Bicycle Technical Guidelines

A Guide for Local Agencies in Santa Clara County

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Bicycle Technical Guidelines

A Guide for Local Agencies in the Planning, Design and Maintenance of Bicycle Facilities and Bicycle-Friendly Roadways

Prepared by the
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Adopted September 2, 1999
Revision 1 adopted December 13, 2007

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HOW TO OBTAIN THE CURRENT VTA BICYCLE TECHNICAL GUIDELINES (BTG)

The current version of the BTG is available on the VTA website at *http://www.vta.org/bike_information.html*. Pages are updated individually as the need arises; individual pages should be downloaded by holders of this manual as needed. Sign up to receive an email notice of future revisions by sending an email to *bikes@vta.org*.

Revisions to the Board-adopted version of the December 13, 2007 BTG are itemized below.

Date Effective	Page	Section and Topic	Change
immediately	9-1	9.1.2 Pertinent Design Manuals	Sept 2009
10/02/08	App A-4	Caltrans DD-64 superceded by DD-64R1	

Form
As in the Highway Design Manual (HDM), the loose-leaf form was chosen for the BTG because it facilitates change and expansion. New guidelines will be issued as pages in the format of this manual; these may consist of additional pages or new pages to be substituted for those superseded.

Reproduction

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FOREWORD

The VTA Bicycle Technical Guidelines (BTG) reproduce many of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual's (HDM) standards and guidelines as well as those from other manuals. The BTG are intended to supplement and augment these manuals, by providing guidance on when and how to better accommodate the many types of bicyclists; to the extent that the Caltrans standard is a "minimum" dimension or practice, this manual presents best practice options for some situations. The VTA "Best Practices" included herein are not a substitute for professional engineering judgment and may not be appropriate for a specific situation. As with the HDM, the BTG is not a substitute for engineering knowledge, experience, or judgment. Reference to and knowledge of the original design manuals is assumed.

Since the Highway Design Manual is the primary manual for bikeway design in California, the purpose of the HDM has been reprinted below and is hereby incorporated.

Purpose (from the Foreword to the Caltrans Highway Design Manual)

This manual was prepared by the Division of Design for Project Delivery. The manual establishes uniform policies and procedures to carry out the highway design functions of the California Department of Transportation (Department). It is neither intended as, nor does it establish, a legal standard for these functions.

The policies established herein are for the information and guidance of the officers and employees of the Department.

Many of the instructions given herein are subject to amendment as conditions and experience seems to warrant. Special situations may call for variation from policies and procedures, subject to Division of Design approval, or such other approval as may be specifically provided for in the text.

It is not intended that any standard of conduct or duty toward the public shall be created or imposed by the publication of the manual. Statements as to the duties and responsibilities of any given classification of officers or employees mentioned herein refer solely to duties or responsibilities owed by these in such classification to their superiors. However, in their official contacts, each employee should recognize the necessity for good relations with the public.