Overview of the 2012 AASHTO Bike Guide

February 19, 2013
Relationship to other manuals

• 2009 MUTCD – FHWA
• Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)
• 2010 Highway Capacity Manual
How the Guide was developed

- NCHRP - National Academy of Sciences
- Scoping Study: 2004-2006
- Final edits/State DOT balloting process: 2010-2012
Release of the guide – June 2012

- Guide expanded from 75 pages to over 200 pages
- 3 chapters to 7 chapters
- Sold 1200 copies in the first month
Chapters

• Chapter 1: Introduction
• Chapter 2: Bicycle Planning
• Chapter 3: Bicycle Operation and Safety
• Chapter 4: Design of On-Road Facilities
• Chapter 5: Design of Shared Use Paths

• Chapter 6: Bicycle Parking Facilities
• Chapter 7: Maintenance and Operations
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Major changes in 2012 Guide

- Guidance on how to choose bikeway type
- Affirms lane diets and road diets
- Expanded bike lane guidance
Major changes in 2012 Guide

- Expanded signal guidance
- Expanded shared use path guidance (including paths adjacent to roads)
Choosing bikeway type – 1999 Guide

- No differentiation of what type of bikeway was appropriate given roadway characteristics
Choosing bikeway type – 2012 Guide

- Detailed guidance on facility selection
- Support for bike lanes and shared use paths where volumes and speeds are higher
- Warnings against using wide outside lane as a standard treatment for high volume roads
Roadway retrofit

- Permission to narrow lane widths to create bike lanes
- 10’ and 11’ wide travel lanes are acceptable
Road diets

• Provides guidelines for road diets
Bike lanes

- Nuanced guidance on widths (4 to 7 feet)
- Measures to reduce crashes with car doors
- Bike lanes adjacent to back-in angle parking
- Bike lanes at roundabouts
- Buffered bike lanes
- Green bike lanes, etc.
Signal design

- Old Guide – weak
- New Guide – strong
- Detailed guidance on all aspects of signal design
Shared use paths

- Extensive intersection design guidance

⚠ Major change: paths next to roads are not forbidden, provides guidance on how to design them
AASHTO vs. NACTO Guides: either/or?

• AASHTO covers design comprehensively
• AASHTO covers paths + on-road bikeways
• AASHTO covers many – but not all innovations
• NACTO is a source of information for solutions that are currently being tested
What is in the NACTO Guide?

• Bike lanes
• Cycle track design
  – One-way protected cycle tracks
  – Raised cycle tracks
  – Two-way cycle tracks
What is in the NACTO Guide?

- Bike boxes and other intersection designs (including non-standard)
- Colored pavement material guidance
- Bicycle boulevards
NACTO Illustrations of bikeway types
What is NOT in the NACTO Guide?

- Planning for bicycles
- Bicyclist operating characteristics
- Geometric design values and details
- Shared use path design
- Bridges
- General road compatibility with bicycles
- Bike parking
- Maintenance
Issues NOT addressed by AASHTO Guide

- Bike boxes
- Bicycle signal heads
- Does not use the term cycle track
- Warns against putting bike lane between parking lane and curb
Example: Two-Way Cycle track

15th Street
Washington, DC
One way cycle track

9th Avenue
New York City
• Brian Parsons
• Louisiana Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinator
• (225) 379-1954
• Brian.Parsons@la.gov