

CITY OF MERCED
Development Services

TO: Bicycle Advisory Commission
FROM: Michael Hren, AICP; Principal Planner
DATE: August 22, 2017
SUBJECT: Bicycle Advisory Commission Requests, Information Items and Subcommittee Reports

BACKGROUND

At the June 27, 2017 meeting, the Commission asked for information related to three items in addition to the updates from assigned Temporary Ad-hoc Committees: wrong way signs for cyclists, the bike lane southbound on G Street as it approaches Olive Avenue, and the implementation of a “bike campus” for further cyclist education.

DISCUSSION

1. **Wrong Way Signs:** Planning Staff communicated the Commission’s desire to install more wrong way cyclist signs to the Engineering Department. Mr. Son, Acting City Engineer, indicated a willingness to entertain further installations so long as the signs are compliant with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Attachment A indicates typical signs that are in compliance with the MUTCD. Sign R5-1b (enlarged on Attachment B) appears to serve the Commission’s request. The Commission should provide staff with a prioritized list of locations that would best serve the cycling community by installing these signs.

2. **Bike Lane on southbound G Street at Olive Avenue:** Planning Staff observed the function of the bike lane in question and agrees that there are issues with the current configuration that could lead to potentially unsafe interactions between motorized vehicles and cyclists. The paint on the pavement indicates the presence of the bike lane, but vehicles enter the lane to turn right onto Olive Avenue far enough back that the paint may not be visible, and much farther back than the 200’ distance that the lane should be used for those purposes. Additionally, the only mounted signs in the area indicate no parking any time, but do not show that there is a bike lane present. Large queues of vehicles waiting at the intersection can make the bike lane appear to be a right turn lane for motor vehicles.

These concerns were brought to the Engineering Department, and Mr. Son agreed that some modifications would be necessary to make the area as safe as possible for users of all modes of transportation. At this time, a final implementation has not yet been decided. Some of the potential remedies, in tandem or in isolation, include installation of additional mounted signs in compliance with the MUTCD, such as the R81 (CA) sign to indicate the presence of a bike lane or the R4-4 sign to indicate where the right turn lane begins and that turning motorists must yield to bikes (see Attachment B for enlarged versions of these signs); and/or the reduction in width of the bike lane. The width of the lane at this time is a potentially contributing factor to its use as a right-turn lane farther back than the prescribed 200’ distance. The Planning and Engineering Departments are committed to providing a

long-term solution that resolves these issues and does not bring about more or worse complications. Once further progress on this matter has been made, a report will be presented to the Commission at the next possible meeting.

3. **Bike Campus:** The Commission's suggestion to create a bike campus for the education of novice cyclists was presented to the Engineering Department. Mr. Son indicated that he is open to having bicycling education opportunities available to the general public. He recommends that when the City builds bike lanes using ATP funding, some money should be set aside for the education component at the end of the project. In his vision, the local bike coalition would have a non-profit group that would go to schools and teach kids in the area about bike safety. Mr. Son asks if the bicycle coalition would have access to resources to do public outreach in relation to this implementation.

ACTION

Provide staff with a prioritized list of locations that would best serve the cycling community by installing Wrong Way signs.

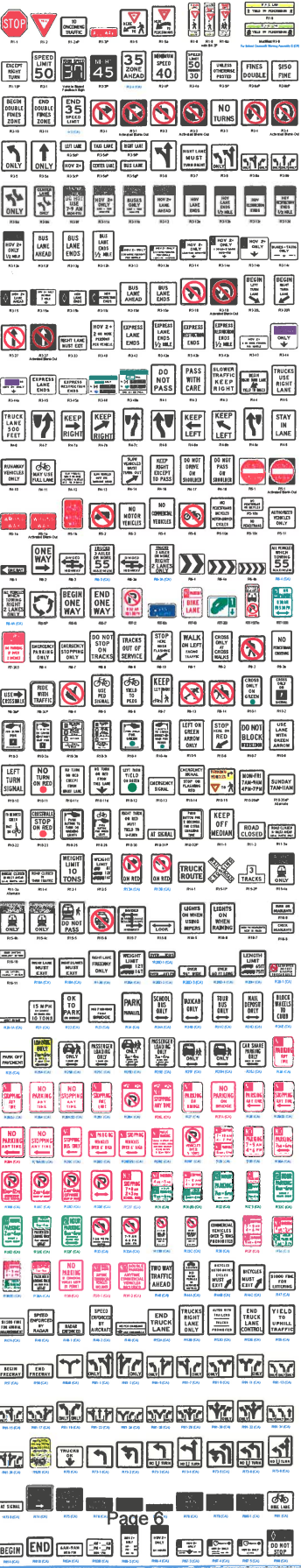
ATTACHMENTS

- A. California MUTCD Sign Poster
- B. Enlargements of Signs from California MUTCD Sign Poster referenced in Agenda Item E

