

APPENDIX A – BICYCLING DEFINITIONS

Definitions (a) through (k) are from the Code of Federal Regulations Title 23: Highways, Part 652—Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodation and Projects. <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/>

(a) Bicycle. A vehicle having two tandem wheels, propelled solely by human power, upon which any person or persons may ride.

(b) Bikeway. Any road, path, or way which in some manner is specifically designated as being open to bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles or are to be shared with other transportation modes.

(c) Bicycle Path (Bike Path). A bikeway physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way. *In some states, such as California, this is called a Class I facility. This term is often used as slang and can cause confusion. The term bike path should not be used for multi-use or shared use facilities where non-bikers, such as pedestrians and in-line skater are permitted.*

(d) Bicycle Lane (Bike Lane). A portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. *In some states, such as California, this is called a Class II facility. Roads with shoulders can be striped and signed to become bicycle lanes. Paving wide shoulders not only provides room for bikes, it also provides for snow storage, vehicle recovery, better clear zones and sight lines.*

(e) Bicycle Route (Bike Route). A segment of a system of bikeways designated by the jurisdiction having authority with appropriate directional and informational markers, with or without a specific bicycle route number. *In some states, such as California, this is called a Class III facility.*

Figure 9B-4. Guide Signs for Bicycle Facilities



Figure 35: Bicycle Route Sign MUTCD (FHWA, 2003).

(f) **Shared Roadway.** Any roadway upon which a bicycle lane is not designated and which may be legally used by bicycles regardless of whether such facility is specifically designated as a bikeway.

(g) **Pedestrian Walkway or Walkway.** A continuous way designated for pedestrians and separated from the through lanes for motor vehicles by space or barrier.

(h) **Highway Construction Project.** A project financed in whole or in part with Federal-aid or Federal funds for the construction, reconstruction or improvement of a highway or portions thereof, including bridges and tunnels.

(i) **Independent Bicycle Construction Project (Independent Bicycle Project).** A project designation used to distinguish a bicycle facility constructed independently and primarily for use by bicyclists from an improvement included as an incidental part of a highway construction project.

(j) **Independent Pedestrian Walkway Construction Project (Independent Walkway Project).** A project designation used to distinguish a walkway constructed independently and solely as a pedestrian walkway project from a pedestrian improvement included as an incidental part of a highway construction project.

(k) **Incidental Bicycle or Pedestrian Walkway Construction Project (Incidental Feature).** One constructed as an incidental part of a highway construction project.

Pathways, greenways and shared use paths are also common terms that refer to facilities separated from the roadway where pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized users can travel.

Greenways - Linear, open space corridors that include trails and facilities for non-motorized transportation and recreation. Greenways differ from traditional single-track hiking trails because they are designed to be accessible to a wide range of users, provide outdoor experiences to ‘average’ people who might not otherwise spend time on trails, and because they can provide a transportation function as well as recreation. (Olsen, 2007)

Shared-Use Path—a bikeway outside the traveled way and physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent alignment. Shared-use paths are also used by pedestrians (including skaters, users of manual and motorized wheelchairs, and joggers) and other authorized motorized and non-motorized users. (FHWA, 2003)

Singletrack - Term used to describe a trail that is only wide enough for one person or bicyclist at a time, thus users must ride or walk single file. Single-track trails are especially popular with mountain bikers.

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/proposed_amend/npa_textshowingrev.pdf for new bicycle definitions proposed for the MUTCD.

Other bicycle facilities or projects include: Bicycle and pedestrian plans, maps, bike racks on buses, bicycle parking racks and lockers, bicycle storage/service centers, signal improvements, curb cuts and ramps, bicycle/ pedestrian coordinator position, safety/education position and bicycle police patrol.