

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



PERE MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL

2007



Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology

The following definitions and terminology are taken from official guidance documents, such as the 2012 American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities; the 2009 AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities; the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bicycle Design Guide; and the U.S. Access Board Publication-Accessible Public Rights-of-Way Planning and Design for Alterations.

Inclusion of these terms in this document does not constitute an endorsement of the designs, facilities or treatments.

General Bicycle or Pedestrian Related Terms

Activity Center	2
Barriers to Travel.....	2
Bicycle	2
Bicycle Facilities	3
Bicycle-Friendly.....	4
Bicycle Network	4
Bikeway	5
Chicane	5
Complete Streets.....	6
Crash or Collision	6
Grade-Separated Crossing	8
Highway.....	8
Independent Right of Way.....	8
Pavement Markings.....	9
Right of Way	10
Right of Way (Assignment)	10
Roadway.....	10
Roundabout.....	11
Sight Distance	13
Trail	13
Traveled Way	14

Bicycle Related Facilities / Terms

On-Roads

Bicycle Boulevard.....	3
Bicycle (Bike) Box.....	3
Bicycle Lane or Bike Lane	4
Bike Route	4
Buffered Bike Lane	5
Contra-Flow Bicycle Lane	6
Cycle Track.....	7
Rumble Strips.....	11
Shared Lane	11
Shared Lane Marking (SLM or “Sharrow”).....	12
Shoulder	12
Shoulder Bicycle Lane.....	12
U.S. Bicycle Route	14

Off-Roads

Bollards.....	5
Rail Trail	9
Rail-with-Trail.....	10
Sidepath	13
Unpaved or Unimproved Path.....	14

Pedestrian Specific Facility / Terms

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	2
Crosswalk.....	6
Curb Extension	7
Curb Ramp	7
Detectable Warning	7
Median Island	8
Pedestrian	9
Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)	9
Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB).....	11
Sidewalk	13
Sidepath	13
Truncated Domes	14

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology

Activity Center

A public or private facility that acts as a trip generator.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Requirements for ensuring equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and accessibility.



Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS)

Devices that communicate information about the WALK and DON'T WALK intervals at signalized intersections in non-visual formats to pedestrians who are blind or have low vision.



Barriers to Travel

Barriers usually refer to natural (hills, lakes, rivers) or man-made (freeways, bridges without sidewalks, neighborhood traffic control devices) obstacles to through-traffic or access.

Bicycle

A pedal-powered vehicle upon which the human operator sits. The term "bicycle" can include two- or three-wheeled human-powered vehicles. The Michigan Vehicle Code defines a bicycle as: "a device propelled by human power upon which a person may ride, having either 2 or 3 wheels in a tandem or tricycle arrangement, all of which are over 14 inches in diameter." MCL257.4

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Bicycle Boulevard

A segment of street, or series of contiguous street segments, that has been modified to accommodate through-bicycle traffic and minimize through-motor traffic. Another common term for a bicycle boulevard is a Neighborhood Greenway.



Bicycle (Bike) Box

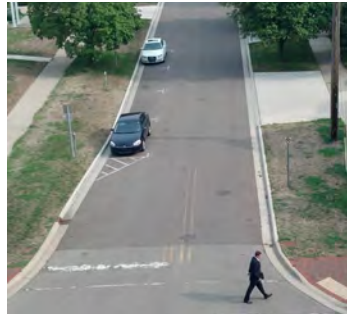
A defined and/or colored area at a signalized intersection provided for bicyclists to pull in front of waiting traffic. The box is intended to reduce car-bike conflicts, particularly involving right-turning movements across the path of a bicyclist, and to increase bicyclist visibility. The Bike Box is currently not a Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD)-approved device and permission from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to experiment is required before installing.



Bicycle Facilities

A general term denoting provisions to accommodate or encourage bicycling, including parking and storage facilities.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Bicycle-Friendly

A roadway not designated by directional and informational markers, striping, signing or pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists, but containing appropriate bicycle-friendly design standards, such as wide curb lanes and bicycle-safe drain grates.



Bicycle Lane or Bike Lane

A portion of roadway that has been designated for preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists with pavement markings and signs, if used. It is intended for one-way travel, usually in the same direction as the adjacent traffic lane, unless designed as a contra-flow lane.



