



County of Fairfax, Virginia

Requirements for Pedestrian Improvements on Road Projects in the Board's Six Year Priority Plan and on Bridges

Board Transportation Committee

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Guidance

- The Board has expressed some concerns about the width and right-of-way impacts of sidewalks and trails, especially on or adjacent to bridges
- Examples include the pedestrian facilities built with the Beltway Express Lanes, Route 7 Bridge over the Dulles Toll Road, and Soapstone Overpass



Guidance

- Fairfax County Policy Plan – part of the Comprehensive Plan approved by the Board in 2013
- VDOT Road Design Manual
- AASHTO – Federal Guidelines
- Board of Supervisors
- Community Engagement



Fairfax County Policy Plan

- **Transportation Objective 1:** “Provide for both through and local movement of people and goods via a multi-modal transportation system that provides transportation choices, reduces single-occupancy-vehicle (SOV) use and improves air quality.”
- The Board has reinforced this position repeatedly





Fairfax County Policy Plan

- **Objective 1, Policy a:**
“Integrate motorized and non-motorized transportation facilities and services in accordance with transportation elements in the Transportation Plan Map, the Countywide Trails Plan Map, Bicycle Network Map, and the Bicycle Master Plan.”





Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan

- In addition to the broad language included in the Policy Plan, each of the Area Plans in the Comprehensive Plan contains specific language for providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- In Reston and Tysons, sidewalks ranging from 6-10 feet are required as part of the streetscape
- A priority of the 2015 Economic Success Plan is an Efficient Transportation Network that includes comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian initiatives



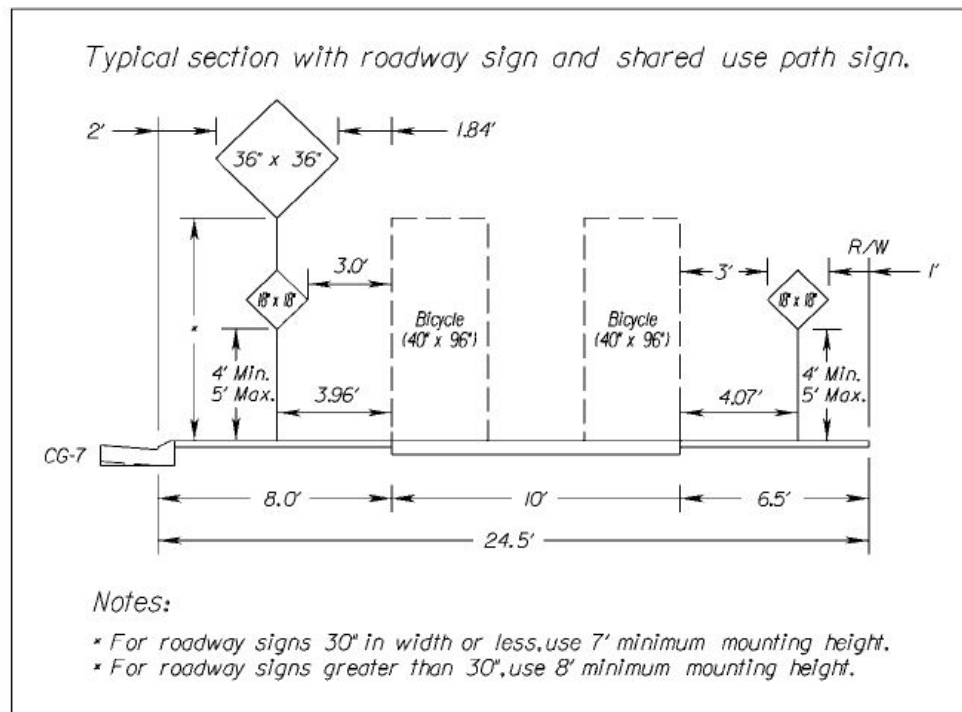
VDOT Road Design Manual (RDM)

- VDOT's Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations recognizes that "effective bicycle and pedestrian accommodations enhance the quality of life and health, strengthen communities, increase safety for all highway users, reduce congestion, and can benefit the environment."
- The policy further states that all projects shall accommodate bicycling and walking.



