

Chapter 8

Pedestrian, Bicycle and Public Transit Facilities

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Chapter 8

Pedestrian, Bicycle and Public Transit Facilities

8.1 General

8.1.1 Pedestrians and Bicyclists

It is the goal of the Department and in accordance with **Section 335.065, Florida Statutes, Bicycle and pedestrian ways along state roads and transportation facilities:**

- “(1)(a) Bicycle and pedestrian ways shall be given full consideration in the planning and development of transportation facilities, including the incorporation of such ways into state, regional, and local transportation plans and programs. Bicycle and pedestrian ways shall be established in conjunction with the construction, reconstruction, or other change of any state transportation facility, and special emphasis shall be given to projects in or within 1 mile of an urban area.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), bicycle and pedestrian ways are not required to be established:
1. Where their establishment would be contrary to public safety;
 2. When the cost would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use;
 3. Where other available means or factors indicate an absence of need.”

Projects that comply with the design criteria contained within the PPM are considered to meet the requirements of the statute. If the design criteria contained within the PPM for pedestrian and bicycle facilities are not met, a Design Variation is required. The documentation shall reference which of the three conditions under **Section 335.065 (1)(b), Florida Statutes** support not providing a bicycle or pedestrian facility.

Sidewalks and shared use paths are appropriate pedestrian facilities for all types of projects and locations. Beyond one mile of an urban area where only occasional pedestrian traffic is expected, a shoulder (paved and unpaved) would meet the need for a pedestrian way. **Table 8.1.1** identifies appropriate bicycle facilities for various types of projects.

Table 8.1.1 Bicycle Facilities

Location	Condition	Type of Work		
		New Construction, Reconstruction	Resurfacing, Restoration, Rehabilitation (RRR) ^{1, 2, 3}	Traffic Operations, Intersection Improvements
In or within one mile of an urban area	All	Bicycle Lane	Bicycle Lane or Wide Curb Lane	Bicycle Lane or Wide Curb Lane
Beyond one mile of an urban area	Curb and Gutter	Bicycle Lane	Bicycle Lane or Wide Curb Lane	Bicycle Lane or Wide Curb Lane
	Flush Shoulder	Bicycle Lane or Paved Shoulder	Bicycle Lane or Paved Shoulder	Bicycle Lane or Paved Shoulder
<p>1. Widening of existing curbed sections for the project length to provide bicycle facilities may disproportionately affect the scope and cost of a RRR project, especially if reconstruction of the curb, sidewalk, and/or drainage system is required, additional right of way is needed, or utilities are impacted. No Design Variation is necessary, however, a statement similar to the following shall be included in the project file:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“Bicycle facilities have been considered for this project but will not be provided, due to insufficient width between existing curb lines to provide bicycle facilities without substantial reconstruction of the roadway, drainage system and sidewalk (and/or requires additional right of way). Reconstruction (and/or right of way acquisition) is outside the scope of this project.”</p> <p>2. Substantial widening of an existing curbed section is outside the scope of a RRR project and is considered reconstruction.</p> <p>3. See Section 25.4.19 for options that shall be considered on RRR projects with existing roadways where no widening is planned.</p>				

Bicyclists and pedestrians should be expected on all of Florida's state roadways except where restricted on limited access facilities and interstate highways (**Section 316.091 Florida Statutes**).

Decisions on appropriate pedestrian and bicycle facilities shall be determined with input from the District Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinator, throughout the project development and implementation process. Further coordination may also be necessary with the District Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator.

When considering other available means, the alternate route or facility should include accommodation for cyclists and pedestrians which meet the design criteria for bicycle and pedestrian facilities on state roadways, and provide access to the same services, origination and destination sites, and transit connections as the project corridor. The alternate route shall not result in a significant increase in travel time or trip length, exposure to motorized traffic or substantial elevation changes. If the alternate route requires the pedestrian or bicyclist to cross limited access, arterial or collector roadways, or rail corridors, appropriate crossing locations shall be provided.

8.1.2 Transit

For projects within the operational limits of a local transit agency service area, consideration should be given to connectivity of pedestrian and bicycle facilities with transit stops. Bicycle access to transit facilities should be provided because most bus service has bike-on-bus (bicycle rack) capability.

Decisions on appropriate pedestrian and bicycle facilities to connect with transit service shall be determined with input from the District Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinators, District Modal Development Office Coordinators, District Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinators, and the District Public Transportation staff. Where there is a demand for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, there could also be a demand for public transit or public transportation facilities. Public transit street side facilities should be considered in all phases of a project, including planning, preliminary design and engineering, design, and construction. Coordination with the District Modal Development Office and/or the local public transit provider(s) will help determine the need for, optimum location and justification of boarding and alighting areas, transit shelters and bus bays on a project by project basis.

Multimodalism is the ultimate goal of the Department. The integration of public transit street facilities along with pedestrian and bicycle facilities furthers the implementation of

this goal. Additional information on the design of transit facilities can be found in ***Accessing Transit, Design Handbook for Florida Bus Passenger Facilities, Version 2, 2008.***

Federal and State legislation provide the stimulus for planning, designing, and constructing a fully integrated transportation system benefiting the traveling public and the environment. Examples of legislation include ***The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)***, ***The Federal Transit Act***, as amended, ***The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)***, and ***The Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990 (CAAA)***. In response to this legislation, the surface transportation system should provide for concurrent use by automobiles, public transit and rail, and to the extent possible, bicycles and pedestrians. Throughout the entire process, coordination with transit is essential.

8.2 References

1. ***Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)***
2. ***Design Standards***
3. ***FDOT Pedestrian Planning and Design Handbook***
4. ***FDOT Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Handbook***
5. ***FDOT Trail Intersection Design Handbook***
6. ***AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities***
7. ***Highway Capacity Manual***
8. ***Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)/Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction (FACBC)***
9. ***Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC)***
10. ***AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, Current Edition***
11. ***AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities***
12. ***Transportation Research Board (TRB). Guidelines for the Location and Design of Bus Stops adapted from TCRP Report 19. Washington D.C.: National Academy Press***
13. ***Accessing Transit, Design Handbook for Florida Bus Passenger Facilities, Version 2, 2008***
14. ***Transit Facilities Guidelines on the Public Transportation Office website***
15. ***FDOT Structures Manual, Current Edition***
16. ***FHWA’s Roundabouts: An Informational Guide***

8.3 Pedestrian Facilities

All roadways and bridges where pedestrian travel is expected should have separate walking areas such as sidewalks or shared use paths that are outside the vehicle travel lanes. Refer to **Section 8.6** for shared use paths.

8.3.1 Sidewalks

Sidewalks are walkways parallel to the roadway and designed for use by pedestrians. Generally, sidewalks should be provided along both sides of roadways that are in or within one mile of an urban area.. However, the construction of sidewalks on both sides of the street would not be required in such cases as when the roadway parallels a railroad or drainage canal and pedestrians would not be expected. If sidewalks are constructed on the approaches to bridges, they should be continued across the structure. If continuous sidewalks are constructed on only one side of the street, pedestrians should be provided access to transit facilities located on the opposite side of the street.

The minimum width of a sidewalk shall be 5 feet on both curb and gutter and flush shoulder roadways. The minimum separation for a 5-foot sidewalk from the back of curb is 2 feet. If the sidewalk is located adjacent to the curb, the minimum width of sidewalk is 6 feet.

