PBIC Webinar

Bicycle RSAs: How to Conduct Road Safety Audits and How to Use Them to Promote Bicyclist Safety



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Sept. 26, 2013, 2 pm



Today's Presentation

- **⇒** Introduction and housekeeping
- **⇒** Audio issues? Dial into the phone line instead of using "mic & speakers"
- ⇒ PBIC Trainings and Webinars www.walkinginfo.org
- Registration and Archives at walkinginfo.org/webinars
- **⇒** PBIC News and updates on Facebook www.facebook.com/pedbike
- Questions at the end



Topics Covered in this Presentation

- What is an RSA?
- What is the purpose of a bicycle RSA guide?
- Review bicycle RSA guide content
- RSA process
- Case studies in applying RSAs to improve accommodations for bicyclists





Cycling in the United States

- An effective method for travel and the primary means of transportation for many.
- An integral part of transportation plans since the passage of the ISTEA in 1991.

However....

Bicycle trips are more likely to result in a fatality or injury than motor vehicle trips



What is a Road Safety Audit?

A road safety audit is a <u>formal safety</u> <u>performance</u> examination of an existing or future road or intersection by an <u>independent multidisciplinary RSA team</u>.







Why an RSA Guide?

- RSAs may not adequately consider cyclists.
- RSAs can be used to address cyclists' issues.
- Crash data typically does not tell the whole story.
- People bike in almost every environment.







Purpose of the Guidelines

- To provide transportation agencies and RSA teams with a better understanding of the safety of cyclists in the transportation system when conducting an RSA.
- Emphasizes a "behind the handlebars" perspective.



Scope of Guidelines

 All elements of the roadway and pathway network where cyclists are permitted:



 On-road accommodations (e.g., shared roadways and roads with designated bicycle facilities, like marked bicycle lanes)



 Off-road cycling facilities (e.g., shared used paths and separated bike facilities)

Bicycle RSA Guide Outline

- Introduction
- Principles of Bicyclist Safety
- Bicyclists in the RSA Process
- Using the Prompt Lists
- Prompt Lists



U.S. Department of licraportation Federal Highway Administration





HWA-SA-12-018

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/fhwasa12018/

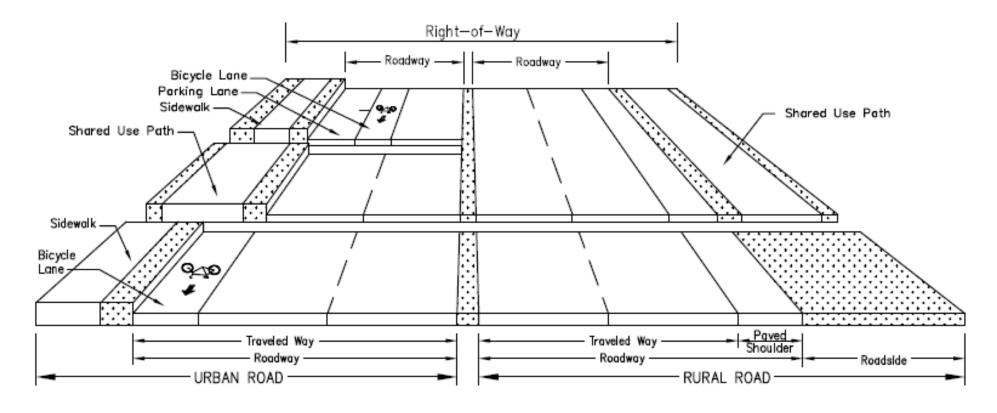




Knowledge Base

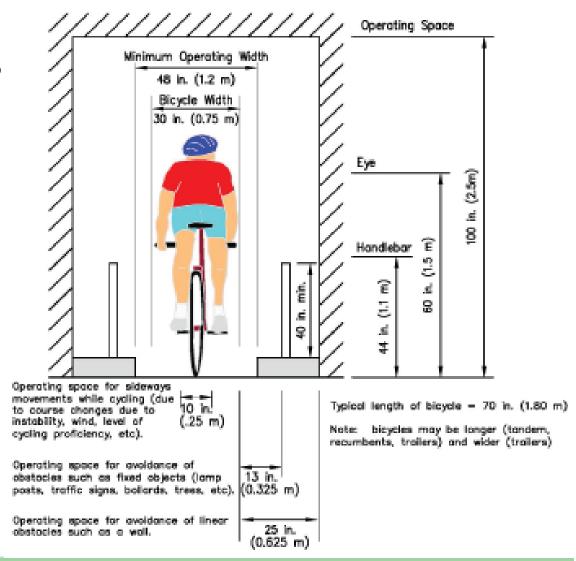
- Standards/Guidelines
- Successful Practices/Guides
- Safety Resources
- State Resources
- RSA Guidance
- Quantitative Assessment Tools

