

Evaluation and future development of bicycle travel environment improvement model districts

Road Department
Advanced Road Design and Safety Division
TAKAMIYA Susumu, Head (Phd(Eng.))
HONDA Hajime, Senior Researcher

Traffic Engineering Division
UESAKA Katsumi, Head (Phd(Eng.))
YAMAMOTO Akira, Researcher
KOBAYASHI Hiroshi, Senior Researcher

(Key words) Bicycle, bicycle network project, intersection design, guideline

1. Background to and history of recent bicycle countermeasures

In 2008, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the National Police Agency designated a total of 98 areas nationwide as Bicycle Travel Environment Improvement Model Districts, clarified problems with improving bicycle travel environments and studied countermeasures. Later, in 2011, they formed the Study Committee for the Creation of Safe and Pleasant Bicycle Utilization Environments, which evaluated and verified efforts made in the above model districts and proposed the preparation of guidelines.

The NILIM collected and aggregated documents about the model districts and helped the committee evaluate and verify efforts made in the model districts.

2. Evaluating and verifying efforts in model districts

The evaluation and verification in the model districts clarified two facts: [1] because the improvement effects are not fully achieved simply by partially improving bicycle traveling space, it is important to do the improvement as a network, and [2] because there are cases where the connection between the uninterrupted flow section and intersection are not provided connected in a straight line, so that the improved bicycle traveling space is not fully utilized, it is important to ensure continuity and straightness of bicycle traveling space at intersections. So the concept of stipulating bicycle network projects in the guidelines and the concept of intersection design methods were proposed.

3. Future challenges

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the National Police Agency will supplement the committee's proposals with technical opinions to prepare and release the guideline.

[Reference] Committee web site.

<http://www.mlit.go.jp/road/ir/ir-council/cyclists/ind ex.html>

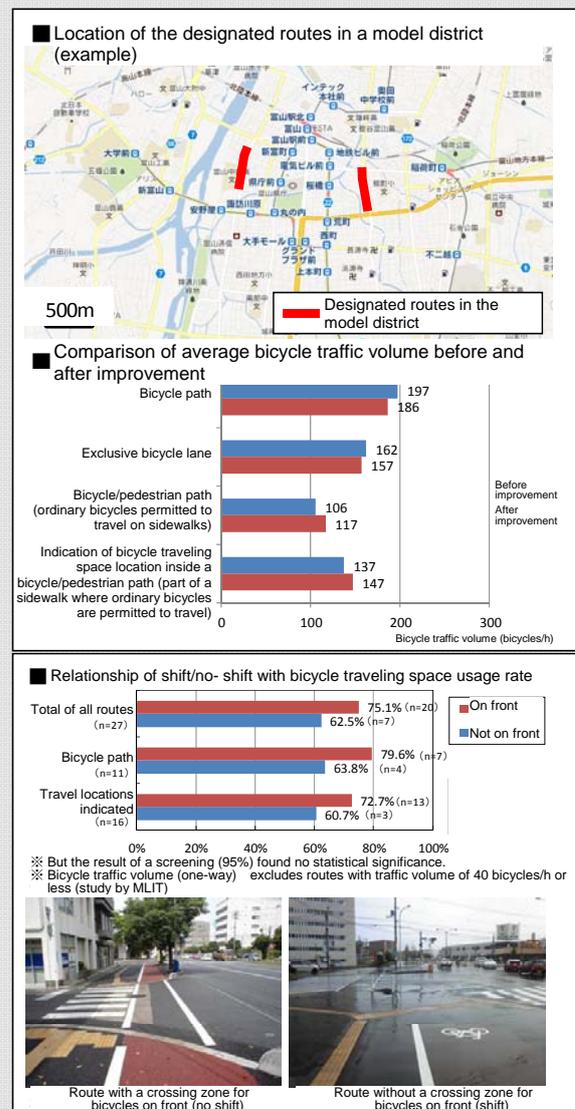


Figure Example of evaluation/verification of model district (excerpted from committee documents)