Grades on sidewalks should not exceed 5% when not adjacent to a travel way. There should be enough sidewalk cross slope to allow for adequate drainage, however the maximum shall be no more than 2% to comply with ADA requirements. Where practical, a clear 1-foot wide graded area (with a maximum 1:6 slope) should be provided adjacent to the sidewalk. Edge drop-offs should be avoided. When drop-offs cannot be avoided, they should be shielded as discussed in **Section 8.8**.

A 5-foot wide sidewalk that connects a transit stop or facility with an existing sidewalk or shared use path shall be included to comply with ADA accessibility standards.

Particular attention should be given to pedestrian accommodations at the termini of each project. If full accommodations cannot be provided due to the limited scope or an existing sidewalk isn't present at the termini, then temporary measures should be considered such as extending the sidewalk and project limits to next appropriate pedestrian crossing or access point. If special accommodations are made, it is equally important to address these measures on the adjoining projects. In all cases, the District Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinator shall be contacted for input on making a determination regarding continuous passage.

New sidewalks should be placed as far from the roadway as practical in the following sequence of desirability:

1. As near the right of way line as possible.
2. Outside of the clear zone.
3. Five feet from the shoulder point on flush shoulder roadways.
4. As far from edge of traffic lane as practical.

Nearing intersections, the sidewalk should be transitioned as necessary to provide a more functional crossing location that also meets driver expectation. Further guidance on the placement of stop or yield lines and crosswalks is provided in the **MUTCD** and the **Design Standards**.

8.3.2 Accessibility Considerations

Sidewalks and shared use paths must be designed in accordance with ADA. Refer to the **Design Standards** for additional details.

Pull boxes, manholes (and other utility covers), and other types of existing surface features in the location of a proposed curb ramp or detectable warning should be relocated when feasible. When relocation is not feasible, the feature shall be adjusted to meet the ADA requirements for surfaces (including the provision of a non-slip top surface, and adjustment to be flush with and at the same slope as the adjacent surface).

The detectable warning systems on the QPL are designed to work with concrete surfaces. In areas where the pedestrian facility has an asphalt surface, such as a shared use path, the engineer must specify an appropriate detectable warning system. In these cases, consider including a short section of concrete that will accommodate any system.

To assist pedestrians who are visually or mobility impaired, curb ramps should be parallel to the crossing. By providing ramps parallel to the crossing, the pedestrian is directed into the crossing. At intersections where more than one road is crossed, each crossing should have a separate curb ramp. Curb ramps on shared use paths should be the same width as the path. Under no circumstance shall a curb ramp be installed allowing a pedestrian to enter a crossing without providing a curb cut (or at grade sidewalk if no curb is present) on the opposite side of the crossing. Crossings shall also meet the same grade and cross slope requirements as sidewalks where the grade should not exceed 5%, and the maximum cross slope shall be no more than 2%.

8.3.3 Crosswalks

Crosswalks occur at all intersections, whether or not they are marked and on any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface. Reasonable accommodation should be made to make crossings both convenient and safe, and minimize the pedestrian's exposure in the roadway. Crosswalks are defined in ***Florida Statutes 316.003(6)***.

There are a number of treatments that may be used to help pedestrians safely across the street, whether crossing at an intersection or midblock. A marked crosswalk is one of these tools. Marking of crosswalks helps drivers better identify the intersection, guides the pedestrian to the best crossing location and provides guidance for people with low vision.

The criteria provided in this section do not apply to school crossings.

Additional guidance on marked crosswalks can be found in the ***AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*** and ***FHWA's Safety Effects of Marked vs. Unmarked Crosswalks at Uncontrolled Locations: Executive Summary and Recommended Guidelines***:

(http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/docs/cros.pdf).

8.3.3.1 Crosswalks at Intersections

Marked crosswalks shall be provided at all side streets where a pedestrian facility meets the roadway. As roadway volumes, speeds and number of travel lanes increase, marked crosswalks are best used in conjunction with other treatments (including signals, signs, beacons, curb extensions, raised medians, refuge islands, and enhanced overhead lighting).

When separated right turn lanes are used, place crosswalks so that an approaching motorist has a clear view of the pedestrian, and the crossing distance is minimized.

All marked crosswalks at uncontrolled locations (without signals, stop or yield signs) shall be coordinated with the District Traffic Operations Office and meet the guidelines of the ***FDOT Traffic Engineering Manual***. Marked crosswalks on an uncontrolled leg of an intersection shall be supplemented with other treatments (including beacons, curb extensions, raised medians, raised traffic islands, or enhanced overhead lighting) when

any of the following conditions exist:

1. Where posted speeds are greater than 40 mph.
2. On a roadway with 4 or more lanes without a raised median or raised traffic island that has an ADT of 12,000 or greater.
3. On a roadway with 4 or more lanes with a raised median or raised traffic island that has or is projected to have (within 5 years) an ADT of 15,000 or greater.

Roundabouts present a unique challenge for the design of pedestrian crossings. In a roundabout, the crosswalk markings should comply with the **MUTCD, FHWA's Roundabouts: An Informational Guide** and the **FDOT Traffic Engineering Manual**.

8.3.3.2 Midblock Crosswalks

Midblock crosswalks can be used to supplement the pedestrian crossing needs in an area between intersections. This can provide pedestrians with a more direct route to their destination. When used, midblock crosswalks should be illuminated, marked and signed in accordance with the **MUTCD, Traffic Engineering Manual (Section 3.8)** and **Index 17346, Design Standards**. Pedestrian-activated, signalized midblock crosswalks may be appropriate at some locations, but the locations must meet the warrants established in the **MUTCD**.

In addition to the requirements in **Section 8.3.3.1**, the following conditions also apply:

1. Midblock crosswalks should not be located where the spacing between adjacent intersections is less than 660 feet
2. Midblock crosswalks should not be located where the distance from the crosswalk to the nearest intersection (or crossing location) is less than 300 feet
3. Midblock crosswalks shall not be provided where the crossing distance exceeds 60 feet (unless a median or a crossing island is provided)
4. Midblock crosswalks shall not be provided where the sight distance for both the pedestrian and motorist is not adequate (stopping sight distance per **Table 2.7.1**)
5. Midblock crosswalks shall not be located where the ADA cross slope and grade criteria along the crosswalk cannot be met (per **Section 8.3.2**).

An engineering study is required before a marked midblock crosswalk is installed at an uncontrolled location. This study shall examine such factors as sight distance for pedestrians and vehicles (stopping sight distance), traffic volume, turning volumes near

proposed crosswalk location, roadway width, presence of a median, lighting, landscaping, drainage, traffic speed, adjacent land use (pedestrian generators / destinations), pedestrian volume and existing crossing patterns. Midblock crosswalks should only be used in areas where the need truly exists, and the engineering study will help to determine if an uncontrolled midblock crosswalk is a viable option. Refer to the Department's ***Manual on Uniform Traffic Studies (MUTS)***.

If any problem areas are identified that would preclude the placement of a justified midblock crosswalk, additional features must be included in the design to remedy those problem areas before a midblock crosswalk can be placed at that location. Features like overhead signing can help alert motorists and be used to light the crossing. Curb extensions or bulb-outs can improve sight distance and decrease the crossing distance. Adjustment of the profile on the roadway crossing may be required to improve the cross slope of the crosswalk.