Roadway Elements that Relate to Cyclists



The Characteristics of Cyclists

- Space
- Length
- **Stability**
- Speed
- **Vulnerability**



The Characteristics of Cyclists

- Space
- Length
- Stability
- Speed
- Vulnerability







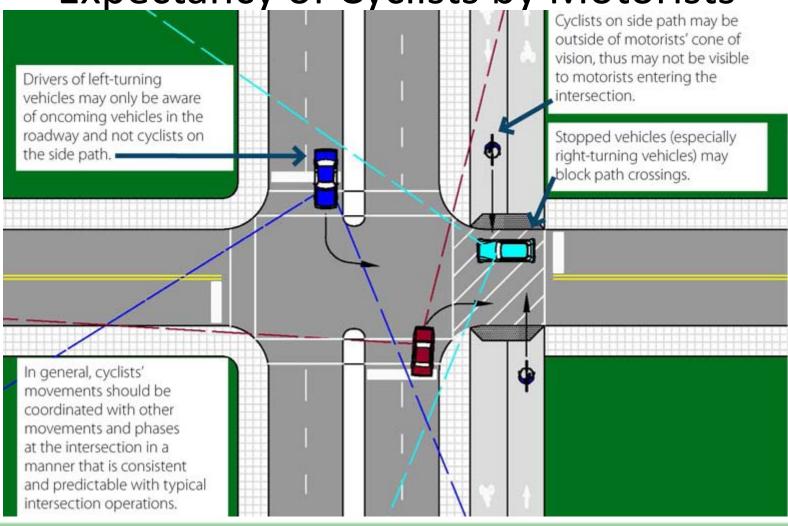


The Cycling Network

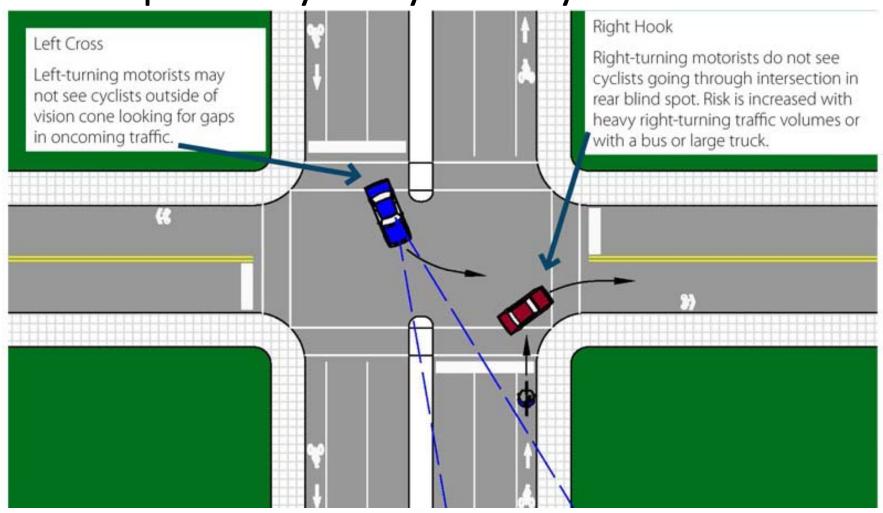
- **Directness**
- **Continuity and Connectivity**
- Comfort



Expectancy of Cyclists by Motorists

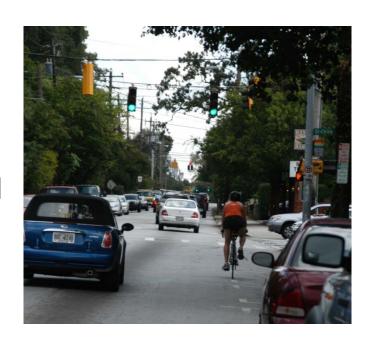


Expectancy of Cyclists by Motorists



Factors that Contribute to Bicycle Crashes: Location

- A majority of bicycle-motor vehicle collisions (approximately 70 percent) occur in urban areas
- 51 percent intersection-related
- 22 percent at junctions with commercial and private driveways or alleys
- 27 percent occurred on roadway segments





Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Crash Types

from FHWA's Six-State Study, North Carolina, and Orlando, Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

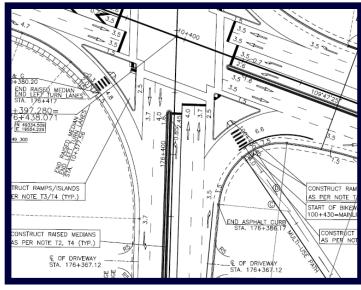
Bicycle Crash Type Groups	Per centage of Crashes							
	FHWA (early '90s)	North Carolina Urban ('04-'08)	North Carolina Rural ('04-'08)	Orlando Metropolitan Area ('03-'04)				
CROSSING PATHS								
Motorist failure to yield – intersection	14.4	13.9	5.5	14.0				
Bicyclist failure to yield – intersection	16.8	15.3	7.9	14.0				
Bicyclist failure to yield – midblock	11.7	8.6	10.8	9.3				
Motorist failure to yield – midblock (driveway/alley)	6.9	8.5	3.0	10.1				
Turning errors – bicyclist and motorist	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.7				
Bicyclist failure to clear intersection	1.4	1.3	U.Z	0.0				
Crossing Path Total	52.6	49.1	29.1	50.1				
PARALLEL PATHS								
Motorist turned/merged into path of bicyclist	12.1	13.2	69	8.1				
Motorist overtaking bicyclist	8.6	8.9	29.3	8.1				
Bicyclist turned/merged into path of motorist	7.3	6.8	16.9	5.4				
Bicyclist overtaking motorist	2.7	1.6	0.7	0.6				
Operator wrong side/head-on (motorist or bicyclist)	2.8	2.1	5.6	2.5				
Motorist loss of control	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.3				
Bicyclist loss of control	1.8	2.2	1.3	1.0				
Parallel Path Total	35.9	35.1	61.2	26				
Total for Common Crash Types Listed	88.5	84.2	91 <mark>.</mark> 3	76.1				



