These guidelines have been produced to assist municipalities within the Capital Regional District to prepare wayfinding signage plans for cyclists.

The guidance contained here is intended as a supplement to existing provincial and national guidance for the provision of cycling guide signage on the highway. The guidance is not intended to cover other warning, regulatory or road user information or to provide specific guidance on guiding cyclists using off-road trails. However, the planning principles and general advice provided may be useful in combination with local bylaws and practices when considering other projects.

The help and enthusiasm of the Capital Regional District and their municipal partners is acknowledged in the production of these guidelines.
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1.0 Introduction

Explaining the purpose, benefits and background to the bicycle wayfinding guidelines

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1.1  Context

Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan (PCMP)

These guidelines form one of the actions described in the Capital Regional District (CRD) Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan (PCMP), published in March 2011.

The PCMP envisions a region where 15 percent of trips are made by walking and 15 percent are made by cycling, with higher projected cycling rates (25 percent) within urban centres. The CRD expects that, by 2038, 1.7 million trips will occur in the region daily. 255,000 of these trips (15 percent) will occur by bike and a further 255,000 will occur by walking (totaling 510,000 daily trips). The PCMP will enable many of these journeys to occur on bicycle routes that are comfortable for most, if not all, levels of experience.

One of the components of a comfortable network is provision of good quality signage to guide new and existing cyclists to their destinations. Strategy 3.2 of the PCMP describes ways to develop a common regional wayfinding system for cycling.

Relationship to existing guidance

These guidelines are intended to provide planning and design advice for bicycle wayfinding across the Capital Regional District. Other types, including warning and regulatory signs, are covered by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) and BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (BC MoTI).

The current edition of the TAC Bikeway Traffic Control Guidelines for Canada provides specific guidance on signage and markings for bicycle facilities. Similar guidelines from the BC MoTI are forthcoming.

This document supplements these national and provincial guidelines providing additional advice, details and solutions to circumstances common to the Capital Regional District.

In addition to Canadian references, there is a range of compatible advice available from the United States. While practitioners must be careful not to contradict applicable Canadian guidelines the following may be of interest:

- US National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

Related PCMP objectives

Objective 3

Promote regional consistency, continuity and connectivity

Strategy 3.1: Develop common standards for pedestrian and cycling design guidelines

Strategy 3.2: Develop a common wayfinding signage system
What are the benefits of wayfinding?

Wayfinding is a decision-making process related to navigation. The decisions we make are influenced by what we sense, our experience and the information we can obtain. Signage, maps and mobile devices, are commonly recognized means of assessing wayfinding information.

Many of these potential walking and cycling trips will be made by people new to cycling and walking. For them the wayfinding process will be more conscious as they may not know the active travel network or understand what distances they are capable of traveling.

Much of the region’s hundreds of kilometres of active travel facilities are on residential streets, separated paths or special routes that a driver or transit user might be unaware of. This network can provide safe, comfortable and convenient access across the region but only if pedestrians and cyclists can find their way to it and through it.

A wayfinding system can help users by identifying the active travel network, pointing out route options and helping them learn what other destinations could be accessed.

How these guidelines were developed

The guidelines were prepared by CRD in consultation with municipal representatives throughout the region.

Municipal representatives contributed comments, questions and recommendations at various stages in the writing of the guidelines.

The Regional Bicycle Wayfinding Guidelines will be reviewed and updated from time to time to ensure that they remain compatible with current guidance produced by other bodies. Municipal representatives will be involved in this process to ensure that the guidelines remain consistent and appropriate for the needs of those agencies responsible for delivering cycling projects across the region.

The CRD Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan sees a common wayfinding system as a key strategy in improving regional walkability and bikeability.
1.2 Scope

Identifying the user

These guidelines are focused on helping achieve the goals of the CRD Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan (PCMP). In particular, they aim to support a mode shift towards cycling for trips for suitable everyday trips.

The wayfinding guidelines accommodate this focus by prioritizing directions to places that many people visit for a wide variety of purposes, that are a moderate distance apart and those that can be accessed from the designated bike network.

By implication the guidelines are not specifically intended for recreational cycling, which includes cycling on trails, sports cycling or long distance touring, since these do not directly encourage mode shift for everyday trips. However, CRD acknowledges the value of information for recreation and other uses, such as cycle tourism as part of a supportive framework and the economy of the region. The guidelines therefore include principles and advice that may be a useful reference for other forms of cyclist wayfinding.