8.4 Bicycle Facilities

Appropriately designed and located bicycle facilities play an important role in supporting safe bicycle travel. Bicycle facilities include bicycle lanes, paved shoulders, wide curb lanes, shared use paths, traffic control devices, and bicycle parking facilities.

Measures that can considerably enhance a corridor's safety and capacity for bicycle travel are:

1. Providing bicycle facilities.
2. Maintaining a smooth, clean riding surface, free of obstructions. This includes ensuring drainage inlets and utility covers that cannot be moved out of the travel way are flush with grade, well seated, and use bicycle-compatible inlets, grates and covers.
3. Responsive and appropriate traffic control devices, consistent with guidance in the **MUTCD**, including providing bicycle oriented directional signage.

8.4.1 Bicycle Lanes

Where required by **Table 8.1.1**, a bicycle lane shall be provided for each direction of travel on the roadway. On flush shoulder roadways, the paved shoulder described in **Section 8.4.3** shall be marked as a bicycle lane in or within 1 mile of an urban area. Bicycle lanes shall be marked in accordance with **Design Standards Index 17347** and the **MUTCD**. Shared use paths do not meet the requirement for bicycle lanes.

On curb and gutter roadways, a 4-foot minimum bicycle lane width measured from the lip of the gutter is required. This provides for a 5.5-foot width to the face of curb when curb and gutter is used. The 1.5-foot gutter width should not be considered as part of the rideable surface area, but this width provides useable clearance to the curb face. A minimum width of 5 feet shall be provided when the bicycle lane is adjacent to on-street parking, a right-turn lane, guardrail or other barrier.

Bicycle lanes shall be one-way facilities and carry bicycle traffic in the same direction as adjacent motor vehicle traffic. On one-way streets, bicycle lanes should generally be placed on the right side of the street. A bicycle lane on the left side of the street can be considered if it will substantially reduce the number of potential conflicts, such as those caused by frequent bus traffic, heavy right-turn movements, high-turnover parking lanes, or if there is a significant number of left-turning bicyclists.

8.4.2 Bicycle Lane Between Through Lane and Right Turn Lane, Bus Bay or Parking Lane (Keyhole)

In new construction, reconstruction and traffic operations projects, at locations with right turn lanes, bus bays or parking lanes, a 5-foot bicycle lane shall be provided between the through lane and the right turn lane, bus bay or parking lane. For bicycle lanes adjacent to parking lanes, if the parking volume is substantial or the turnover is high, an additional 1 to 2 feet of width should be provided for the bicycle lane if right of way is adequate.

When a RRR project includes the addition or modification of a right turn lane, bus bay or parking lane, a 5-foot bicycle lane shall be provided between the through lane and the right turn lane, bus bay or parking lane if existing right of way is adequate. On RRR flush shoulder projects where the approaching paved shoulder is 4 feet wide, a minimum width of 4 feet is acceptable for a bicycle lane between the through lane and right turn lane.

When a RRR project has an existing right turn lane without a bicycle lane between the through lane and right turn lane, bus bay or parking lane, a bicycle lane should be provided. Factors to be considered include the opportunity to provide a continuous alignment, reduce the potential for conflicts with turning vehicles, and availability of right of way.

8.4.3 Paved Shoulders

A paved shoulder is a portion of a roadway which has been delineated by edge line striping, but does not include special pavement markings or signing for the preferential use by bicyclists. Paved shoulders shall be 5 feet in width for new construction, reconstruction and RRR projects, however existing 4-foot paved shoulders on RRR projects may be retained. A paved shoulder of at least 4 feet in width is considered to be a bicycle facility, however a minimum 5-foot clear width between the traveled way and the face of curb, guardrail or other roadside barrier is required.

8.4.4 Wide Curb Lanes

Wide outside curb lanes are through lanes which provide a minimum of 14 feet in width. This width allows most motor vehicles to pass cyclists within the travel lane, which is not possible in more typical 10-foot to 12-foot wide travel lanes. Wide curb lanes do not

meet Department requirements for bicycle facilities on new construction or reconstruction projects. However, in some conditions, such as RRR projects, they may be the only practical option for a bicycle facility.

8.4.5 Shared Lane Markings (Sharrows)

The shared lane marking may be used to assist bicyclists on a roadway open to bicycle travel where no bicycle lane or paved shoulder exists or is feasible. Shared lane markings shall be limited to roadways with a posted speed of 35 mph or less. They are not intended to be placed on every roadway without bicycle facilities or on shared use paths. Shared lane markings provide guidance to cyclists in their lateral positioning, especially on roadways with on-street parking or lanes that are too narrow to share side by side with a motor vehicle. They also help to discourage wrong way riding and encourage safer passing of bicyclists by motorists.

Following are conditions where shared lane markings should be considered on the State Highway System:

- In conjunction with on-street parking
- Where forward sight distance is limited due to horizontal or vertical curvature
- Where gaps exist between bicycle facilities or between an existing bicycle facility and an urban center, school, park, or transit hub
- Identify alternate route as part of an approved temporary traffic control plan
- An average bicycle crash history of 3 or more per mile, over a 3 year period

The installation of shared lane markings shall be in accordance with ***Design Standards Index 17347*** and the ***MUTCD***.

8.4.6 Bicycle Route Systems

Bicycle route systems are linked by signs to aid bicyclists. Bicycle route systems are ineffectual unless signs are highly specific, giving a clear indication of destination. It may be advantageous to sign some urban and rural roadways as bicycle route systems. Bicycle route signing should not end at a barrier. Information directing the bicyclists around the barrier should be provided.

The decision whether to provide bicycle route systems should be based on the

advisability of encouraging bicycle use on a particular road, instead of on parallel and adjacent roadways. The roadway width, along with factors such as volume, speed, types of traffic, parking conditions, grade, sight distance and connectivity to transit, should be considered when determining the feasibility of bicycle route systems. Roadway improvements such as adequate pavement width, drainage grates, railroad crossings, pavement surface, maintenance schedules and signals responsive to bicycles should always be considered before a roadway is identified as a bicycle route system. Further guidance on signing bicycle route systems is provided in the **MUTCD**.

8.5 Drainage and Utility Considerations

Drainage inlets, grates and utility covers are potential problems to bicyclists. When a new roadway is designed, all such grates and covers should be kept out of the bicyclists' expected path. Refer to the **Design Standards** for required grates and inlet tops.

See **Chapter 2** of this volume for horizontal clearances for light poles.

8.6 Shared Use Paths

Shared use paths are typically facilities on rights of way with minimal cross flow of motor vehicles. They are almost always used by pedestrians, joggers, in-line skaters, bicyclists, and in some cases equestrians. However, the bicycle's operating characteristics will dictate the design of shared use paths. The criteria in this section apply to paved shared use paths. The term *path* as used in this section refers to these paved shared use paths. An example typical design is provided for guidance in **Volume 2, Exhibit TYP-15**.