The 8-Step RSA Process



RSA Step 1: Identify the Project

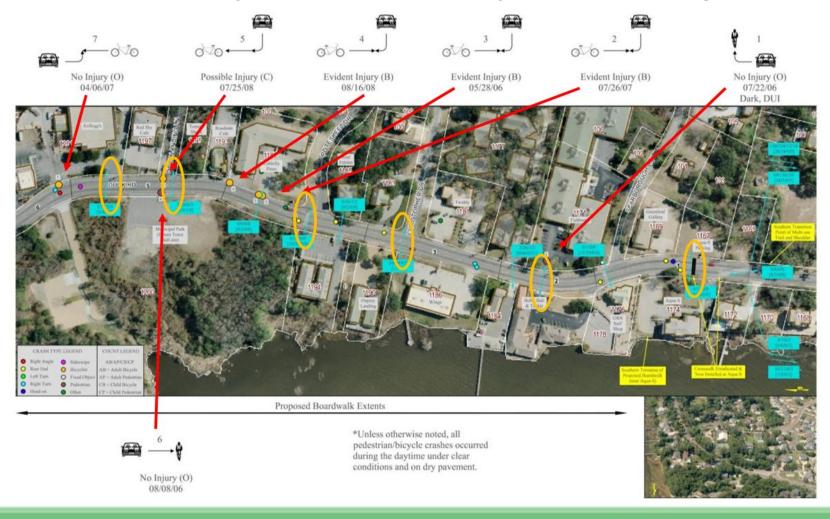


Design stage project

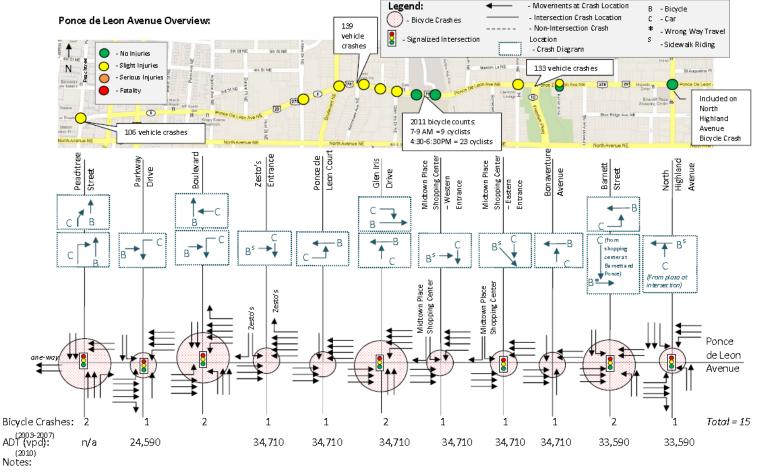


In-service project

RSA Step 1: Identify the Project



RSA Step 1: Identify the Project



- Vehicle crashes are from 2003-2006; see Appendix A for additional vehicular crash data.
- b. See Table 1 for additional bicycle count data

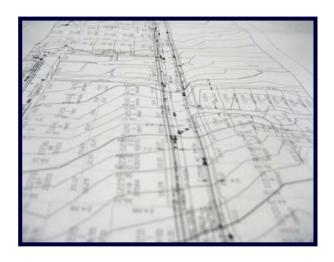
RSA Step 1: Identify the Project Post-construction or In-service RSA Candidates





- High-collision sites
- High-profile
- Sites at which traffic characteristics have changed
- Unusual or new features
- Context-sensitive design
- Seasonal changes in traffic

RSA Step 1: Identify the Project Design Stage RSAs





- Opportunity to enhance safety of design
- Follows same process
- The earlier the better

RSA Step 2: Select the RSA Team Core Skills

Operations





Geometric



Supplementary Skills:

- **Human factors**
- **Specialists**
- **Enforcement**
- Maintenance

Road users/human factors

RSA Step 2: Select the RSA Team



- Independent
- Experienced
- Multidisciplinary

RSA Step 3: Conduct Start-up Meeting

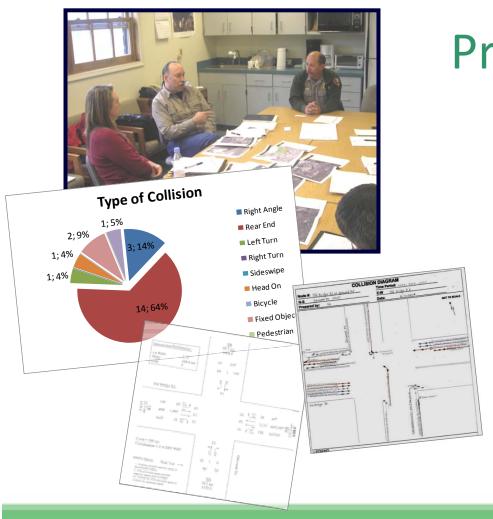
Agenda

- Introductions
- Project objectives
- RSA process
- Schedule
- Exchange of information

RSA Agenda						
Day 1	Date					
9.00 – 9.30 AM	Introduction to RSA process					
9.30 – 10.00 AM	Project objectives/background					
10.00 – 12.00 PM	Initial site visit by car					
12.00 – 1.00 PM	Lunch					
1.00 – 5.00 PM	Detailed site review					
5.00 – 6.30 PM	Peak hour review					
6.30 – 8.30 PM	Dinner					
8.30 – 9.30 PM	Nighttime site review					
Day 2	Date					
7.30 – 9.30 AM	Continue detailed site review					
10.00 – 12.00 PM	Individual assignments					
12.00 – 1.00 PM	Lunch					
1.00 – 3.00 PM	RSA team develops workshop summary/					
3.30 - 4.30 PM	Preliminary findings meeting					
persons respon RSA team acti and developing Optional RSA	ng – all need to attend especially "roadway owners" i.e., sible for development of plans and/or facility owner vity – all who are interested in participating in the site visits suggestions (excluding roadway owners) team activity – FHWA anticipates doing this work on their nes all who are interested in participating					