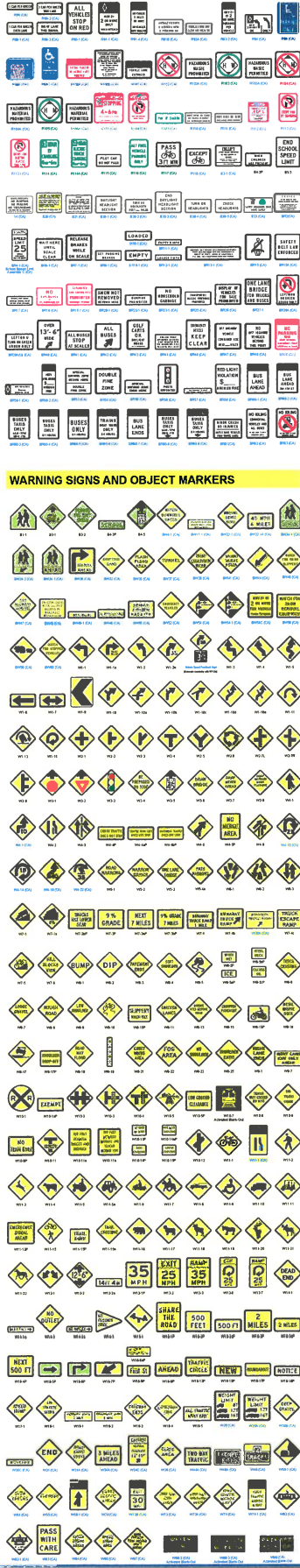
2014 California MUTCD Sign Poster

(Including Revision 1)

REGULATORY SIGNS



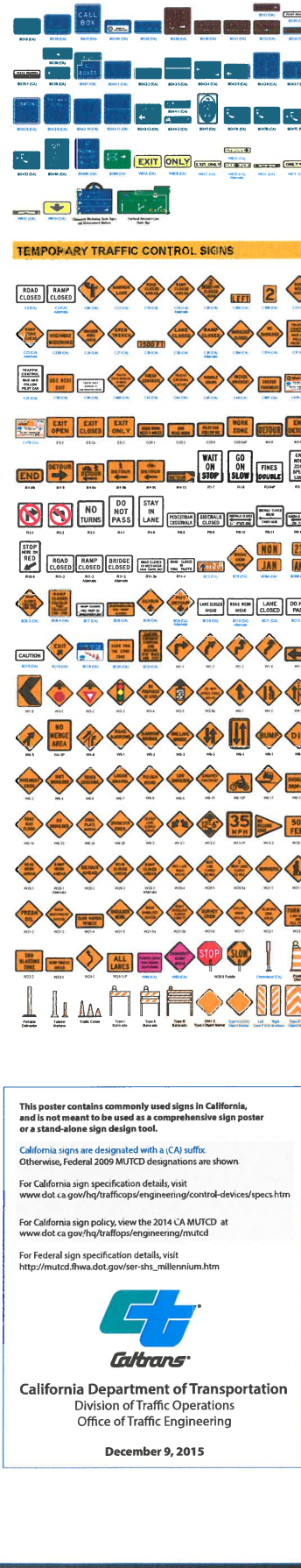
WARNING SIGNS AND OBJECT MARKERS



GUIDE SIGNS



TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNS



This poster contains commonly used signs in California, and is not meant to be used as a comprehensive sign poster or a stand-alone sign design tool.

California signs are designated with a (CA) suffix. Otherwise, Federal 2009 MUTCD designations are shown.

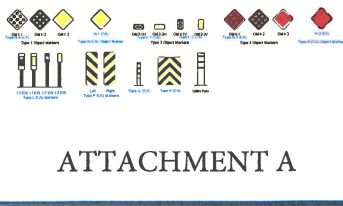
For California sign specification details, visit www.dot.ca.gov/hq/trafficops/engineering/control-devices/specs.htm

For California sign policy, view the 2014 CA MUTCD at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/trafficops/engineering/mutcd

For Federal sign specification details, visit http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/ser-shs_millennium.htm

Caltrans
California Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Operations
Office of Traffic Engineering
December 9, 2015

WARNING SIGNS AND OBJECT MARKERS



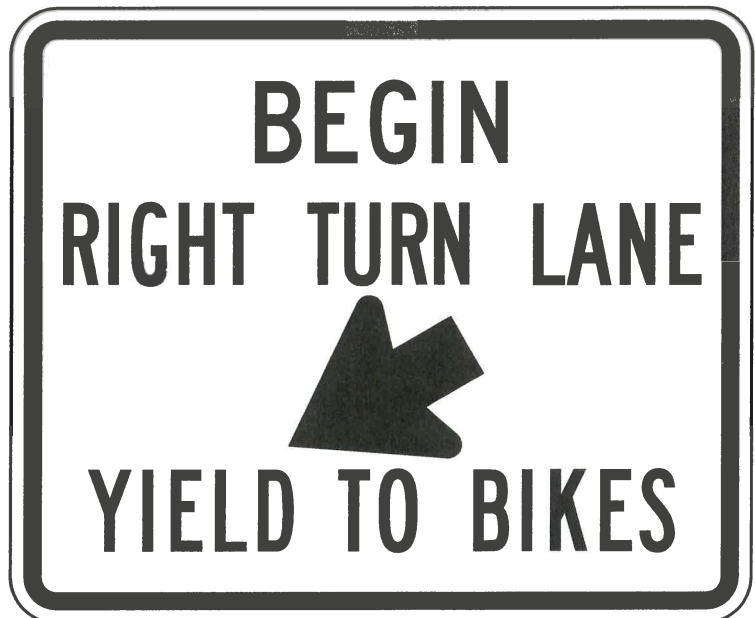
**Signs referenced in Agenda Item E of
Bicycle Advisory Commission Agenda for
August 22, 2017.**



R5-1b



R81 (CA)



R4-4