Shared use paths should be thought of as extensions of the highway system that are intended for the exclusive or preferential use of bicycles and pedestrians in much the same way as freeways are intended for the exclusive or preferential use of motor vehicles. Well-planned and designed paths can provide good pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

Shared use paths can serve a variety of purposes. They can provide a school age child or a bicycle commuter with a shortcut away from busy roadways. They can provide recreational cyclists a peaceful place to ride, away from motor vehicle traffic. Shared use paths can be located along abandoned railroad rights of way, the banks of rivers and other similar areas. They can provide bicycle access to areas that are otherwise served only by limited access highways and closed to bicycles.

8.6.1 Considerations

Shared use paths adjacent to a roadway may be considered if the following conditions are met:

1. The path will be separated from the roadway.
2. There will be few access points or roadways crossing the path.
3. There will be adequate access to local streets and other facilities along the path.
4. There is a commitment to provide path continuity with other bikeways throughout the corridor.

Shared use paths are not replacements for on-street bicycle lanes. Within a roadway right of way, bicycle lanes are the safest, most efficient bicycle facility. When paths are located immediately adjacent to roadways, some operational problems are likely to occur:

1. Paths require one direction of bicycle traffic to ride against motor vehicle traffic, which is contrary to the normal Rules of the Road. Motorists are not in the habit of scanning for traffic from that direction.
2. At path ends, bicyclists riding against traffic will tend to continue to travel on the wrong side of the street, as do bicyclists getting on to a path. Wrong-way travel by bicyclists is a major cause of bicycle/automobile crashes and should be discouraged.
3. Many bicyclists will use the roadway instead of the path because they have found the roadway to be safer, less congested, more convenient, or better maintained.

8.6.2 Widths

The minimum width for a shared use path is 12 feet. Under certain conditions it may be necessary or desirable to increase the width of a path due to substantial use by bicyclists, joggers, skaters and pedestrians, by large maintenance or emergency vehicles and steep grades. Only under severe constraints should providing less than 12 feet be considered.

8.6.3 Cross Slopes

Since pedestrian use is expected on shared use paths, ADA requirements shall be met. Therefore, the maximum cross-slope shall be 2%.

8.6.4 Grades

To meet ADA the maximum grade is 5%. Grades greater than 5% should be considered ramps and designed accordingly. Maximum ramp slopes are 8.33% and can have a maximum rise of 30 inches, with a level landing at least 60 inches in length.

To accommodate bicycles exclusively, grades should not exceed 5%, since steeper grades cause difficulties for many bicyclists. If the terrain makes it necessary to use steeper grades on short sections, the following restrictions are recommended:

Table 8.6.4 Maximum Grade Lengths

Grade (%)	Maximum Length
6%	For up to 800 feet
7%	For up to 400 feet
8%	For up to 300 feet
9%	For up to 200 feet
10%	For up to 100 feet
11+%	For up to 50 feet

NOTE: When using a longer grade, 4 to 6 feet of additional width should be added to the path to allow some bicyclists to dismount and walk their bikes. Additional clear distances should be provided and sight distances must be modified to accommodate longer grades.

Refer to **Section 8.6.9** for controls on grade changes.

8.6.5 Horizontal Clearance

A 4-foot horizontal clearance to lateral obstructions shall be maintained on both sides of a shared use path. A 2-foot wide graded area with a maximum 1:6 slope shall be maintained adjacent to both sides of the path.

Edge drop-offs should be avoided. When drop-offs cannot be avoided they should be shielded as discussed in **Section 8.8**.

8.6.6 Vertical Clearance

The vertical clearance to obstructions should be a minimum of 8 feet. However, vertical clearance may need to be greater to permit passage of maintenance and emergency vehicles. In underpasses and tunnels, 10 feet is desirable.

8.6.7 Design Speed

A design speed of 20 mph should normally be used. When a downgrade exceeds 4 percent, a design speed of 30 mph should be considered.

8.6.8 Horizontal Alignment

8.6.8.1 Minimum Radii

The effective superelevation is usually limited to the existing 2% cross slope and may be positive or negative. If a transition is needed, then a minimum 75-foot transition should be used. See **Table 8.6.8.1** for minimum radii for shared use paths.

Table 8.6.8.1 Minimum Radii for Shared Use Paths

Design Speed	Superelevation	Friction Factor	Minimum Radius (ft.)
20	2%	0.27	95
20	-2%	0.27	110
30	2%	0.22	250
30	-2%	0.22	300

8.6.8.2 Stopping Sight Distance

The minimum stopping sight distances for a shared use path are given in **Table 8.6.8.2**. For a shared use path the object height is assumed 0.0 feet and the eye height is 4.5 feet.

Table 8.6.8.2 Minimum Stopping Sight Distances

MINIMUM STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE (FEET) FOR 20 MPH PATH = 127 FEET, FOR 30 MPH PATH = 230 FEET														
Design Speed	GRADES													
	-9%	-8%	-7%	-6%	-5%	-4%	-3%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%
20 MPH	Use 30 MPH Values					137	134	121	119	118	116	115	114	113
30 MPH	298	287	277	268	260	Use 20 MPH Values								

8.6.9 Vertical Alignment

The minimum length of vertical curve necessary to provide minimum stopping sight distance at various speeds on crest vertical curves is selected by using the formula listed below:

$$\text{When } S > L: \quad L = 2S - (900 / A) \quad \begin{array}{l} L = \text{Min. Length of Vertical Curve (ft.)} \\ A = \text{Algebraic Grade Difference (\%)} \end{array}$$

$$\text{When } S < L: \quad L = AS^2 / 900 \quad S = \text{Stopping Sight Distance (ft.)}$$

8.6.10 Separation Between Shared Use Path and Roadway

When two-way shared use paths are located adjacent to a roadway, a separation shall be provided. This demonstrates to both path users and motorists that the shared use path is a separate facility.

On roadways with flush shoulders, this separation is 5 feet measured from the outside edge of shoulder to the inside edge of the path. On roadways with curbs, the separation is 4 feet measured from the back of curb to the inside edge of the path, with consideration of other roadside obstructions (signs, light poles, etc.).

8.6.11 Path Railings

Railings or fences shall be provided as indicated in **Section 8.8**.

8.6.12 Lighting

Lighting for shared use paths is important and should be considered where riding at night is expected, such as paths serving college students or commuters, and at roadway intersections. Lighting should also be considered through underpasses or tunnels. Lighting standards are provided in **Table 7.3.1** of this volume.

8.6.13 Signing, Pavement Marking, and Signalization

The **MUTCD** shall be consulted for all signage, pavement markings, and signals, especially on path/roadway intersections.

8.7 Bridges, Overpasses, and Underpasses

A bridge, an overpass, or an underpass may be necessary to provide pedestrian/bicycle continuity to sidewalks, bicycle lanes and shared use paths. Bicyclists should be accommodated at all pedestrian bridges (e.g., provide an alternative to stairs).

