

## Technical Memorandum

To: Electronic Distribution Recipients

From: Mark Gieseke, P.E.   
Acting Assistant Commissioner, Engineering Services

### Subject: MnDOT Bicycle Facility Design Manual

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#### Expiration

This is a new Technical Memorandum and will remain in effect until January 22, 2025 unless superseded or the attached design guidance is published in entirety in another MnDOT design document prior to that date. The attached design guidance supercedes the previous *MnDOT Bicycle Facility Design Manual* (2007 edition).

#### Implementation

The design guidance attached to this Technical Memorandum is immediately applicable to projects in all phases of design. Its provisions are binding for projects in the early to middle stages of the preliminary design phase. It is recommended for application on projects in more advanced design phases to the extent practical. The design guidance includes a great deal of flexibility, which should allow for its application to projects in any phase of design.

#### Introduction

The attached design guidance is the revised *MnDOT Bicycle Facility Design Manual* (Bike Manual). The Bike Manual includes design and planning guidance for bicycle facilities. The Bike Manual was developed in consultation with numerous MnDOT expert offices to understand issues and identify content for the bike manual. The manual was developed by MnDOT staff for use by MnDOT staff, though the design guidance may also be applicable on the broader network of roads, paths, and trails outside MnDOT. It is a printable and searchable electronic document.

The Bike Manual document fulfills MnDOT's responsibility under [Minnesota Statutes 160.262](#) (b), which requires MnDOT to "maintain bikeway design guidelines consistent with the state transportation goals in section 174.01."

#### Purpose

The purpose of this Technical Memorandum is to present revised guidance in the form of the attached Bike Manual. Bicycle facility design has advanced rapidly over the last few years. As MnDOT works to become more multimodal, MnDOT staff must stay abreast of current design practices. This Bike Manual introduces state-of-the-practice design and planning guidance to assist MnDOT staff so they can implement national policies; fulfill

state statutes; advance department policies, plans, and initiatives; and balance needs within project rights-of-way.

This document is intended to be a resource to help MnDOT engineers, planners, and designers plan for and implement context-appropriate bicycle facilities on MnDOT right-of-way.

The *MnDOT Bicycle Facility Design Manual* should be used in conjunction with current versions of the MnDOT Road Design Manual and the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MnMUTCD). The design guidance in this manual is largely adapted from current national bicycle design guidance and accepted industry practices, including the American Association of Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* (2012 and 2020 draft), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [Separated Bikeway Planning and Design Guide](#), and FHWA [Bikeway Facility Selection Guide](#).

The Road Design Manual is undergoing wholesale revisions. The Offices of Transit and Active Transportation and Traffic Engineering are working with Road Design Manual staff and anticipate information in the Bike Manual will be incorporated into the revised Road Design Manual.

## Guidelines

Refer to the manual online: [MnDOT Bicycle Facility Design Manual](#).  
([http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/eDIGS\\_guest/DMResultSet/download?docId=6976095](http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/eDIGS_guest/DMResultSet/download?docId=6976095))

## Questions

Any questions regarding the technical provisions of this Technical Memorandum can be addressed to either of the following:

**Hannah Pritchard**, Pedestrian and Bicycle Engineer; Office of Transit and Active Transportation  
**651-234-7376**

**Sonja Piper**, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Engineer; Office of Traffic Engineering  
**651-234-7376**

Any questions regarding publication of this Technical Memorandum should be referred to the Design Standards Unit, [DesignStandards.DOT@state.mn.us](mailto:DesignStandards.DOT@state.mn.us). A link to all active and historical Technical Memoranda can be found at <http://techmemos.dot.state.mn.us/techmemo.aspx>.

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