VDOT RDM- Shared Use Paths

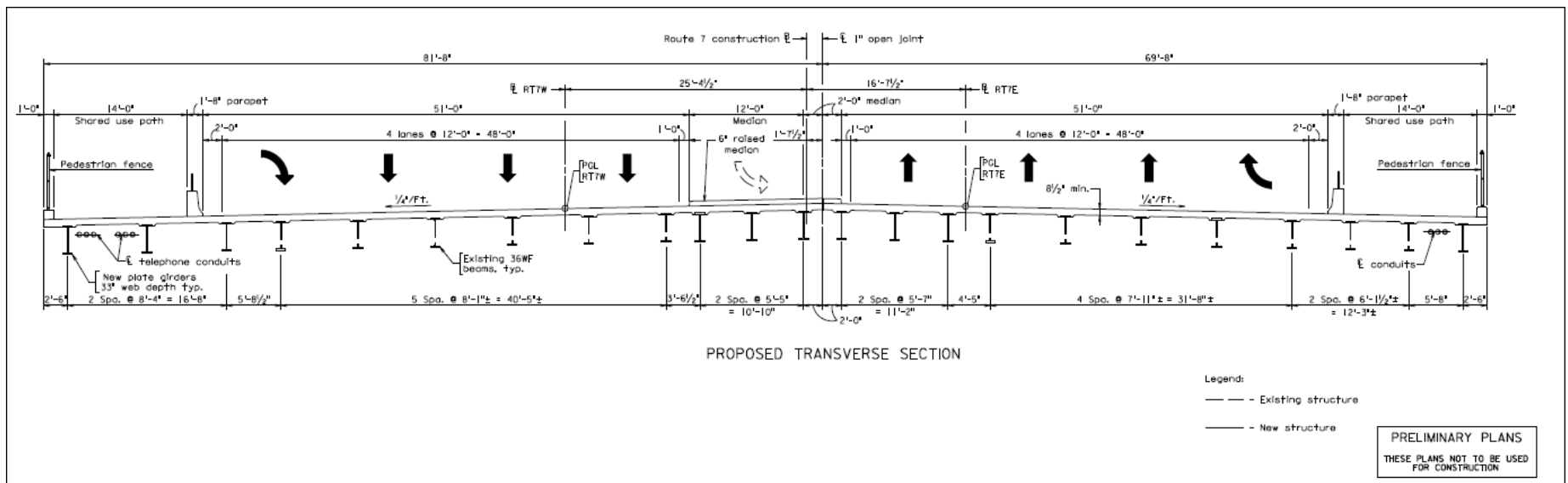
- The minimum paved width for a two-directional shared use path is 10 feet. For curb and gutter streets, the separation between face of curb to the edge of the shared use path shall be a minimum of 8 feet.





VDOT RDM -Shared Use Paths on Bridges

- On structures, minimum clear width shall be the same as the approach paved shared use path, plus minimum 2 ft wide clear areas on both sides of the path (i.e., 2+10+2=14 feet)
- Bridges typically last 75 years+, important to include pedestrian /bicycle facilities when built vs. retrofit

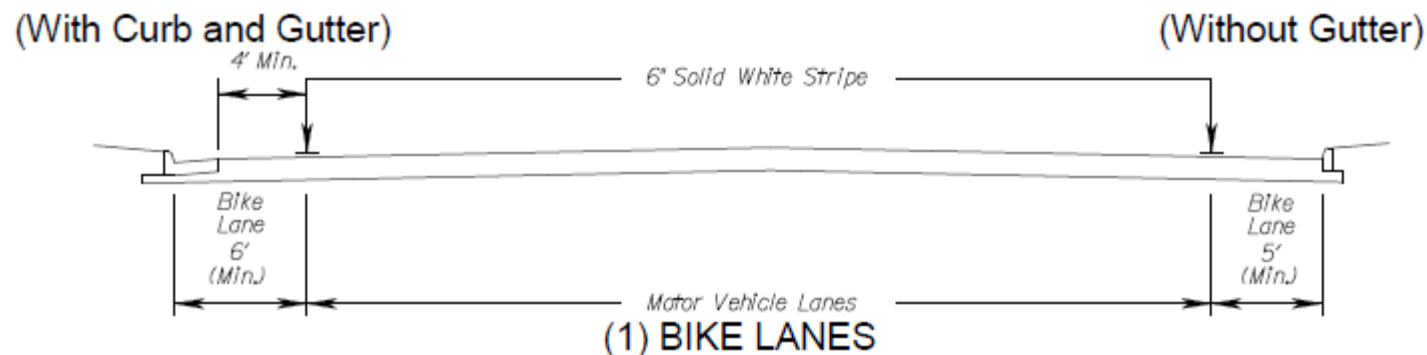




VDOT Road Design Manual

On-Road Bicycle Lanes

- The width of a bike lane is 5 feet minimum from the face of a curb to the bike lane stripe on roadways without a gutter pan. The width of a bike lane is 4 feet minimum from the edge of pavement (face of gutter pan) to the bike lane stripe on curb and gutter roadways.





Implementation Approach

- Design plans initially include all required minimum widths for sidewalk, shared-use path, and separation from roadway edge
- Through Board and community input, these minimum widths may be reduced by requesting a waiver of the standards
- Must still comply with federal regulations, such as *AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)



Board of Supervisors Input on Project Design

- Engagement during project scoping
 - Board aides invited to Project Initiation meetings
- Attendance at Public Meetings
- Board consideration of project design plans



Community Engagement

- Projects typically include a Public Hearing or Public Information Meeting to gain community input and discuss issues
- Property owners engaged throughout the Land Acquisition process when easements or dedication are needed
- Fairfax County and VDOT often host a project website describing project details, and offering opportunities to voice concerns



Questions?

