


**POLICY DIRECTIVE**  
COMMISSIONER**BICYCLE ROUTE AND SHARE THE ROAD SIGNING POLICY****THIS POLICY SUPERSEDES P-97-001**

Bicycle Route and Share the Road signing will be used by MassHighway to encourage bicycling on roadways of the Commonwealth. These signs will be installed on portions of roadways where a significant volume of bicycle use exists or is anticipated. Because both Bicycle Route and Share the Road signing imply a degree of comfort and safety, their use by MassHighway must be in strict conformance with the following policy:

This policy applies to all projects where the proposed design includes a bicycle route component. This policy also applies to all State highway's where bicycle routes are proposed for signage (whether or not a construction project is involved).

MassHighway will initially consider the use of Bicycle Route and/or Share the Road signs based on a formal request from a municipality or other responsible party (such as a recognized bicycle advisory board or committee). This request must include the following:

- documentation of a significant bicycling demand for the route,
- identification of the portions of roadway requested for signing,
- identification of a contiguous route and/or a physical destination (include maps),
- traffic volume and bicycle count information, and
- identification of the minimum roadway cross section provided (travel lane and paved shoulder width).

MassHighway will only consider signing a roadway as a bicycle route if strict adherence to bicycle-related measures have been provided on the proposed route. Bicycle Route signs will only be installed if the following conditions are met:

- Adherence to guidance for bicycle routes in accordance with AASHTO and MUTCD (from Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, AASHTO August 1991 or latest and Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, FHWA latest version)

- Roadway design in accordance with FHWA desirable standards (from Selecting Roadway Design Treatments to Accommodate Bicycles, FHWA-RD-92-073 Tables 4,5,6 latest version). When truck, bus and RV volumes exceed 5%, use the appropriate table values.
- Smooth, paved surfaces for the bicycle path of travel (with "bicycle safe" cascade drainage gates)
- Desirable sight distances (measured from expected bicycle path of travel)
- Consistent treatment (path of travel, signing, safety measures, etc.) throughout the signed corridor
- Connection to a contiguous bikeway system, or a specified designation, at each end of the signed roadway route
- Designated roadway crossings (crosswalks, signs, signals, etc.) where required, in accordance with MUTCD
- Potential conflict with motor vehicles must be minimized

Requests for Bicycle Route and/or Share the Road signing shall be submitted to the Deputy Chief Engineer or Highway Operations.

For installation of Bicycle Route signing, absolute conformance with the criteria in this policy is required; no waiver or exception process is available.

If absolute conformance is not provided, MassHighway will consider installation of Share the Road signing only. These signs will be used to designate roadways which a significant number of bicycles will use, but where full conformance with desirable design standards is not provided.

Where MassHighway determines that neither Bicycle Route nor Share the Road signs are permitted under this policy, bicyclists may still continue to use all roadways where bicycles are not legally prohibited.