Bicycle Network

A system of bikeways (see bikeway definition) designated by the jurisdiction having authority, either with a unique route designation or with Bike Route signs, along which bicycle guide signs may provide directional and distance information. Signs that provide directional, distance, and destination information for bicyclists do not necessarily establish a bike network.



Bike Route

A segment of road designated by a jurisdiction having authority with appropriate directional and informational markers but without striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology

Bikeway

A generic term for any road, street, path, or way in which some manner is specifically designated for bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles or are to be shared with other transportation modes.



Bollards

Wood or metal posts put in the middle of pedestrian/bike paths to restrict access of motor vehicles.



Buffered Bike Lane

A bicycle lane accompanied by a designated buffer space, separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent travel lane.



Chicane

Fixed objects projecting into the travel lane, such as curbing or fencing, requiring the user to weave a tight course between them, resulting in traffic calming.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology

Complete Streets

As defined by Michigan law, roadways planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all legal users in a manner that promotes safe and efficient movement of people and goods whether by car, truck, transit, assistive device, foot, or bicycle. MCL 247.660p



Contra-flow Bicycle Lane

A bicycle lane that allows bicyclists to travel the opposite direction of motor vehicle traffic on a one-way street.

Crash or Collision

A crash or collision reflect a mistake or combination of mistakes and are not “accidents.” In terms of the bicyclist, collisions may involve the ground, a fixed object (e.g., a tree or bollard), a pedestrian, another cyclist, a parked or moving motor vehicle or an animal. They usually involve a mistake(s) on the part of users.



Crosswalk

That part of a roadway at an intersection that is included within the extensions of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the roadway, measured from the curb line, or in the absence of curbs from the edges of the roadway. Also, any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere that is distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Curb Extension

A section of sidewalk or a landscaped area extending into the roadway at an intersection or mid-block crossing that reduces the crossing distance for pedestrians and may help reduce traffic speeds.



Curb Ramp

A combined ramp and landing to accomplish a change in level at a curb. This element provides street and sidewalk access to pedestrians using wheelchairs, strollers or other devices with wheels.



Cycle Track

A bicycle facility separated from motor vehicle travel lanes, as well as sidewalks and pedestrians, by a physical barrier, such as on-street parking, a curb, or is grade-separated.



Detectable Warning

Standardized surface feature built in, or applied to, walking surfaces or other elements to warn pedestrians with vision impairments of hazards on a sidewalk and or loading platform, such as the curb line or drop-off. Detectable warnings are also called truncated domes.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Grade-Separated Crossing

A facility, such as an overpass, underpass, skywalk, or tunnel, that allows pedestrians and motor vehicles to cross each other at different levels.

Highway

A general term denoting a public way for purposes of vehicular travel, including the entire area within the right of way.



Independent Right of Way

A general term denoting right of way outside the boundaries of a conventional highway.



Median Island

An island in the center of a road that physically separates the directional flow of traffic that provides pedestrians with a place of refuge, reducing the crossing distance between safety points.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Pavement Markings

Painted or applied line(s) or legend placed on any travel surface for regulating, guiding or warning traffic.



Pedestrian

A person on foot or in a wheelchair.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)

The pedestrian hybrid beacon (also known as the High-intensity Activated crossWALK, or HAWK) is a pedestrian-activated device used to warn and control traffic at a non-signalized location to assist pedestrians in crossing at a marked crosswalk. The beacon head consists of two red lenses above a single yellow lens. The beacon head is “dark” until the pedestrian desires to cross the street and the device is activated.



Rail Trail

A shared-use path, either paved or unpaved, built within the right of way of a former railroad.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Rail-with-Trail

A shared-use path, either paved or unpaved, built within the right of way of an active railroad.



Right of Way

A general term denoting land, property or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.

Right of Way (Assignment)

The right of a driver, bicyclist or pedestrian to proceed in a lawful manner in preference to another driver, bicyclist or pedestrian.



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

A user-actuated amber LED beacon that supplement warning signs at non-signalized intersections or mid-block crosswalks. They are activated by pedestrians manually by a push button or passively by a pedestrian detection system. RRFBs use an irregular flash pattern that is similar to emergency flashers on police vehicles.

