

# Contextual Guidance for Selecting All Ages & Abilities Bikeways

Roadway Context				All Ages & Abilities Bicycle Facility
Target Motor Vehicle Speed*	Target Motor Vehicle Volume (ADT)	Motor Vehicle Lanes	Key Operational Considerations	
Any		Any	Any of the following: high curbside activity, frequent buses, motor vehicle congestion, or turning conflicts‡	Protected Bicycle Lane
< 10 mph	Less relevant	No centerline, or single lane one-way	Pedestrians share the roadway	Shared Street
≤ 20 mph	≤ 1,000 – 2,000		< 50 motor vehicles per hour in the peak direction at peak hour	Bicycle Boulevard
≤ 25 mph	≤ 500 – 1,500			
	≤ 1,500 – 3,000	Single lane each direction, or single lane one-way	Low curbside activity, or low congestion pressure	Conventional or Buffered Bicycle Lane, or Protected Bicycle Lane
	≤ 3,000 – 6,000			Buffered or Protected Bicycle Lane
	Greater than 6,000			Protected Bicycle Lane
	Any	Multiple lanes per direction		
Greater than 26 mph†	≤ 6,000	Single lane each direction	Low curbside activity, or low congestion pressure	Protected Bicycle Lane, or Reduce Speed
		Multiple lanes per direction		Protected Bicycle Lane, or Reduce to Single Lane & Reduce Speed
		Greater than 6,000	Any	Any
High-speed limited access roadways, natural corridors, or geographic edge conditions with		Any	High pedestrian volume	Bike Path with Separate Walkway or Protected Bicycle Lane
limited conflicts			Low pedestrian volume	Shared-Use Path or Protected Bicycle Lane

\* While posted or 85th percentile motor vehicle speed are commonly used design speed targets, 95th percentile speed captures high-end speeding, which causes greater stress to bicyclists and more frequent passing events. Setting target speed based on this threshold results in a higher level of bicycling comfort for the full range of riders.

† Setting 25 mph as a motor vehicle speed threshold for providing protected bikeways is consistent with many cities’ traffic safety and Vision Zero policies. However, some cities use a 30 mph posted speed as a threshold for protected bikeways, consistent with providing Level of Traffic Stress (<https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/1005-low-stress-bicycling-network-connectivity.pdf>) level 2 (LTS 2) that can effectively reduce stress and accommodate more types of riders.

‡ Operational factors that lead to bikeway conflicts are reasons to provide protected bike lanes regardless of motor vehicle speed and volume.

Who is the “All Ages & Abilities” User?

(<https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/designing-ages-abilities-new/ages-abilities-user/>) (<https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/designing-ages-abilities-new/ages-abilities-design-toolbox/>)

The All Ages & Abilities Design Toolbox

Adapted from the Urban Bikeway Design Guide, published by Island Press.

References

Urban Bikeway Design Guide

Select tags, or leave blank

Select city, or leave blank

Keyword