The overpass or bridge design shall be in accordance with the criteria established below:

1. **FDOT Structures Design Guidelines – Chapter 10.**
2. **Section 8.2** of this volume.
3. The minimum clear width for new FDOT pedestrian bridges is:
 - a. On a pedestrian structure - 8 feet.
 - b. On a shared use path structure - 12 feet.
 - c. If the approach sidewalk or path is wider than these minimums, the clear width of the structure should match the approach width. The desirable clear width should include an additional 2-foot wide clear area on each side.
4. Vertical clearance criteria shall be as per **Chapter 2, Table 2.10.1** of this volume. Horizontal clearances shall take into affect future widening plans of the roadway below.
5. Ramps
 - a. Comply with ADA requirements. See the **Production Support Office - Accessibility Issues (ADA) Website:**

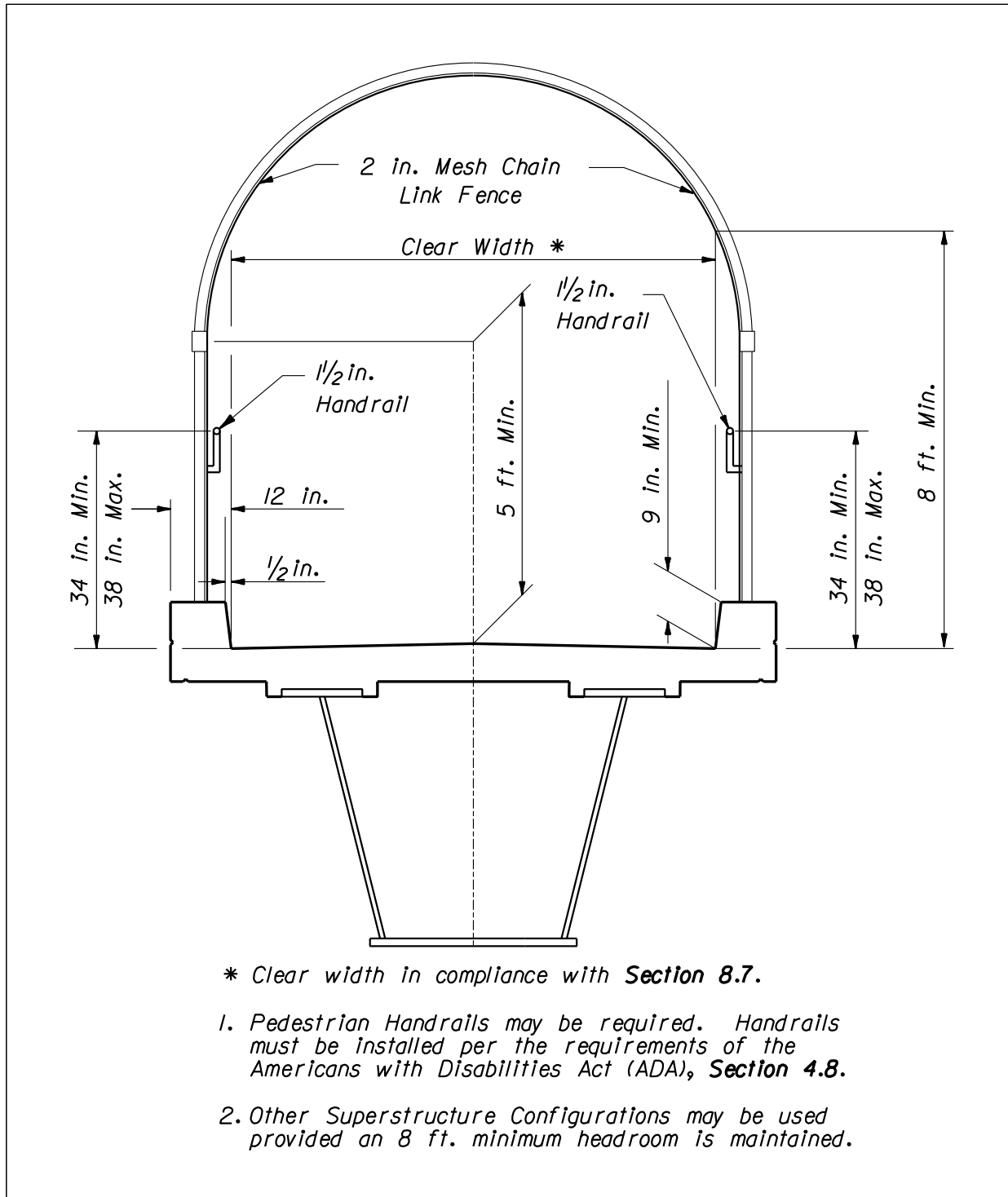
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/projectmanagementoffice/>

- b. Ramps (routes with grades > 5%) should be provided at all pedestrian separation structures. When possible, stairways should be provided in addition to ramps.
 - c. Design ramps with the least possible grade, but in no case more than 8.33% and with 5 feet long, intermediate level platforms at a maximum 30-inch rise. Provide level platforms 5 feet long at the top of the ramp and 6 feet long at the bottom.
 - d. Provide full-length pedestrian ADA handrails on both sides of pedestrian ramps.
6. Fencing/Railing
- a. Provide fencing/railing options in accordance with the **SDG Chapter 10**.
 - b. Provide full or partial screening on pedestrian bridges crossing FDOT right of way in order to reduce the likelihood of objects being dropped or thrown onto the roadway below. See **Figure 8.1** for example of full screening.
 - c. Pedestrian bridges on FDOT right of way but not crossing FDOT right of way are not required to be screened.
 - d. Check with local authorities for guidance on screening for FDOT pedestrian bridges crossing local rights of way.
 - e. The use of chain link fence on ramps of the pedestrian bridges will be determined on a project-by-project basis.

See **Chapter 26** for review requirements based on pedestrian bridge structure category.

Pedestrian underpasses are generally undesirable; however, if one is required, the geometrics and lighting requirements should be discussed with the Department Project Manager and the District Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinator. Local law enforcement personnel may need to be consulted to assure public safety, emergency accessibility and other desirable features.

Figure 8.1 Pedestrian/Shared Use Path Bridge Typical Section



8.8 Drop-off Hazards for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Drop-off hazards are defined as steep or abrupt downward slopes that can be perilous to pedestrians and bicyclists. The Engineer should consider shielding any drop-off determined to be a hazard. Generally, pedestrians and bicyclists will be adequately protected from a drop-off hazard if a guardrail or barrier has been installed between the path or sidewalk and the drop-off. However, circumstances do exist that will ultimately dictate when a railing is needed. Railings or fences should be provided for vertical drop-off hazards. The horizontal clearance discussed in **Section 8.6.5** should be maintained where practical when railings or fences are used for drop-offs along shared-use paths. Note that the Pedestrian/Bicycle Railings (**Index 850** or **860 Series**) and the Pipe Guiderail (**Index 870** and **880 Series**) have not been crash tested, and shall not be placed within the clear zone.

The following guidelines will be useful in standardizing the identification and treatment of drop-off hazards for pedestrians and bicyclists.

There are two cases that require shielding. As shown in **Figure 8.2 (Case 1)**, a drop-off greater than 10 inches that is closer than 2 feet from the pedestrians' or bicyclists' pathway or edge of sidewalk is considered a hazard and shall be shielded. Also, as shown in **Figure 8.2 (Case 2)**, a slope steeper than 1:2 (as called for in the plans) that begins closer than 2 feet from the pedestrians' or bicyclists' pathway or edge of sidewalk is considered a hazard and shall be shielded when the total drop-off is greater than 60 inches. Also, depending on the depth of the drop-off and severity of the conditions below, shielding may be necessary for cases other than described above.

