



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Users of the Delaware Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

FROM: Mark Luszcz, Chief Traffic Engineer *ML*

DATE: November 1, 2013

SUBJECT: Bicycle Warning Sign and Share the Road Plaque

There have been recent discussions about the bicycle warning sign (W11-1) and supplemental SHARE THE ROAD (STR) plaque (W16-1P). Some have requested that we simply use the bicycle warning sign and abandon the STR plaque altogether. Some believe the plaque puts more onus on the bicyclist to share the road than the motorist. As far we can tell, there is no actual research showing the effectiveness of either the bicycle warning sign alone or with the STR plaque.



W11-1



W16-1P

Per the Support statement for the bicycle warning sign (DE MUTCD Section 9B.18, Para. 1), DelDOT has traditionally used the sign alone for a crossing point and the sign with the STR

November 1, 2013

plaque for bicyclists traveling along the roadway. (DelDOT previously used a bicycle warning sign with the “share the road” message directly on the diamond sign. These have been discontinued but some are still in field use). However, there are no standards or guidance related to use the STR plaque. Per the DE MUTCD, their use is purely optional.

Based on the above information, DelDOT reached out to several bicycling groups in Delaware on this topic, including the Delaware Bicycle Council, Bike Delaware, Delawarebikes.org, and Sussex Cyclists. Each group was either supportive of the elimination of the STR plaque, or neutral on the topic. No objections to the idea of eliminating the STR plaque were received.

Therefore, effective immediately, DelDOT is discontinuing the use of the STR plaque. For projects that have not yet reached the final plan submission, the STR plaque should be deleted from the plans. For projects past the final plan submission or in construction, the STR plaque does not need to be installed. When bicycle warning signs and STR plaques are being replaced for maintenance purposes (e.g., sign life has been reached, sign has been damaged, sign has been stolen, etc.), the STR plaque should be omitted when the bicycle warning sign is repaired/replaced.

The Delaware guidance on the use of the STR plaque (DE MUTCD Section 9B.19) notes that it should not be used when there is a shoulder of 4 feet or greater. This guidance will continue to be applicable for the bicycle warning sign without the STR plaque.

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