

Bicycle Boulevards

Presentation to CRCOG Bike/Ped Committee
September 14, 2010

Objectives

- ▶ To learn what a bicycle boulevard is
- ▶ To understand the benefits of bicycle boulevards
- ▶ To identify the situations where bicycle boulevards can work
- ▶ To point you in the direction of more resources for designing bike boulevards

What is a Bike Facility?



Any roadway not specifically prohibited to cycling **is** a bicycle facility

But...



Not all existing roadways necessarily make good bicycle facilities

What is a bicycle boulevard?

A shared roadway for all modes, emphasizing bicycle mobility.



What is a bicycle boulevard?

A bicycle boulevard transforms an ordinary residential street into a “bike expressway” that accommodates local motor traffic while deterring through motor traffic.



What is a bicycle boulevard?

Bicycle boulevards are low-volume and low-speed streets that have been optimized for bicycle travel through treatments such as traffic calming and traffic reduction, signage and pavement markings, and intersection crossing treatments.

What is a bicycle boulevard?

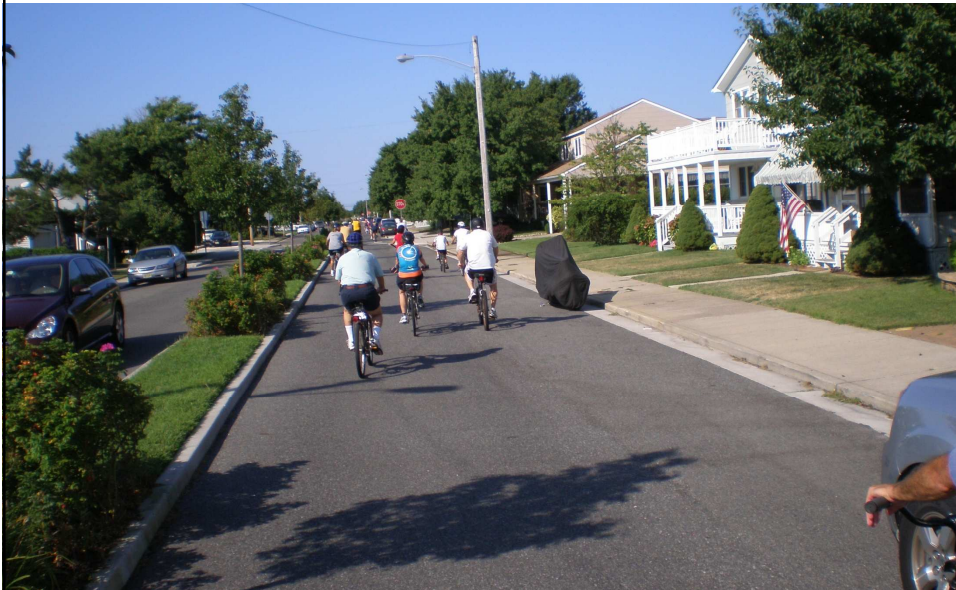
Also called:

- Local Street Bikeways (Vancouver, BC)
- Bike/Walk Streets (Minneapolis)
- Fahrradstrasse (Germany)
- Fietstraten (Netherlands)

What is a bicycle boulevard?



What is a bicycle boulevard?



Good Bicycle Facility Design:

- ▶ Treats bicyclists as operators of vehicles
- ▶ Encourages operation in accordance with traffic flow and traffic law
- ▶ Connects destinations in a continuous network
- ▶ Accommodates cyclists without inconvenience or extra travel/distance/time

Characteristics of a Bicycle Boulevard

- ▶ Low traffic/speed routes
 - 3600 ADT or less (some argue for even lower ADT)
 - 85th percentile speed not exceeding 27 mph
 - Generally 2 lane roadways
 - Typically, do not have a center line
- ▶ Give priority to bicyclists
- ▶ Parallel roads exist for motor vehicle traffic
- ▶ Signage provided



Benefits of Bicycle Boulevards

- ▶ Attractive to cyclists
 - All skill levels, all ages
 - Do not have the negatives of other facilities:
 - Bike lanes can accumulate debris
 - Bike lanes can put bicyclists in an unsafe position at intersections
 - Sidepaths may create dangerous intersections