However, in determining if shielding a drop-off hazard would be feasible for protecting pedestrians and bicyclists, the following should be considered:

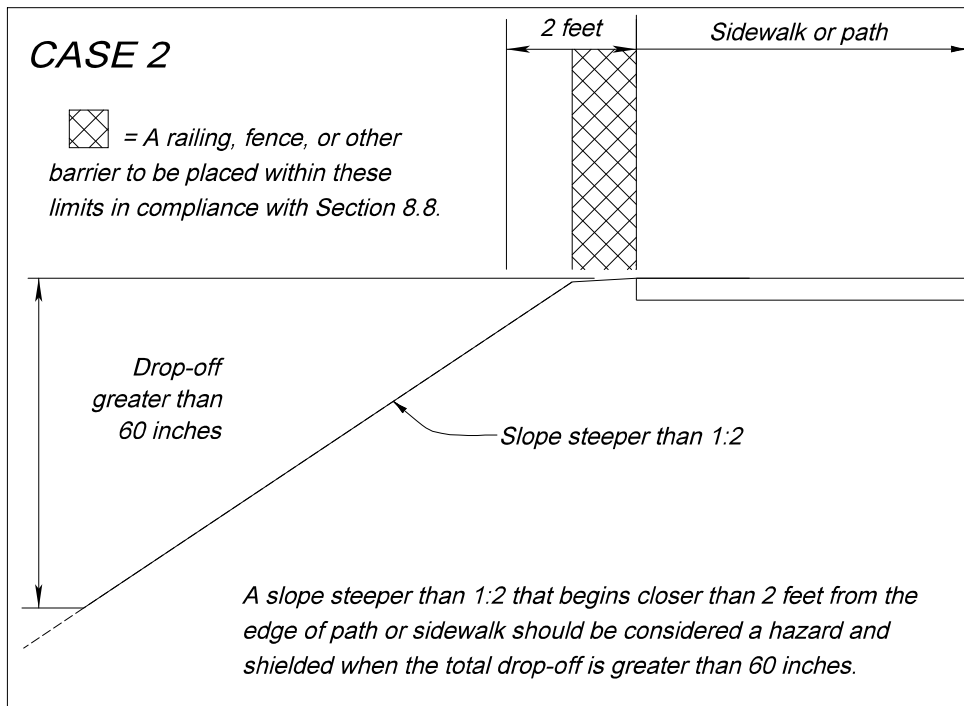
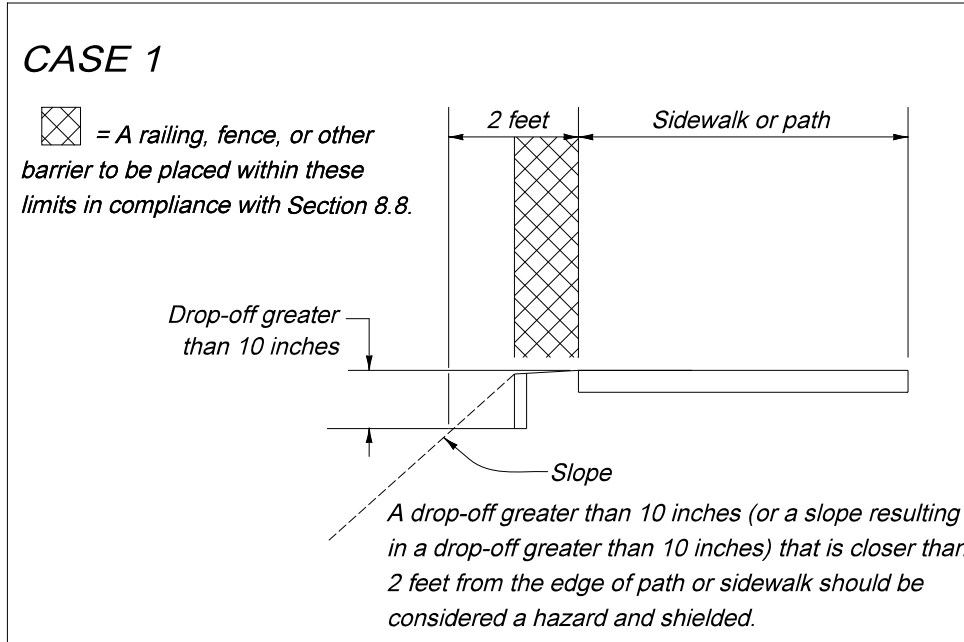
1. The engineer should consult the Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordinator regarding pedestrian and bicyclist traffic and their routes.
2. Installing fencing or railings are two ways to shield the drop-offs. Fencing is generally intended for use in rural areas along paths and trails. Standard railing is generally intended for urbanized areas, locations attaching to bridge rail or along concrete walkways. The Pedestrian/Bicycle Railings* shown on **Index 850** and **860 Series** of the **Design Standards** are adequate for shielding all drop-offs but are generally intended for use on drop-offs greater than 60 inches. The Pipe Guiderail shown on **Index 870** and **880 Series** of the **Design Standards** are adequate for shielding drop-offs which are 60 inches or less.

3. Along continuous sections where the drop-off varies above and below the 60 inch threshold for using **Index 870** or **880**, for uniformity the engineer may consider using only one of the railing types adequate for shielding all drop-offs (**Index 850** or **860 Series**)*.
4. The height of railings for bicyclists are generally the same as the minimum pedestrian railing height of 42 inches, except a minimum 54 inch railing or fence should be considered on bridges and retaining walls for special circumstances as identified in the commentary of the **AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications Section 13.9**. Specify the height of the pedestrian/bicycle railing in the contract plans.

*Note: Care should be taken when using Pedestrian/Bicycle Railings or fencing near intersections or driveways as they could obstruct the driver's line of sight. The Pedestrian/Bicycle Railings in **Index 852** and **862** of the **Design Standards** are considered less sight obstructive than those in **Index 850** and **860**.

Where Pedestrian/Bicycle Railing is used, the Department will only cover the cost for either the standard galvanized steel or standard aluminum railing. If the Local Agency desires a painted railing, they must provide the additional funding and commit to cover the maintenance cost. The Department will also only cover the cost of the standard Infill Panel Types shown in the **Design Standards**. If the Local Agency desires a railing having Custom Infill Panels which increases the cost over standard infill panels, they must provide the additional funding to cover this initial premium cost. In addition, a maintenance agreement will be needed to address the responsibilities associated with maintaining all Custom Infill Panels.

Figure 8.2 Drop-Off Hazards for Pedestrians and Bicyclists



8.9 Florida Intrastate Highway System Limited Access Facilities

Department Procedure No. 525-030-250, Development of the Florida Intrastate Highway System (FIHS), provides guidance relating to the provisions for bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the FIHS. The Procedure states: “Bicycle and pedestrian facilities shall not be provided on FIHS limited access roadways.”

8.10 Public Transit Facilities

When a project includes a public transit route, curb side and street side transit facilities for bus stops should be considered in the roadway design process.

The FDOT *Accessing Transit: Version II, 2008 Design Handbook for Florida Bus Passenger Facilities* provides guidance relating to provisions for curb side and street side facilities. Refer to **Table 2.11.9** for criteria on the placement of shelters and benches. Coordination with the District Modal Development Office and/or local public transit provider(s) is necessary in developing the plans.

8.10.1 Curb-Side Facilities

Curb-side facilities are the most common, simplest and convenient form of facilities at a bus stop. These include bus stop signs, passenger waiting shelters, boarding and alighting areas, curb ramps, benches, leaning rails, and shelter lighting.

