



Bicycles May Use Full Lane Signage



Research accomplished at the NC State University (George Hess & Nils Peterson) has demonstrated that the use of "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signage (R4-11) is significantly more effective as compared to the two plaque "Share the Road" (W11-1 upper with W16-1 lower) signage. This article included provides a wealth of background information and references on the subject. We encourage you to read it in its entirety. Our own top level conclusions are as follows:

- "Share the Road" signage is almost (if not) completely ineffective. Others have also drawn this conclusion. In fact the State of Delaware completely eliminated their use in 2013 (details are in the article).
- Use of "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signage resulted in very significant "increases of comprehension among novice bicyclists and private motor vehicle commuters" that cyclists may occupy the travel lane where the lane's width is such that vehicles cannot safely pass the cyclist without changing lanes. We believe this translates into significantly improved safety overall.

The article also provides data in support of how "Sharrows" (i.e., Shared Lane markings) may provide a helpful supplement to "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" Signage.

Bike Walk IRC believes that use of these signs on Old Dixie highway south of Vero Beach would improve the level of bicycling safety and strongly recommend implementing them as a first use and test within Indian River County. It is a high use road for cyclists and has lanes that for much

of its length in IRC meet the criteria outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD):

Section 9B.06 Bicycles May Use Full Lane Sign (R4-11)

Option:

01 The Bicycles May Use Full Lane (R4-11) sign (see figure 9B-2) may be used on roadways where no bicycle lanes or adjacent shoulders usable by bicyclists are present and where travel lanes are too narrow for bicyclists and motor vehicles to operate side by side.

02 The Bicycles May Use Full Lane sign may be used in locations where it is important to inform road users that bicyclists might occupy the travel lane.

<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/html/2009/part9/part9b.htm>

It should be noted that we are aware that Maryland, and in particular, the Eastern Shore town of Berlin has in fact installed quite a few of "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signs. We believe in IRC there are some in government that hold a perception that using these signs may lead to too many cyclists using the full lane whether it's appropriate or not, leading to all kinds of calamities. This was checked out in Maryland by stopping by at the Berlin Police Department and talking at length regarding the signs and local driver-cyclist issues. They indicated that the signs have not led to any issues, that cyclists seem to have good sense regarding when to use the full lane, and that motorists and cyclists seem to get along great in the town with minimal issues.