Benefits of Bicycle Boulevards

- ▶ Attractive to towns/agencies
 - Inexpensive
 - Feasible in places where other treatments may not be
 - Can reduce congestion
 - Encourage more cycling

Benefits of Bicycle Boulevards

- ▶ Attractive to communities and property owners
 - Have a traffic calming affect
 - Can improve property values

Four Steps to Create a Bike Boulevard

1. Identify suitable street
2. Remove barriers and detours to through cycling
3. Deter motor vehicle traffic
4. Sign the Route

1. Identify the route

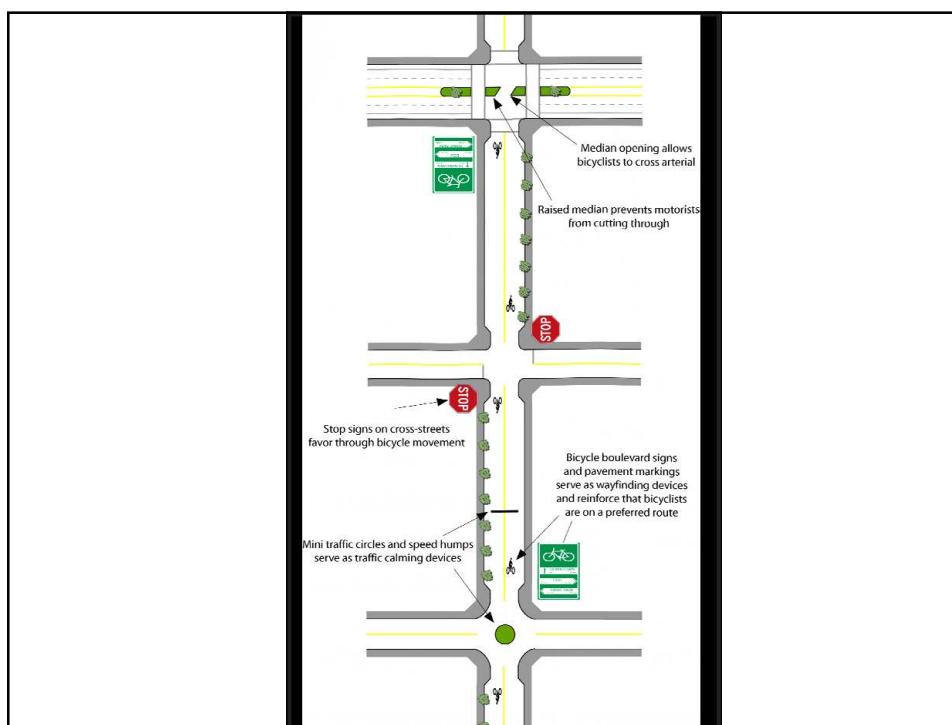
- Connectivity
- Parallel routes?
- Operational characteristics
 - ADT (less than 3600)
 - Speed (85th % 27 mph or less)
 - Frequency of intersections
 - Turning movements
 - A street may be retrofitted with traffic calming to provide the needed operational characteristics

2. Remove barriers and detours

- Can you create a through bike route that is not a through motor vehicle route?
 - Cul de sac connections
 - Access around railways, waterways, limited-access highways
 - Add bike actuated signal if one does not exist at major street crossing
 - Trial installations can allay property owners concerns
 - As with any traffic calming, keep emergency services involved

3. Block or deter through motor traffic

- Turn the stop signs
 - Remove stop signs on boulevard, put them on cross streets
 - Retain stop signs at busiest cross streets
 - May need to add “Cross Traffic Does Not stop” warnings when change is first made
- Removal of stop signs may make the route more attractive!
- Periodic bike permeable street closures
- Mandatory turns





4. Sign the Route

- Use Bike Route or Bike Boulevard signs
- Add informational signs (ex. To Downtown)
- Place signs on parallel roads to help cyclists find the Boulevard



Do Bike Lanes and Boulevards Conflict?

- Occasionally a Bike boulevard marks bike lanes
- A comprehensive, connected bikeway system needs all types of facilities

For more information

We will post design guides and this presentation on our website