Bike boxes are wide, marked/colored areas of pavement at signalized intersections, in front of automobiles queuing during the red signal phase. The vehicle stop bar is placed behind the back edge of the bike box. These facilities give bicyclists priority in crossing the intersection, allowing them to clear the intersection first. Bike boxes also increase the visibility of cyclists at intersections and reduce conflicts caused by the difference in startup speeds of bicycles and automobiles. Typically highlighted with green paint.

Images (clockwise from main image):
Bike box in Chicago, IL
Source: Active Transportation Alliance.

Additional images:
Sources: Stephen Faust, AICP, pedbikeimages.org; Laura Sandt, pedbikeimages.org; National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Bike Design Guide.