RSA Step 3: Conduct Start-up Meeting



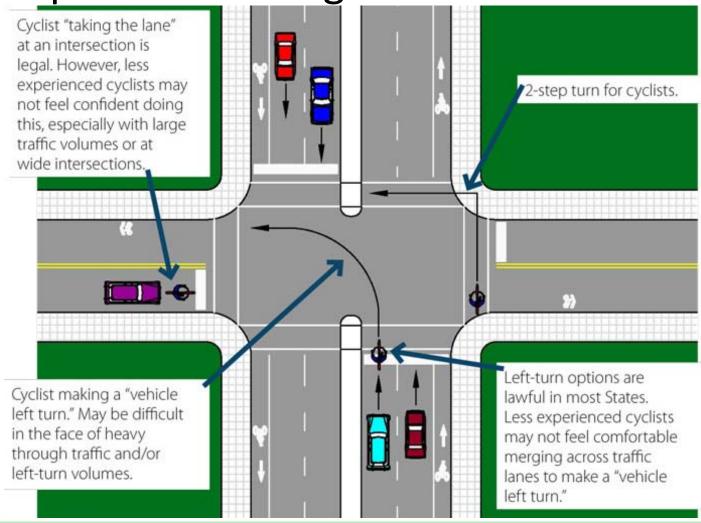
Project Information

- Crash history
- Traffic volumes
- Aerial photographs
- Design drawings
- **Background reports**
 - Plans
 - Policies
 - Standards
 - Local laws/statutes

3

Bicyclists in the RSA Process

RSA Step 3: Discuss Legal Movements for Cyclists



RSA Step 4: Perform Field Reviews

- Observe road user behaviors.
- Observe roadway characteristics.
- Designate secretary and photographer.



RSA Step 4: Perform Field Reviews

Observe Variable Conditions:





Drive the RSA site.

Walk the RSA site.



RSA Step 4: Perform Field Reviews Bike the RSA site.









RSA Step 5: Conduct RSA Analysis

- Workshop setting
- Review background reports
- Systematically review design drawings and/or other information
- Identify, prioritize, and mitigate safety issues





RSA Step 5: Conduct RSA Analysis

- Identify and prioritize safety concerns
- Develop suggestions for reducing the degree of risk

Frequency of Crashes	Severity of Crashes					
	Possible/Minor Injury	Moderate Injury	Serious Injury	Fatal		
Frequent	Moderately High	Hígh	Highest	Highest		
Occasional	Míddle	Moderately High	Hígh	Híghest		
Infrequent	Low	Míddle	Moderately High	Hígh		
Rare	Lowest	Low	Míddle	Hígh		

RSA Step 6: Present Findings to Owner

- RSA team, design team, owner
- Discuss preliminary findings and possible solutions
- Use results to write RSA report





RSA Step 6: Present Findings to Owner



The Formal Report:

- Summarizes the project
- Identifies team
- **Documents site visits**
- **Documents** results
- Identifies and prioritizes safety concerns
- May include suggestions for improvements

Bicyclists in the RSA Process

RSA Step 7: Prepare a Formal Response



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 4, 2006

TO: Roadway Safety Audit Team

FROM: Richard B. Nassi

Transportation Administrator

SUBJECT: Response to Road Safety Audit Recommendations

Project: Road Safety Audit of six "HAWK" Pedestrian Crossing Sites, Tucson Arizona Contract DTFH61-03-D00105 Task Order BMISG05B022 Description: Installation of six HAWK Pedestrian Crossings City-wide

Issue 1: Use of the Alternating Flashing RED Signal Indication. During on-site observations of the existing HAWK (installations, most drivers were observed to remain stopped until the alternating flashing RED sequence has ended, even though they may legally pass through the crosswalk. Of those drivers who did proceed during the alternating flashing RED sequence, many following drivers continued slowly through the crosswalk without coming to a full STOP as required by law at a flashing RED beacon. Drivers who illegally enter the crosswalk during the flashing RED display may conflict with pedestrians legally in the crossing during the pedestrian clearance phase. This risk was rated B (low risk level).

The following suggestion(s) were discussed and action(s) were taken:

- Additional Signing: Additional regulatory signaling was installed at selected HAWK crossing to determine their impact upon drivers as well as extensive educational program and enforcement. The black on white signs read "STOP-MAY PROCEED WITH CAUTION WHEN FLASHING". Observation of the signing over the last year, as well as the media campaign, has shown little change in the driver's behavior. However, enforcement has made a significant impact upon individual driver's behavior as it does with other traffic enforcement.
- Eliminate flashing interval: The HAWK operation is very effective in gaining appropriate driver compliance at pedestrian crossings and significantly increases the percentage of drivers voluntarily stopping for pedestrians. The beacon signal displays a solid RED indication to traffic during the WALK interval and is then followed by an alternating flashing RED interval during the flashing DON'T WALK interval. The current alternating RED flashing sequence was adopted from the successful operations used in Europe, which uses a flashing AMBER at PELICAN crossings, and Los Angeles, which uses a flashing RED indication at midblock crossings. The advantages of the flashing RED indication a) allows the reasonable and prudent driver to proceed when it is safe to do so, and b) better matches the crossing time needs of the individual pedestrian to actual delay thus maintaining high driver compliance. It is impossible to have a pre-determined crossing time match the time necessary for all individuals that may cross. The beacon signal operation needs to match the user expectancy in order to keep the compliance high. The key to the issue is that the operation of the STOP command should be generally only as long as the pedestrian needs to cross and reach the other curb and not become

- Prepared by the local road agency (with possible input from designer)
- For each issue, identifies what action will (or will not) be taken with a brief explanation
- Part of the project record

Bicyclists in the RSA Process

RSA Step 8: Incorporate Findings

Implementation - may depend on policy, manpower, and/or funding.

