

The National Association of City Transportation Officials Launches New Urban Bikeway Design Guide for the Next Generation of Innovative Cycling Infrastructure

New state-of-the-practice for designing safe, bikeable streets

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) today launched the newly revised edition of the seminal *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*, updated for the first time in a decade with innovative street design practices that support people getting around cities, and elevating planning from building great individual bike lanes to building great complete bike networks.

Developed for cities, by cities, the *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* is a blueprint for changing decades-old practices on city streets. Endorsed by the U.S. Department of Transportation and recognized in federal law, the *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* is used by hundreds of municipalities, state DOTs, and regional agencies across the U.S. and Canada to design streets that are safe and accessible for people biking. Because of the *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*, treatments such as protected bike lanes are now commonplace across the U.S. and Canada.

“We commend NACTO for their work with local planners and designers to build safer streets and more connected bikeway networks,” said **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg**. “The newest edition of the *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* will be an important resource for communities as they improve safety and design for cyclists, pedestrians, and everyone who uses our streets and roads.”

“The story of urban design over the last decade is the story of how innovative and easy-to-implement cycling infrastructure transformed thousands of city streets into safe, bikeable places,” states **Janette Sadik-Khan, NACTO’s Board Chair and a principal at Bloomberg Associates**. “The *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* is the source code for this explosive new cycling era, now updated with the latest designs and technical insights from hundreds of projects across the country.”

“Access to transportation means access to opportunity,” said **Ryan Russo, Executive Director of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)**. “The third edition of the *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* takes all that we’ve learned from hundreds of projects across North America. It provides more than just a kit of parts for designing a bike lane: it provides the how-to blueprint and strategies for creating a whole bike network for people of all ages, abilities, and identities.”

The new edition includes detailed policy, planning, and project development guidance to ensure connected bikeable streets become standard practice. It also shows how to center equity and access in every step of planning and implementing a bike network—addressing inequities caused by the

transportation system and building collaborative partnerships with historically marginalized groups of residents.

With more detailed technical guidance than previous editions, the *Guide* points the way for cities to plan and implement bike networks that account for the many different types of people who may be using the street. The third edition also reflects the increasing use of new types of vehicles using bike infrastructure and features best practices to integrate more types of bikeway users—including those riding e-bikes, scooters, and cargo bikes—into the design process. More detailed intersection design practices focus on improving safety for everyone—walking, biking, scooting, and driving.

Beyond design guidelines, the new edition of the *Guide* broadens its scope to include network planning, community engagement, design context, project delivery, and maintenance needs to ensure that high-quality bike routes remain functional and comfortable—even during construction disruptions.

The *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* illustrates a vision for cities that features safe streets, economically strong local business districts, and vibrant streetscapes. It shows how effective leadership strategies can unlock the resources, structure, and backing necessary to change city streets.

The *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*, Third Edition, will be available from Island Press in hardcover and ebook format on January 15, 2025. For more information, visit nacto.org/bike-guide.

About the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)

NACTO is an association of 100 North American cities and transit agencies that exchange transportation ideas, insights, and practices and cooperatively approach national transportation issues. The organization champions bold, people-first urban transportation by mobilizing a network of cities and transit agencies. See more at nacto.org.

About Island Press

Founded in 1984, Island Press works to stimulate, shape, and communicate the information that is essential for solving environmental problems. Today, with more than 1,000 titles in print and some 30 new releases each year, it is the nation's leading publisher of books on environmental issues. Island Press is driving change by moving ideas from the printed page to public discourse and practice. Island Press's emphasis is, and will continue to be, on transforming objective information into understanding and action. For more information, visit islandpress.org.

Urban Bikeway Design Guide, Third Edition

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Praise for the NACTO *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*, third edition

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“The story of urban design over the last decade is the story of how innovative and easy-to-implement cycling infrastructure has transformed thousands of city streets into safe, bikeable places. The *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* has been the source code for this explosive new cycling era, now updated with the latest designs and technical insights amassed from hundreds of projects across the nation’s cities.”
– **Janette Sadik-Khan, NACTO’s Board Chair and a principal at Bloomberg Associates.**

“Access to transportation means access to opportunity. The third edition of the *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* takes all that we’ve learned from hundreds of projects across North America. It provides more than just a kit of parts for designing a bike lane: it provides the how-to blueprint for creating a whole bike network for people of all ages, abilities, and identities.”

– **Ryan Russo, Executive Director of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO).**

“The *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* shows cities how to build bikeways that are safe and enjoyable for everyone, and how to design streets that support healthy, sustainable, and vibrant neighborhoods.”

– **Cavalier Johnson, Mayor of Milwaukee.**

“The NACTO *Urban Bikeway Design Guide* goes beyond how to draw lines on the pavement and outlines how a shared vision for streets—with true community input—builds trust in government and makes streets better for all residents to be. It goes beyond a vision for biking and transportation—it shows how connecting with communities, true engagement with stakeholders on the ground, and a thoughtful, equitable approach to planning create better outcomes for cities.”

– **Transportation Equity and Justice Leader tamika l. butler.**

“What is most exciting about this edition of the bikeway guide is the expanded focus on maintenance. Thinking about maintenance during the planning and design process will lead to better infrastructure for cities.” – **Veronica O. Davis, P.E., Director of Cities at AtkinsRéalis and former City of Houston**

Director of Transportation & Drainage Operations

Urban Bikeway Design Guide

What's new and significantly expanded in the third edition

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New in the third edition

- Emphasis on critical thinking in approaching transportation planning and design, rather than reliance on standards or templates
- A fully illustrated vision for cities that features safe streets, economically strong local business districts, and vibrant streetscapes
- Effective leadership strategies to unlock the resources, structure, and backing necessary to change city streets
- Focus on planning and design goals that better serve people of all ages, abilities, and identities—including work status, race and ethnicity, gender identity, and past experiences with biking
- Integrating more types of bikeway users, including those riding e-bikes, scooters, and large cargo bikes, into the design process
- Technical guidance on planning and implementing full bike networks to shift agencies from one-off bike projects to a programmatic approach that ensures connectivity in the bike network
- Policy, planning, and project development guidance that ensures connected bikeable streets become the norm
- How to center equity and access in every step of planning and implementing a bike network—addressing inequities caused by the transportation system and building collaborative partnerships with historically marginalized groups of residents
- Strategies for improving accessibility for pedestrians walking along and crossing bikeways
- Detailed design guidance for integrating bikeways into roundabouts and traffic circles
- Best practices for regular operations and maintenance of bike facilities
- Policy and design practices to ensure access to bike facilities during construction disruptions

Enhanced in the third edition

- Contextual guidance for selecting appropriate bikeway and intersection designs and making appropriate trade-offs with other modes of transport
- Guidance on designing protected bike lanes, including proven strategies to physically separate bikeways from motor vehicle lanes and pedestrian sidewalks
- Detailed guidance on reducing motor vehicle speeds and volumes to enable safer, more comfortable bike networks
- Intersection design practices that reduce injury-causing conflicts and improve safety for everyone—walking, biking, scooting, and driving
- Technical guidance on signal phasing strategies to serve people walking and biking