On flush shoulder roadways, bus stops with a raised 5-foot by 8-foot boarding and alighting area may be constructed at the shoulder point (or edge of shoulder pavement on roadways with a design speed of 45 mph or less) to create an accessible bus stop, as shown in **Figures 8.3** and **8.4**. The raised area provides a platform that is compatible with a bus that kneels or extends a ramp with a slope of 1:6 or less. Boarding and alighting areas are not required at bus stops on flush shoulder roadways where only a bus stop sign is provided. Bus stops should be located in close proximity to existing intersections, and with sidewalk access. The boarding and alighting area shall:

1. use a Type E curb (5" curb height)
2. be connected to the sidewalk along the roadway; or to the roadway when no sidewalk is present

A sidewalk and/or ramp provided with the boarding and alighting area shall be a minimum of 5 feet in width; and the ramp shall not exceed a slope of 1:12. A detectable warning is required where a sidewalk associated with a boarding and alighting area connects to the roadway at grade. Except for the area adjacent to the 5" curb, the areas surrounding the boarding and alighting area shall be flush with the adjacent shoulder and side slopes and designed to be traversable by errant vehicles. On the upstream side of the platform, a maximum slope of 1:12 should be provided, and may be grass or a hardened surface. The boarding and alighting area (and ramp and level landing if needed) are to be paid for as 6" thick concrete,

Figure 8.3 Accessible Boarding and Alighting Area for Flush Shoulder Roadways with Connection to Roadway

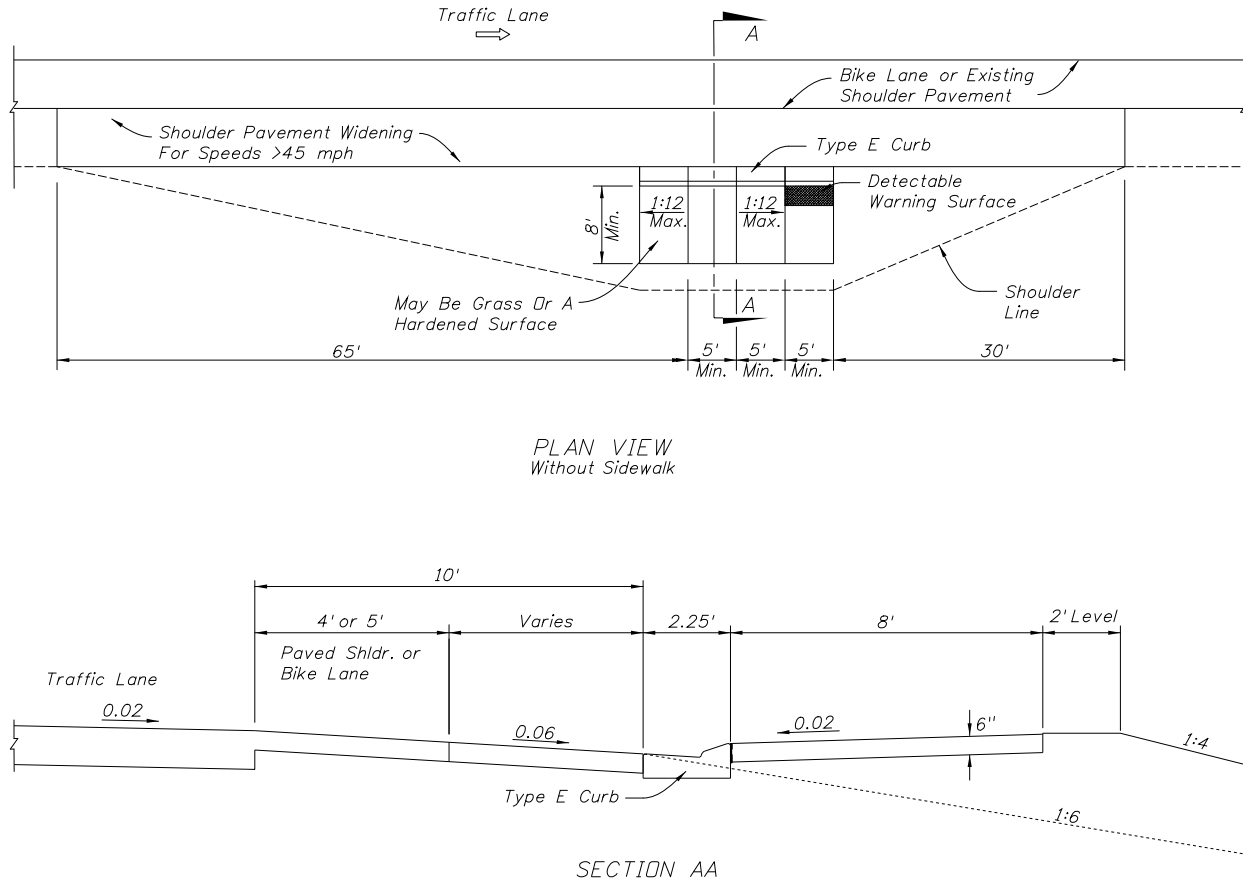
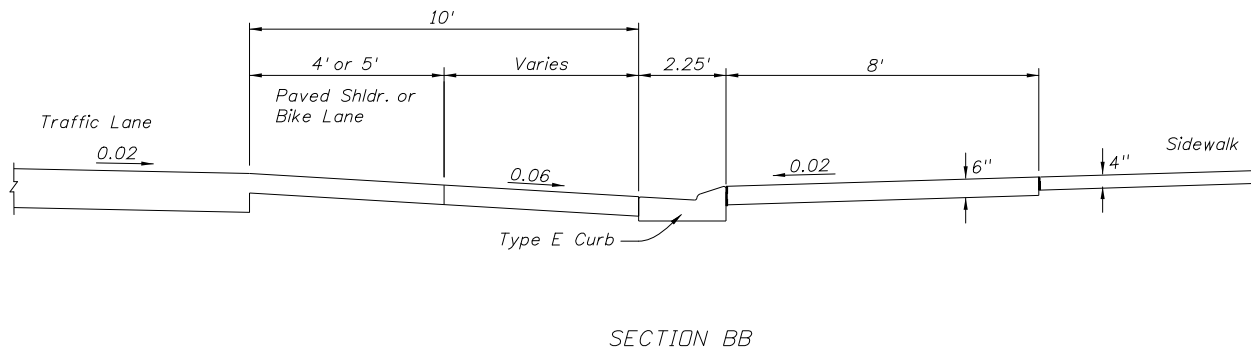
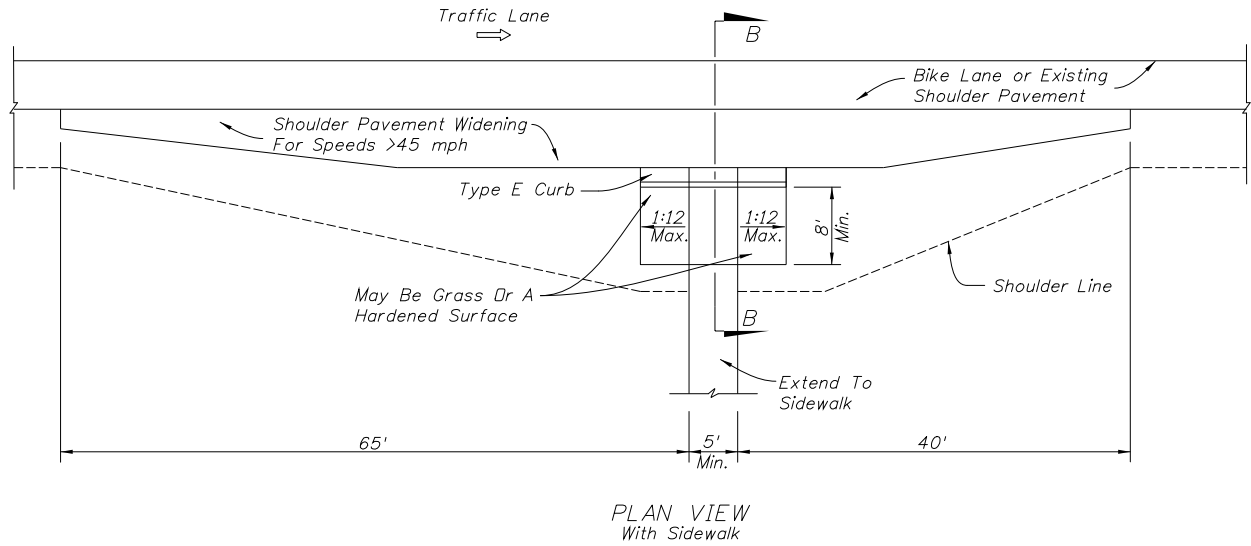