Roadway

The Michigan Vehicle Code defines a roadway as: "that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel. In the event a highway includes 2 or more separate roadways, the term 'roadway,' as used herein, shall refer to any such roadway separately, but not to all such roadways collectively." MCL 257.55

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Source: MLIVE; Press Photo/Hollyn

Roundabout

Circular intersections which direct traffic counter-clockwise around a center island. Roundabouts offer a solution to the traditional intersection problems of delays, capacity and safety. Since everyone is traveling in the same direction and at lower speed, crashes are reduced. Left-turn, right-angle and head-on crashes are virtually eliminated. Roundabouts make efficient use of space and increase the capacity of an intersection. They also reduce delay, emissions and fuel consumption.



Rumble Strips

A textured or grooved pavement treatment designed to create noise and vibration to alert motorists of a need to change their path or speed. Longitudinal rumble strips are sometimes used on or along shoulders or center lines of highways to alert motorists who stray from the appropriate traveled way. Transverse rumble strips are placed on the roadway surface in the travel lane, perpendicular to the direction of travel.

Shared Lane

A lane of a traveled way open to both bicycle and motor vehicle travel.

Narrow Lane

A travel lane less than 14-feet-wide, which therefore does not allow bicyclists and motorists to travel side-by-side within the same traffic lane and maintain a safe separation distance.

Wide Curb Lane

A travel lane at least 14-feet-wide, adjacent to a curb, which allows bicyclists and motorists to travel side-by-side within the same traffic lane.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Shared Lane Marking (SLM or “Sharrow”)

A pavement marking symbol that assists bicyclists with lateral positioning in lanes too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side-by-side within the same traffic lane.

Shared Roadway

A roadway open to both bicycle and motor vehicle travel.



Shared-Use Path

A bikeway physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier, either within the highway right of way or an independent right of way. Shared-use paths also may be used by pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, joggers, and other nonmotorized users. Most shared-use paths are designed for two-way travel. Its minimum width is 10 feet. It is separated from vehicular traffic either by a barrier or a minimum lateral separation of 5 feet.



Shoulder

The portion of the roadway contiguous with the traveled way that accommodates stopped vehicles, emergency use, and lateral support of sub-base, base, and surface courses. Shoulders, where paved, are often used by bicyclists.



Shoulder Bicycle Lane

The portion of the roadway contiguous with the traveled way that is wide enough or has potential to accommodate stopped vehicles, emergency use, and lateral support of sub-base, base, and surface courses but is marked as a bicycle lane and meets relevant design criteria for bicycle lanes and paved shoulders.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Sidewalk

That portion of a street or highway right of way, beyond the curb or edge of roadway pavement, which is intended for use by pedestrians.



Sidepath

A shared-use path located immediately adjacent and parallel to a roadway.

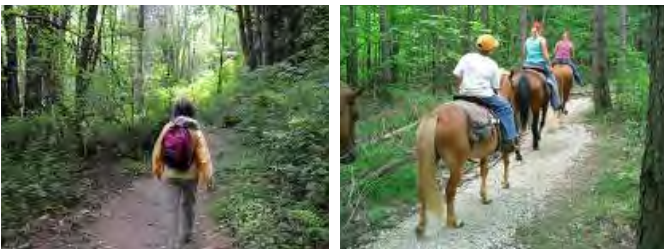
Sight Distance

A measurement of the user's visibility, unobstructed by objects, along the normal travel path to the furthest point of the roadway surface.



Trail

Non-descriptive general term referring to off-roadway facilities but with no standardized definition. Use of the term trail should generally be avoided as it may refer to a range of facilities, including a coarse, unpaved hiking/biking route or a paved urbanized facility.



Bicycle and Pedestrian Terminology



Traveled Way

The portion of the roadway intended for the movement of vehicles, exclusive of shoulders and any bike lane immediately inside of the shoulder.

Truncated Domes

See Detectable Warning.



Unpaved or Unimproved Path

Path not surfaced with a hard, durable surface, such as asphalt or concrete.



U.S. Bicycle Route

An interconnected network of roads and/or paved shared-use pathways that are officially designated by the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and connect one state with another, a state with an international border or two U.S. Bicycle Routes. In Michigan, U.S. Bicycle Routes are intended for long-distance touring bicyclists who are comfortable riding with traffic. U.S. Bicycle Routes are mapped and may or may not be signed.



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ONE WAY

FRANKLIN ROAD

YIELD

YIELD

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