- Some improvements can be implemented relatively quickly
 - Short-Term
 - Intermediate
 - Long-Term





Prompt Lists: Content

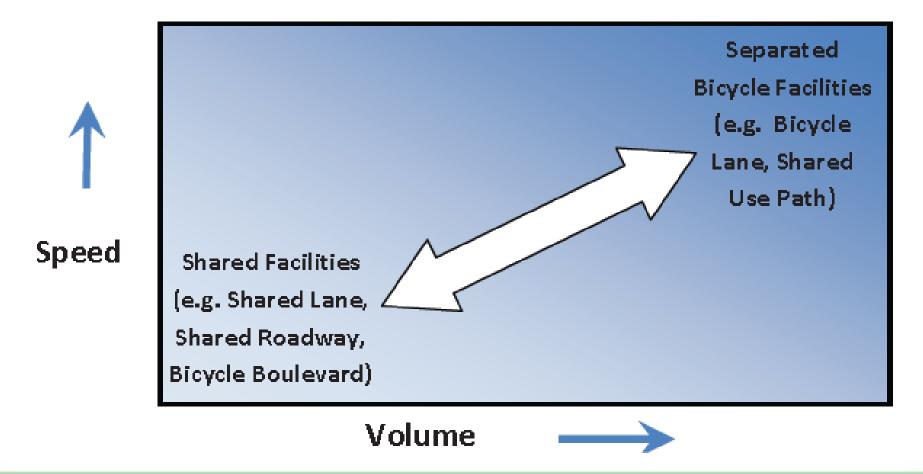
- Designed to assist RSA team members.
- Context considerations
- Behavioral considerations
- Overall considerations in Master prompt list:
 - 12 major topic areas
 - 5 RSA zones

Each with an associated

prompt



Context: General Bicycle Facility Utilization







Prompts to Use when Assessing Cyclist and Other Road User **Behavior**

Watch for cyclists needing to merge and allow space for them to do so?

Stop at intersections when required to do so?

Yield to opposing bicycle traffic when turning left under a green signal?

Do roadway users bok/scan for other travel modes?

Are roadway/pathi users courteous to each other?

Do motorists:

- Allow extra space or reduce speed as needed when overtaking or driving near bicyclists?
- Look for and yield to bicyclists before changing lanes, turning, parking or opening candoors?
- Avoid loud horn blasts when overtaking or driving near bicyclists?

Watch for cyclists needing to merge and allow space for them to do so?

Refrain from speeding?

Do evelists:

- Give an alert call or signal (such as using a bell) when passing pedestrians or other bicyclists on shared use facilities?
- Ride at a safe speed and follow safe practices for the conditions?
- Slow down for pedestrians and wait for a safe passing opportunity?

Stop at intersections when required to do so?

Do pedestrians:

- Stay to the right?
- Avoid abrupt changes in direction?
- Avoid stepping out in front of cyclists without looking?
- Keep dogs on leashes and out of the way of other path users?

Do all modes

Use special lanes (e.g., bus/bicycle-only lanes, drop-off zones, etc.) appropriately.

Do motorists follow: traffic laws and

rules of the road?

Do motorists:

- Obey posted speed limits and local ordinances?
- Avoid unsafe overtaking or passing cyclists too closely?
- Check for and yield to through cyclists before turning right, either from a stopped position or after overtaking a bicyclist traveling to the right?
- Avoid passing left-turning cyclists on the left?
- Use proper signals to indicate intentions?
- Obey traffic controls including signs, signals, and pavement markings?
- Look in both directions and yield to bicyclists and other traffic when turning and entering and exiting the roadway?
- Avoid parking in bicycle lanes or double-parking?

Yield to opposing bicycle traffic when turning left under a green signa?



Prompts to Use when Assessing Cyclist and Other Road User **Behavior (cont.)**

Travel with the flow of traffic?

Are bicycles and bicyclists properly equipped with active, white headlamps and rear, red tailights?

Do roadway users look/scan for other travel modes?

Do bievelists observe the rules of the road and other safe ridina practices?

Do biovelists:

- Travel with the flow of traffic?
- Position themselves properly in the lane/path? Consider the conditions present, such as narrow lane widths, on-street parking, turning conflicts, poor sight lines, and pavement conditions?
- Make left turns from the appropriate lane?
- Checkfor approaching traffic, including pedestrians on walkways, and yield before. entering/crossing a roadway at any type of junction (intersection, driveway, or shared use path)?
- Understand and obey the posted traffic control devices and local ordinances?
- Check behind for traffic before changing lanes or merging with traffic on a different traveled way?
- Use proper hand signals to indicate turning or stopping intentions?
- If bicycle restrictions are present, do cyclists adhere to those restrictions and only use permitted areas or facilities?
- Avoid passing traffic on the right and occupying blind spots where they may face. conflicts with right-turning motorists?
- Transport children using proper child seats and helmets?

Do bicyclists rideon the sidewalk?

- Does sidewalk riding contribute to conflicts with motor vehicles at intersections and driveways?
- Do cyclists dismount and avoid cycling on sidewalks in high-pedestrian traffic areas?
- Does sidewalk riding contribute to conflicts with pedestrians?

Are bidyalists practicing methods to increase their conspicuity at niaht?

- Are bicycles and bicyclists properly equipped with active, white headlamps and rear, red
- Do bicyclists supplement required lighting and reflectors with retroreflective gear and clothing at night?