Figure 8.4 Accessible Boarding and Alighting Area for Flush Shoulder Roadways with Connection to Sidewalk



8.10.2 Street-Side Facilities

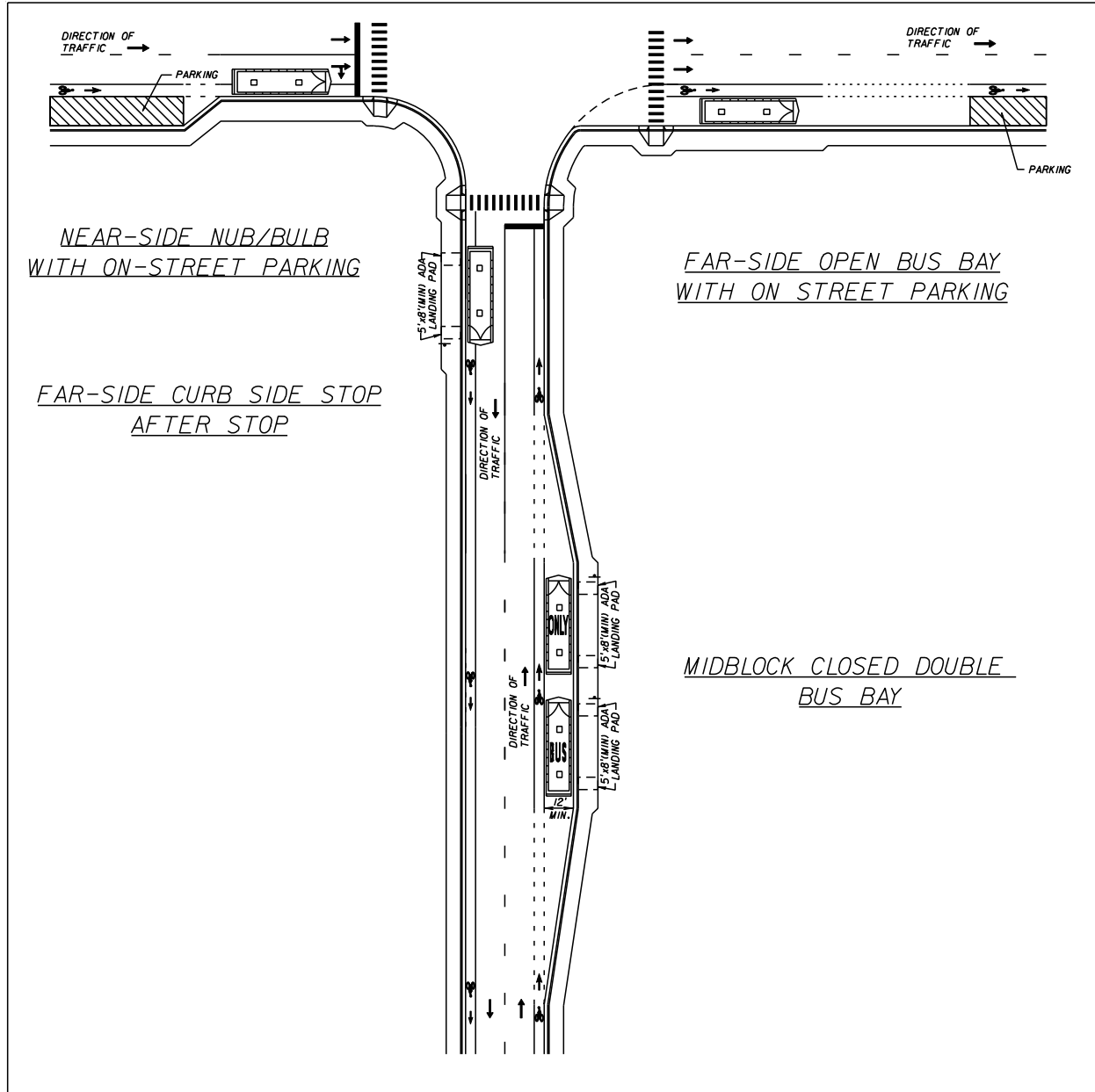
Bus stop locations can be categorized as far-side, near-side and midblock stops. Bus stops may be designed with a bus bay or pullout to allow buses to pick up and discharge passengers in an area outside of the travel lane. This design feature allows traffic to flow freely without the obstruction of stopped buses. See **Figure 8.5** for typical detail for the bus stop and bus bay categories. **Chapter 2 of Accessing Transit** provides additional information for each facility.

The greater distance placed between waiting passengers and the travel lane increases safety at a stop. Bus bays are encouraged on roadways with high operating speeds, such as roads that are part of the Urban Principal Arterial System. For a particular bus stop, a high frequency of crashes involving buses is a good indicator for the need of a bus bay. Bus bays are classified as closed, open or bulbs. Illustrations for various bus bay configurations are provided in the **Transit Facilities Guidelines** on the Public Transportation Office website: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/transit/>

At a specific location, a balance must be obtained based on the designer's judgment and input from the applicable transit agencies. In locations where the traffic volumes exceed 1,000 vehicles per hour per lane, it is difficult to maneuver the bus into the bay and back into the travel lane. Incorporating an acceleration distance, signal priority, or a far-side (rather than near-side or midblock) placement, are potential solutions when traffic volumes exceed 1,000 vehicles per hour per lane.

The total length of the bus bay should allow room for an entrance taper, a stopping area, and an exit taper as a minimum. However, in some cases it may be appropriate to consider providing acceleration and deceleration lanes depending on the volume and speed of the through traffic. This decision should be based upon site specific conditions. **Accessing Transit** provides detailed bus bay dimensions for consideration when right of way is unlimited and access points are limited.

Figure 8.5 Bus Stop and Bus Bay Categories



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