



Cycle tracks

Cycle tracks, or barrier-protected bike lanes, are bike lanes that are physically separated from vehicle traffic by a curb, rail, bollards, or other element. Colored pavement, mixing zones or exclusive bike signal phasing can be used to increase safety at intersection points. Cycle tracks are typically wider than bike lanes, allowing cyclists to ride side-by-side or to pass other cyclists. On corridors with on-street parking, cycle tracks are usually placed between the parking lane and the sidewalk, using the parked cars as a physical barrier. Two-way cycle tracks – whether on one side or in the center of a roadway – require additional considerations to achieve safe crossings at driveways and intersections. Cycle tracks are most appropriate on wider high-volume roadways in urban and mixed-use settings, where bicycles are a prioritized mode and a regular feature of the transportation environment.

Images (clockwise from main image):

Cycle track in Chicago, IL.
Source: Active Transportation Alliance.

Additional examples:
Sources: National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Bike Design Guide; NACTO Bike Design Guide; Richard Masoner, Flickr; Dan Burden.