Master Prompt List: Topics 1-5

- 1: Presence & Availability
- 2: Design & Placement
- 3: Operations
- 4: Quality & Conditions
- 5: Obstructions

	RSA Zones							
	A. Street or Path	B. Structures	C. Intersections, Crossings, and Interchanges	D. Transitions	E. Transit			
	1. Presence & Availability	/						
1	Are cyclists accommoda	e cyclists accommodated? sign & Placement e design features esent that tunnels designed with a designed with a designed to more placed in the cycling accommodations impact the use of the facility? e there suitable provisions for cyclists access management practices detract e type of the cyclists accommodations on both sides? Does the gradient of the cycling accommodations impact the use of the facility? Each of the cyclists accommodations accommodations on both sides? Does the gradient of the cycling accommodations impact the use of the facility? Each of the cyclists accommodations accommodations accommodations impact the use of the facility? Each of the cyclists accommodations accommodations accommodations impact the use of the facility? Each of the cyclists accommodations accomm						
ľ	2. Design & Placement							
	adversely impact the use of the facility by cyclists?	tunnels designed with adequate bicycle accommodations on both sides? Does the gradient of the cycling accommodations impact the use of	interchange accommodations designed to reduce conflicting movements and communicate proper bicycle positioning through the	designed with logical termini or do they end abruptly, potentially contributing to sudden and difficult merges, midblock crossings, or behaviors such as wrong-	facilities designed and placed to minimize conflicts with			
ľ	3. Operations	1						
/ -	given the characteristic: path (speed, volume, tra classification)?	s of the roadway or affic, and functional	operations (especially during peak periods) create a safety concern for	geometrics changé substantially or	facilities designed and placed to minimize conflicts with			
Ī	4. Quality & Conditions							
	Is the riding surface smooth, stable, and free of debris and is drainage adequate? Are drainage	Is the grating/ bridge surface designed for cyclists? Is drainage adequate to accommodate bicyclists?	Are there any obstacles at crossings? Are the manhole covers properly designed?	Is there an abrupt change in riding surface?	Are transit stops maintained during periods of inclement weather?			
		Are there longitudinal or transverse joints that may cause cyclists problems?						
Y	5. Obstructions							
	Are there any horizontal or vertical obstructions (temporary or permanent) along the facility?	Is there adequate horizontal and vertical clearance?	are used, is the risk of (abrupt change in riding surface? during periods of inclement weather? rother physical terminal devices the risk of occasional motorized area free of eater than the risk of a fixed object temporary/				





Master Prompt List: Topics 6-12

6: Roadside

7: Continuity & Connectivity

8: Lighting

9: Visibility

10: Signs & Pavement Markings

11: Signals

12: Human Factors/Behavior

	RSA Zones								
	A. Street or Path	B. Structures	C. Intersections, Crossings, and Interchanges	D. Transitions	E. Transit				
	6. Roadside								
	Is the clear zone for cyclists 'o perating space adequate?	Are railings, guardrail, and/or parapets and other structures installed at an appropriate height and shy distance?	If bollards or other physical terminal devices are used, is the risk of occasional motorized vehicles greater than the risk of a fixed object within the travel way?		Are bicycle accommodations connected and convenient for transit users?				
	7. Continuity & Connect	tivity							
	Are bicycle accommodations continuous? Do bicycle accommodations provide adequate connectivity to major destinations?	Are bicycle accommodations continuous, or do they end about at bridge/tunnel crossings?	Are bicycle accommodations continuous, or do they end abruptly at crossings/ intersections/ interchanges?	Is there a safe way for cyclists from both directions to access connections or continue to other destinations along the street network?	Are crossings convenient and free of potential hazards for cyclists?				
	8. Lighting								
	Is the riding surface adequately lit?	Are bridges and tunnels adequately lit?	Are the intersection/transition and paths leading to the transition adequately lit?		Are transit access ways and facilities adequately lit?				
	9. Visibility								
/	is the visibility of cyclists using the facility adequate from the perspective of all road users?	Can cyclists see approaching vehicles/ pedestrians, and vice versa?	Can cyclists see approaching vehicles/ pedestrians at all legs of an intersection/ crossing, and vice versa?	Is the visibility of cyclists as they make the transition from one facility or roadway geometry to another adequate from the perspective of all road users?	Is the visibility of cyclists using the facility adequate from the perspective of all road users?				
Y	10. Signs & Pavement Markings								
\	Are signs and markings along the riding surface visible, well- maintained, easily understood, and adequate?	Are adequate warning signs posted at entrances?	Do signs and markings along the cycling facility clearly indicate the cyclist path and right-of-way at intersections?	Are signs and markings at transition areas appropriate?	Are signs and markings at designated areas for cyclists using transit appropriate?				
\ Y	11. Signals								
1	If bicycle traffic signalization and detection are present, are they properly positioned, functioning, and effective?								
1	Does the traffic signal design accommodate all users?								
1	12. Human Factors / Behavior								
	What are all roadway	users (vehicles, bicyclists	s, pedestrians, transit, et	s:.) doing with regards to bi	cycle traffic, and				

Prompt List Key

Master Prompt

Sub-Prompt, or detailed prompt and description, presents more detailed potential concerns

A.2: Are design features present that adversely impact the use of the facility by cyclists?

Sub-Prompt

A.2.4: Would bicycle lanes or separated facilities improve conditions for cyclists and if so, is there adequate separation between vehicular and bicycle traffic?

Some detailed promptsinclude photos showing potential issues or strategies used to address issues.

