



SEPARATED BIKE LANE

PLANNING & DESIGN GUIDE

2015

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

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Massachusetts Department of Transportation

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CHARLIE BAKER
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

STEPHANIE POLLACK
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AND CEO
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



It is my sincere pleasure to present the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's [Separated Bike Lane Planning & Design Guide](#). MassDOT is committed to providing Massachusetts residents and visitors with a variety of safe and convenient transportation choices; for us, incorporating facilities that encourage walking and bicycling trips into projects is no longer the exception but the rule. Many people—including me—are reluctant to bicycle adjacent to busy roadways alongside fast-moving traffic. That's where separated bicycle facilities come in. Separated bike lanes are a key ingredient in the development of safe, comfortable and connected bicycle networks that will attract bicyclists of all ages and abilities.

This pioneering Guide will significantly advance bicycle facility design in the Commonwealth and, we hope, set new precedents for design in the United States. This Guide gives planners and engineers the tools to create facilities that will appeal to a broad range of potential bicyclists. As more separated bicycle facilities are built, people who would otherwise be unwilling to bicycle will hopefully choose to turn a short drive into a bike trip to work or school, to do an errand or visit friends.

I particularly want to thank the experts and advocates both inside and outside MassDOT whose expertise and willingness to share that knowledge made this Guide possible. Because of their hard work, this is the first statewide guide to provide specific guidance on planning, design and operations for separated bike lanes. It includes innovative safety features, such as the 'protected intersection' which minimizes conflicts between road users and improves visibility between people bicycling and driving. The Guide provides the tools and design flexibility that will enable both MassDOT and our partners in cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth to create protected intersections and other separated bike lane treatments as part of Complete Streets and other sustainable transportation initiatives.

This Guide builds on years of work at MassDOT to make our statewide transportation system more sustainable, encourage residents to make more use of transit, walking and biking options, and promote construction of Complete Streets that are safe and convenient for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders alike. Our 2006 [Project Development & Design Guide](#) ensured that the safety and mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians would be considered equally throughout all phases of project development and design. In 2010, the [GreenDOT Policy Initiative](#) outlined key sustainability goals such as tripling bicycle, walking and transit trips by 2030. And the [Healthy Transportation Policy Directive](#) issued in 2013 committed MassDOT to ensuring that new projects increase and encourage bicycle, walking and transit trips. The Separated Bike Lane Planning & Design Guide represents the next—but not the last—step in MassDOT's continuing commitment to Complete Streets, sustainable transportation, and creating more safe and convenient transportation options for our residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steph Pollack'.

Stephanie Pollack

Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer

Massachusetts Department of Transportation

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The Massachusetts Department of Transportation would like to acknowledge the people who contributed to the successful development of this Guide. Through their combined efforts and expertise, we were able to provide a responsive, comprehensive, contemporary Guide that will ultimately help to make Massachusetts a better place to be with safe multimodal choices for transportation.

PROJECT TEAM

MassDOT

Luciano Rabito, P.E., Complete Streets Engineer and Project Manager

Thomas DiPaolo, P.E., Assistant Chief Engineer

Jim Danila, P.E., Assistant State Traffic Engineer

Bonnie Polin, Chief Safety Analyst

Courtney Dwyer, District 6 Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator

Henry Barbaro, Environmental Division Wetlands Unit Supervisor

George Batchelor, Landscaping Unit Supervisor

Toole Design Group

Nick Jackson Michelle Danila, P.E., PTOE

Jennifer Toole, AICP, ASLA Patrick Baxter, P.E., PTOE

Bill Schultheiss, P.E. John Dempsey, RLA

Jeremy Chrzan, P.E., PTOE,
LEED AP Pete Robie

Nick Schmidt, AICP Nathaniel Fink

WalkBoston

Wendy Landman, Executive Director

Bob Sloane, Senior Project Manager

MassBike

Richard Fries, Executive Director

Barbara Jacobson, Program Director

LivableStreets Alliance

Charlie Denison, Advocacy Director

Additional Experts

Peter G. Furth, Professor of Civil & Environmental
Engineering, Northeastern University

Clinton L. Wood, M.S.



Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

www.massdot.state.ma.us



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Charlie Baker, Governor

Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Stephanie Pollack, Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer

Thomas J. Tinlin, Highway Administrator

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer

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Chapter 1: Overview	1
1.1 Separated Bike Lane Definition	2
1.2 Purpose of the Guide	3
1.3 Design Users	4
1.4 Role of Separated Bike Lanes in Low-stress Networks	4
1.5 Basis of Design Guidance	6
1.6 Using this Guide	6
1.7 Endnotes	8
 Chapter 2: Planning	 9
2.1 Principles of Low-Stress Networks	10
2.2 Network Connectivity Considerations	11
2.3 Planning Process	11
2.4 A Framework for Selecting Separated Bike Lanes	12
2.5 Feasibility	18
2.6 Public Process	19
2.7 Endnotes	19

Chapter 3: General Design Considerations 21

3.1 Separated Bike Lane Zones	22
3.2 Bike Lane Elevation	24
3.3 Bike Lane Zone	29
3.4 Street Buffer Zone	34
3.5 Sidewalk Buffer Zone	39
3.6 Determining Zone Widths in Constrained Corridors	40
3.7 Pavement Markings and Signs	41
3.8 Drainage and Stormwater Management	42
3.9 Landscaping	45
3.10 Lighting	47
3.11 Utility Placement	48
3.12 Other Policies and Guidelines	48
3.13 Endnotes	49

Chapter 4: Intersection Design 51

4.1 Context	52
4.2 Design Principles	54
4.3 Common Intersection Design Treatments	68
4.4 Pavement Marking and Traffic Sign Guidance	80
4.5 Examples of Transitions Between Bikeway Types	85
4.6 Endnotes	89

Chapter 5: Curbside Activity Design	91
5.1 On-street Motor Vehicle Parking	92
5.2 Loading Zones	95
5.3 On-street Bike Parking	97
5.4 Bus Stops	98
 Chapter 6: Signals	 105
6.1 Guidance for Signalization	106
6.2 Signal Design	108
6.3 Signal Operations	112
6.4 Bicycle Detection	115
 Chapter 7: Maintenance	 123
7.1 Introduction	124
7.2 Maintenance Plans and Agreements	124
7.3 Seasonal Maintenance	125
7.4 Repair and Replacement	129
7.5 Construction Zones	130
7.6 Endnotes	130

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