. CRITERIA - Continued

- Travel Lane Widths
- Intersection control
- Planned Improvements (long range plan/STIP)
- Aesthetics
- Control of Access

E. GUIDELINES/REQUIREMENTS

1. Obtain local support for the new or modified bicycle route through a resolution from municipal officials, county commissions, Rural Planning Organizations and Metropolitan Planning Organizations as appropriate. If present, obtain a copy of the proposed long-range plans
2. Proposed new or modified US and NC bicycle routes must be processed through the NCDOT Interstate/US Route Committee. A map and bicycle route segment worksheet of the proposed route must be submitted to the committee members for review prior to the meeting. The segments located on the labeled map will correspond with the segments listed in the worksheet. If a US Bicycle Route is involved, the AASHTO application must also be completed and submitted to the committee for review.
3. A request for a new or modified US designated bicycle route shall be approved by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The application for consideration must be submitted by the Department directly to AASHTO.
4. Upon approval of the new or modified bicycle route, the route will be documented in the Traffic Engineering Accident Analysis System (TEAAS) with Bicycle Route Change Ordinances.
5. The new or modified bicycle route will be added to the system of record (currently Roads and Highways). The Bicycle and Pedestrian Division is responsible for entering and maintaining the data.

F. REFERENCES

- **Bridge Configuration** – Material, width, length and other characteristics of bridge
- **Roadside Appurtenances** – Bridge rails, traffic control devices, roadside barriers, median barriers, impact attenuators and lighting
- **Shy Distance** – The comfortable space typically needed from fixed objects, structures, and other features
- **STAA Routing** – Based on the Surface Transportation Assistance Act, approved routes for the movement of trucks with 53 foot trailers or truck tractors with twin trailers