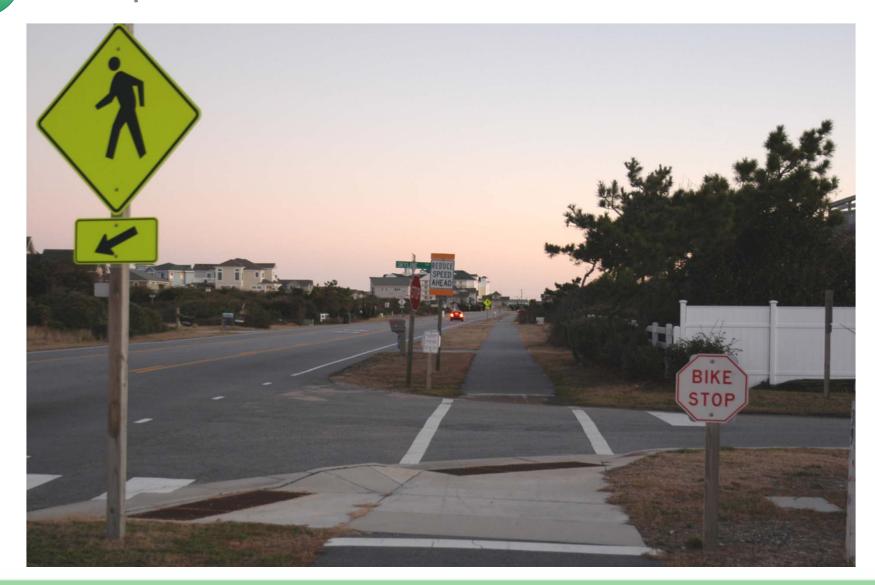


Description

 On-road accommodations: As shown in Figure 17, shared lanes are typically appropriate on lowspeed, low-volume roads. Bike lanes or separated facilities may be more appropriate on high-speed, high-volume roads. Adequacy of the separation distance of these facilities is a function of vehicle speed, volume, and composition. Beyond meeting minimum standards, the width of on-road facilities should consider the wind impacts from passing heavy vehicles.

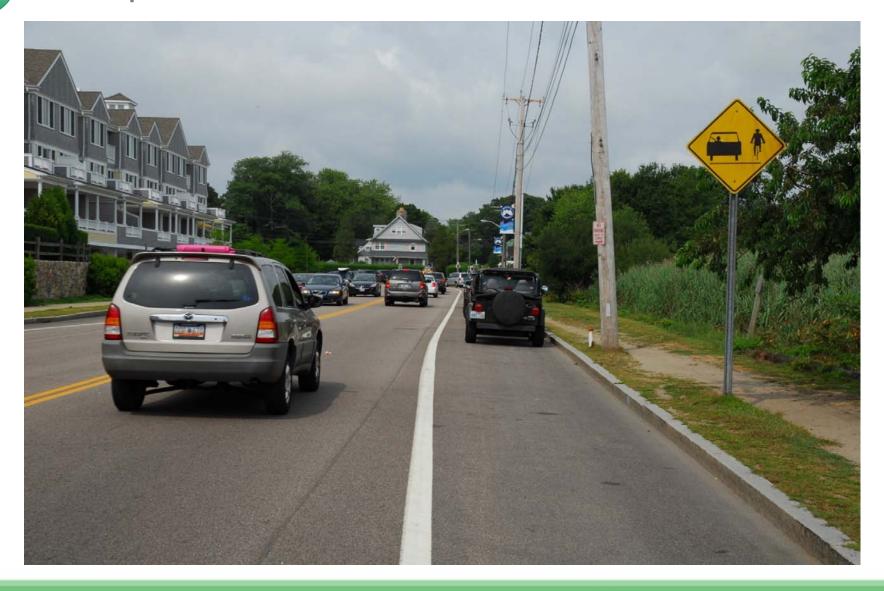
The high-speed roadway in the photo to the left has a wide bicycle lane designated by an 8 inch longitudinal marking and arrow/symbol pavement markings.

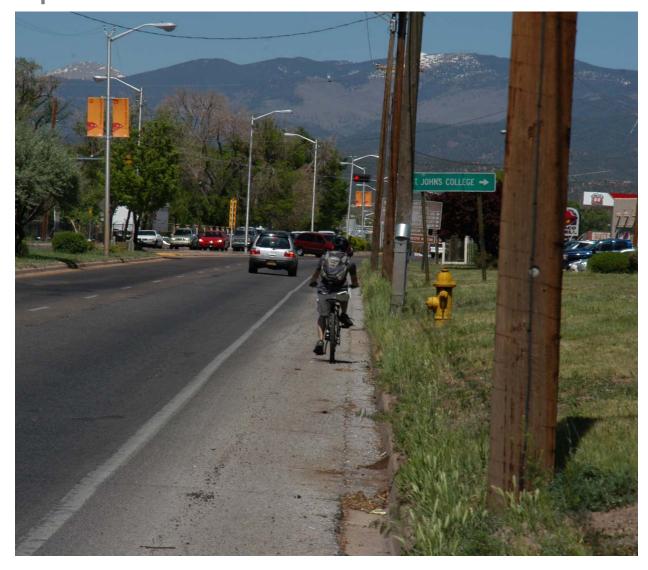














Questions?



RSA Applications to Address Bicyclists Needs

- Middletown, RI: RSA Bicycle enhancements
- Newport, RI RSA & public outreach
- Aquidneck Island, RI RSA & Regional connections
- Providence, RI Bike plan & initiating RSA



RSA Bicyclist Enhancements

RSA: Bicycle Enhancements Middletown, RI

Project Purpose:

- Focus along roadways with heavy commercial/retail traffic volumes
- Possible route for regional traffic



Existing conditions:

- Four-lane roadway with wide outside lanes.
- High vehicle speeds.
- Lack of awareness of bicyclists needs.





RSA Team:

- RIDOT (state owned)
- City officials
- US Navy staff
- Police
- Local bike advocates
- Regional planning org





Data:

- Traffic volume
- Speed
- Roadway geometrics
- Crash history
 - Field review by RSA **Team**



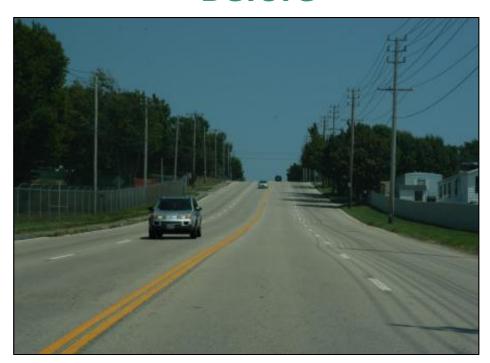


Proposed Measures:

