Bicycle Boulevards

Credit: https://reconnectrochester.org/

WHAT ARE BICYCLE BOULEVARDS?

Bicycle boulevards are designated streets that prioritize bicyclist travel. These streets use a variety of treatments to reduce speeding and the number of cars, and make bicycling more comfortable for people of all ages and abilities.

Bike boulevards have many benefits:

- Improved safety for all street users
- More comfortable and enjoyable for people walking and bicycling

WHO ARE BICYCLE BOULEVARDS FOR?

Everyone! However, bike boulevards are designed specifically to be comfortable for people who are interested in biking but are concerned about safety on busy streets.

Bike boulevards also benefit people who don't bike by reducing speeding and cut-through traffic on residential streets.

WHAT TREATMENTS MAKE BICYCLE BOULEVARDS COMFORTABLE?

Along the route:

- Traffic calming (e.g., speed humps)
- Pavement markings
- Wayfinding Signs

At key intersections:

- High-visibility crossings
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons
- Traffic circles
- Raised crosswalks
- Bicycle signal detection
- Bike boxes

Also see pages 2 and 3

Bicycle Boulevard Intersection Examples

Bicycle Boulevard Treatments

These bicycle boulevard treatments are part of the bicycle planning "toolbox" and will be considered as the City implements bicycle boulevards. Many of these treatments can also be applied on streets without bicycle boulevards.

PAINT AND SIGNS

High-visibility Crosswalks

- Makes bicyclists and pedestrians easier to see and shows motorists where to stop when pedestrians or bicyclists are crossing. Includes clear pedestrian and bicycle crossings, advance yield markings, and "yield here to pedestrians and bicyclists" signs

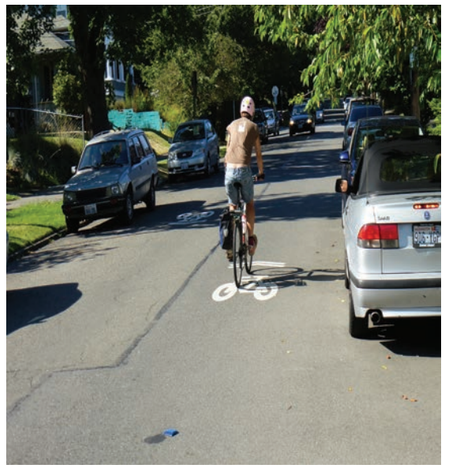
Bike Box

- Dedicated space between the crosswalk and vehicle stop line where bicyclists can wait during the red light at signalized intersections
- Improve visibility and motorists' awareness of bicyclists at intersections

Also see page 3

Painted Conflict Markings

- Improves visibility of bike crossings through intersections and alerts all roadway users of expected behaviors
- Reduces conflicts with turning vehicles



Pavement Markings

- Shared lane markings ("sharrows") signal to motorists and bicyclists that the street is a shared, slow street; larger "Bike Blvd" markings can also be used
- Sharrows show bicyclists where they should position themselves on the street
- Encourage bicyclists to use the full roadway and remind motorists to give bicyclists plenty of space

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Raised Crossings

- Make pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the street easier to see by raising them above the grade of the street
- Act like speed humps to help reduce motor-vehicle speeds

Mini Traffic Circles

- Circular islands installed in the center of local street intersections
- Reduce traffic speeds and crashes
- Commonly landscaped with bushes, flowers, or grass

Rectanguar Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB)

- RRFBs combine a crossing warning sign with a bright flashing beacon that is activated only when a pedestrian or bicyclist is present
- Increases motorists' yielding compliance and visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists

Speed Humps

- Provide a gentle rise on the roadway to slow motor vehicle speeds and improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety
- Designed for motor vehicles to cross them comfortably when traveling at or below the speed limit
- Typically placed in the middle of the block

Bike Detection/Push Button

- Bicycle push buttons are located on signal poles within reach of a bicyclist waiting in the roadway; the buttons trigger a green light for bicyclists once pushed (similar to pedestrian push buttons)
- Bicycle detectors are located in the street at intersections and trigger a green light for bicyclists who wait above the detector marking