

For curb and/or curb and gutter streets, the separation between face of the curb to the edge of the shared use path shall be a minimum of 8 feet in order to meet the minimum lateral offset distance to install signs for the roadway and the shared use path.\*

- **Width and Clearance**

The paved width and the operating width required for a shared use path are primary design considerations. Under most conditions, the recommended paved width for a two-directional shared use path is 10 feet. However in rare instances, a reduced width of 8 feet can be adequate. This reduced width should be used only where the following conditions prevail:

- (1) bicycle traffic is expected to be low, even on peak days or during peak hours.
- (2) pedestrian use of the facility is not expected to be more than occasional.
- (3) there will be good horizontal and vertical alignment providing safe and frequent passing opportunities, and
- (4) during normal maintenance activities the path will not be subjected to maintenance vehicle loading conditions that would cause pavement edge damage.

Under certain conditions it may be necessary or desirable to increase the width of a shared use path to 12 feet, or even 14 feet, due to substantial use by bicycles, joggers, skaters and pedestrians, use by large maintenance vehicles, and steep grades.

A minimum 2 foot wide graded area shall be maintained adjacent to both sides of the path. A minimum 3 foot clear zone shall be maintained from the edge of the path to signs, trees, poles, walls, fences, guardrail and other lateral obstructions. Where the path is adjacent to slopes steeper than 3:1, a minimum 5 feet separation from the edge of the path pavement to the top of slope is required. Depending on the height of embankment and condition at the bottom, a physical barrier, such as dense shrubbery, railing or chain link fence, may need to be provided.

The vertical clearance to obstructions shall 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 required for adequate vertical shy distance.

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\* Rev. 7/09