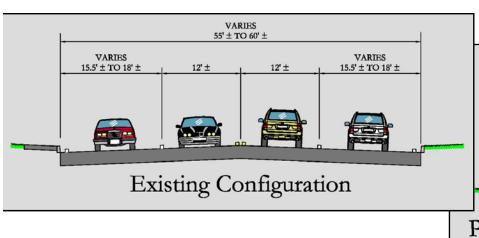
- Bike Lane-Retrofitting Existing Roadways with a Road Diet
 - Reduce number of travel lanes
 - Mark two-way left turn lane
 - Bike lanes with buffer

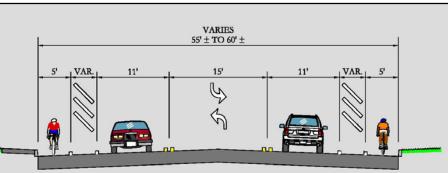


Before After

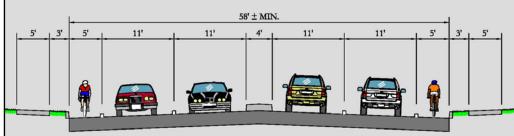








Potential Near-term/Intermediate Configuration



Potential Long-term Configuration (west of Burma Road South)

Project Purpose:

Improve bicycle accommodation in Newport, RI along roadways with heavy tourist traffic volumes



Existing conditions:

- Multi-lane roadway
- Wide raised grassed median
- High vehicle speeds
- Lack of shoulders for bicycle travel
- On-street parking on one side
- Steep grades for bicycles.
- One bicycle fatality in 2012 (run down from behind)



RSA Team included:

- RIDOT (state owned roadway)
- City officials
- Police
- Local bike advocates
- Regional planning org



Data

- Traffic volume
- Speed
- Roadway geometrics
- Crash history

Field review by RSA Team



Proposed Solution

- Public outreach and video demo
- Road Diet:
 - Reduce number of travel lanes
 - Mark left turn lanes
 - Bike lanes





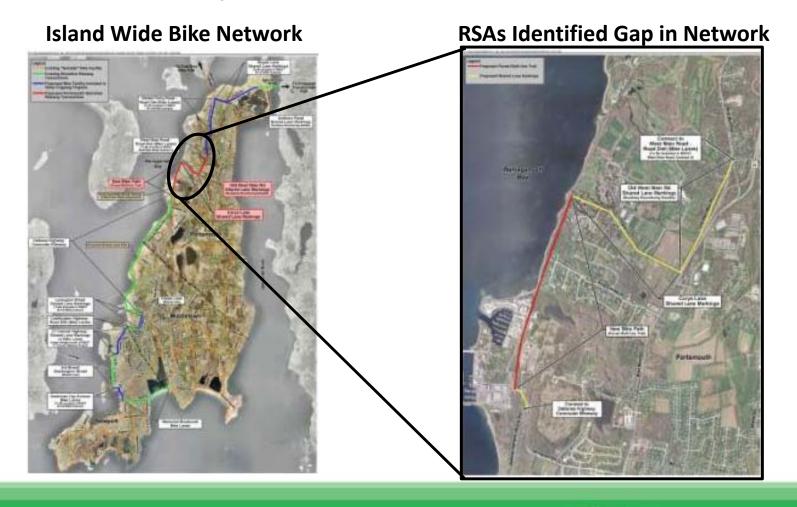
Before







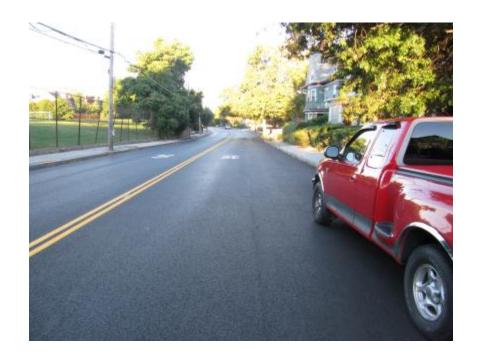
RSA & Regional Connections Aquidneck Island, RI



Bike Plan & Initiating RSA Providence, RI

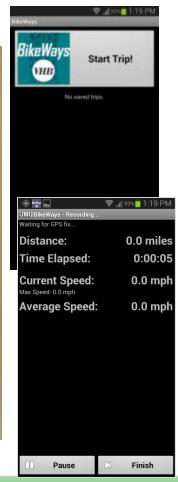
Project Purpose:

- Identify problems and appropriate costeffective solutions
 - Existing bikeways
 - Proposed bikeways



Bike Plan & Initiating RSA Providence, RI

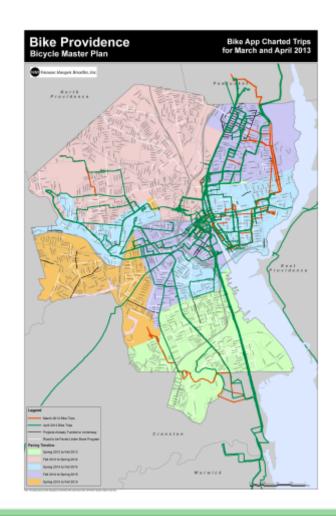




- Used GPS capability of smart phones to log routes cyclists were actually riding.
- Identified low-speed lowvolume roadways cyclists were using to avoid roadways with large traffic volumes.

Bike Plan & Initiating RSA Providence, RI

- Overlaid logged routes onto map of City-wide roadway resurfacing program.
- Completed RSAs on roadways deemed suitable alternate routes for bicycle travel.





Thank You!

- Archive at www.walkinginfo.org/webinars
 - Downloadable and streaming recording, transcript, presentation slides
- ⇒ Questions?
 - **Dan Nabors** dnabors@vhb.com
 - **Bill DeSantis** wdesantis@vhb.com