

CHANGE LOG

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN GUIDE



CHAPTER NO./TITLE 11. Shared Use Paths

EFFECTIVE DATE May 7, 2025

SECTION	CHANGE
General	Agency name has been updated to MassDOT throughout.
General	Various minor grammatical changes and nomenclature changes for consistency within this chapter and throughout the Guide.
General	Added hyperlinks to external resources.
General	Changed all Exhibit numbers to separate Table and Figure numbers.
General	Updated 1999 AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities references to the 2024 AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.
11.1 Introduction	Updated types of shared use paths. Added statement that MassDOT does not build greenways, and that shared use paths must be accessible. Removed Exhibit 11-1: Distinction between Shared Use Path and Greenway.
11.2 Path Networks	Retitled "Path Networks and Greenway Systems" to "Path Networks." Reordered and reorganized list of path network design goals. Relocated sidepath considerations and operational challenges of sidepaths from Shared Use Path Design Section. Removed "Greenway Systems" section.
11.3 Accessibility of Shared Use Paths	Retitled "Accessibility of Shared Use Paths and Greenways" to "Accessibility of Shared Use Paths." Added standard specification for slope limitations for walkways and ramps.
11.4 Shared Use Path Design (Cross Section)	Cross Section: Retitled "Path Width, Side Clearance and Vertical Clearance" as "Cross Section." Re-organized section to cover effective operating width, shoulders, shy distance, separation between sidepaths and roadways, and vertical clearance. Removed requirement to follow AASHTO guidance federally-funded projects shared use path projects. Added considerations for effective operating width. Updated usable shoulder requirements, materials, and grading. Replaced side clearance content with "Shy Distance" section. Relocated information about lateral clearance to vertical barriers and barrier requirements in areas with steep side slopes to Barrier Height and Placement Section. Replaced Exhibit 11-2 with Figure 11-1: Shared Use Path Shoulders, Intermittent Shy Distance, and Vertical Clearance. Replaced Exhibit 11-3 with Figure 11-2: Shared Use Path Shoulders, Continuous Shy Distance, and Barriers Adjacent to Hazards. Relocated sidepath considerations and operational challenges of sidepaths to "11.2 Path Networks" section. Relocated discussion of vertical clearance to "Underpasses and Vertical Clearance" section.

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11.4 Shared Use Path Design (Other Subsections)	<p>One-Way Paths/Multiple Treadways: Replaced Exhibit 11-3 with Figure 11-3: Cross Section of Shared Use Path With Multiple Treadways.</p> <p>Barrier Height and Placement: Removed information about protective barrier where there are vertical drops. Relocated information about lateral clearance to vertical barriers and barrier requirements in areas with steep side slopes to this section. Replaced Exhibit 11-4 with Figure 11-4: Barrier Elements.</p> <p>Horizontal Curvature: Updated Table 11-1: Minimum Curve Radii.</p> <p>Sight Distance: Removed Figure 11-6: Minimum Stopping Sight Distance. Added Table 11-2: Minimum Bicyclist Stopping Sight Distance. Added Table 11-3: Stopping Sight Distance (ft) Based on Speed and Grade for a 2.5 Second Perception-Reaction Time. Added Table 11-4: Stopping Sight Distance (ft) Based on Speed and Grade for a 1.5 Second Perception-Reaction Time. Added Table 11-4: Minimum Length of Crest Vertical Curve (ft) Based on Stopping Sight Distance for Flat Grade (ft) and Algebraic Grade Difference (%). Added equation for length of crest vertical curve. Replaced Exhibit 11-6 with Table 11-5: Minimum Length of Crest Vertical Curve (K) Based on Stopping Sight Distance. Added Table 11-7: Maximum Grade Lengths for Bicyclists.</p> <p>Path-Roadway Intersections: Updated principles for maximizing safety and comfort of all users at intersections and crossings. Added information on recessed crossings. Replaced Exhibit 11-8 with Figure 11-5: Recessed Crossing at Shared Use Path Intersection, Figure 11-6 Recessed Crossing at a Shared Use Path Intersection with Left Turn and Through Crossing Restrictions, Figure 11-7: Example of Diagonal Path Crossing at Signalized Intersection, and Figure 11-8: Example of Midblock Path Crossing with Crossing Island. Updated references to MUTCD Warrants for path crossing signalization. Added mention of horizontal alignment changes and other design cues at intersections.</p> <p>Bridges, Overpasses, and Underpasses: Updated text describing effective operating width and side clearance on bridges. Replaced Exhibit 11-9 with Figure 11-9: Bridge Treatments for a Path with dimensions more clearly indicated. Updated text describing effective operating width and shy clearance through underpasses. Replaced Exhibit 11-10 with Figure 11-10: Path Underpass, with updated dimensions.</p> <p>Signing and Marking: Added reference to "MassDOT Bike Wayfinding Design Guide." Added MUTCD guidelines for sign clearances.</p> <p>Surfacing: Updated to recommend paving/"hard-surface" materials. Removed guidance for "stone dust." Replaced Exhibit 11-11 with Figure 11-11: Typical Path Pavement Design. Removed Exhibit 11-12.</p> <p>Restriction of Motor Vehicle Traffic: Updated control measure guidance to recommend medina landscape islands and splitter. Removed Exhibit 11-13 Bollard Placement. Replaced Exhibit 11-14 with Figure 11-12: Splitter Island Treatment.</p> <p>Bicycle Parking: Added reference to Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals' "Essentials of Bike Parking."</p>
11.5 Rail Trails	<p>Removed Section 11.5 Greenways.</p> <p>Rails with Trails: Minor reorganization to improve readability.</p>
11.6 Maintenance	No changes
11.7 For Further Information	Updated references and links. Updated section title "Works Cited" to "References."