Why “Edge Lane Road” is a better name

Suggested names for this treatment are “Advisory Bike Lane” and “Advisory Shoulder”.

These are the reasons “Edge Lane Road” (ELR) is a better name:

- The name "advisory bike lane" creates a legal conflict. Most, if not all, states have laws defining bike lanes as facilities that exclude motor vehicles. This creates a conflict between the law and desired driver behavior. If one wanted to prevent or delay use, using this name is an excellent way to do so.
- The terms “bike lane” and “shoulder” are terms-of-art. Per the MUTCD and state law, neither bike lanes nor shoulders are normally intended for vehicular travel. This is important in technical, regulatory, and legal settings. Edge lane road is a new term and has no baggage.
- The essence of ELRs is not the type of vulnerable road user they support; its essence is the space created by the edge lanes and the shared use behavior required of all road users.
- The “advisory” names imply the edge lanes have an independent existence and that they can be added to any road. This has resulted in edge lanes being added to roads with centerlines - a design worse than sharrows. ELRs only work as an inseparable whole. The treatment is a shared street, not VRU lanes into which motorists can infringe.
- The most common crash on rural roads is the single-vehicle, road-departure crash. ELRs can reduce these crashes even if they never see a vulnerable road user. What do you call them then? See https://www.edgelaneroads.com/rural-edge-lane-roads.html for more info.
- “Edge lane road” is known and used in other countries. Danish guidance uses this name and residents of other countries are familiar with the name.
- Some folks use "Advisory Bike Lane" when bikes are supported and "Advisory Shoulder" when pedestrians are supported. What name is used when the treatment supports equestrians, wheelchairs, or horse-drawn buggies?
- Are you referring to the lanes or the entire road? The existing names are used interchangeably to refer to the entire road and to the edge lanes – this is confusing. “Edge lanes” refer to the outside lanes and “edge lane road” refers to the entire road.
- The term “edge lane road” is more common in the research literature than any other name. “Advisory shoulder” isn’t even found in the TRID database.