Wayfinding for walking

Walkers and cyclists have different use patterns with respect to wayfinding.

A cyclist can travel much further and faster than a walker for the same effort. This produces large differences in how far away a destination might be reasonably signed from. Walkers are also more willing to stop and study information, whereas maps, detailed directions and smaller text are difficult to use while cycling. As with driving, a bicycle wayfinding system must consider safe use and refrain from including too much text on any one sign.

For these reasons the guidelines do not attempt to combine cycling and walking wayfinding in a single approach. However, the presence of cyclist-focused wayfinding on shared routes will undoubtedly provide benefits to other users. This could be supplemented for walking by adding maps and specific directions to local destinations within short, walkable distances, particularly along multi-use paths, which are intended to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists and other users. Multi-use path routes may omit the bicycle icon on signage to avoid any confusion regarding permitted uses on the trail. Please see Appendix C for additional guidance on multi-use pathways.

Types of cyclist

Utility cycling
Some people use the network to get to work or other specific purposes. They need consistent, reliable information for their whole journey.

Recreational cycling
Some people use the network for fun, sport or exercise and with no specific destination. They may look for contextual information and directions to services.

Cycle tourism
An increasing number of people travel by bike for vacations. They will have a route plan, but may look for places to explore while on their journey.

These guidelines focus on routes suitable for utility cycling but wayfinding may be helpful for other types of cycling.
Inter-municipal regional-scale trips are more likely to be completed by bicycle than by foot because of the distances involved; therefore, it is of higher priority at this time to ensure that cyclists encounter information in a standardized way across the region. A pedestrian wayfinding signage standard may be developed in the future to address the specific needs of those travelling on foot.

**Other types of information**

Wayfinding is just one type of information that may be directed at cyclists. Municipalities may also wish to provide interpretive signage, promote municipal identity, recognize corporate sponsors, or identify volunteer groups who maintain bikeways.

These and other types of non-wayfinding information should be provided separately so that wayfinding guidance is always easy to identify and understand.

**Prioritizing routes for wayfinding signage**

While it is possible to cycle on most streets, a network of designated cycling routes has evolved that provide specific facilities for cycling. The network of designated cycle routes across the CRD is the primary focus of the wayfinding guidelines.

The network is large and varies considerably in terms of its facilities, traffic use and suitability for different levels of cycling experience. Planners will wish to identify the destinations to sign and the routes to serve those destinations, and to agree both with neighbouring authorities if it is necessary to sign a destination that is in a separate jurisdiction.

The CRD has established a Primary Inter-Community Cycling Network (PIC) that will expand over time to become a strategic transportation system connecting all the regional centres. The PIC is a priority for wayfinding to reach regionally significant destinations.

At a municipal level, there are a number of locally important cycle routes that provide links between neighbourhoods. These form the majority of the existing well-used bicycle network and will provide major links to the PIC. Providing wayfinding on these routes may be a priority for municipal agencies.

Finally, there are also some less heavily-used routes that connect neighbourhoods, schools, parks and places of work. These routes will have varying degrees of importance in local transportation plans and may be suitable for wayfinding to promote local cycling targets or meet specific needs.
1.3 Principles

These guidelines will be formulated around a set of core design principles. These principles are included to describe the basis for achieving a fundamentally consistent approach.

1 Connect places
The PCMP aims to encourage new cyclists to undertake everyday journeys by bike. Wayfinding information should help people ride between destinations and develop an increased sense of how cycling can provide mobility.

The relationship between the bicycle network and the principle of connecting places also helps inform future planning priorities.

2 Use consistent destination names
The consistent use of an agreed list of names and references allows for users to confidently use wayfinding signage to reach destinations and follow routes across different jurisdictions.

A consistent set of references also helps users trust and learn the system and so apply their knowledge to new journeys.

3 Maintain movement
Cycling is a physical activity and repeated stopping and starting is both tiring and frustrating. Wayfinding information that cannot be read quickly by cyclists at desired travel speeds make bicycle journeys less attractive.

Continuous, visible and clear wayfinding will help identify routes and enable cyclists to maintain an even pace.

4 Be predictable
When information is predictable it can be quickly recognized, understood and used. Predictability can relate to all aspects of wayfinding information, from the placement of a sign to the design of its contents.

Predictability also means that understanding can be recalled for use in new situations. Once riders trust that they will encounter consistent and predictable information, new journeys can be made more easily.
Cycling Destination Wayfinding Guidelines

1.0 Introduction

5 Disclose information progressively
It is important to provide information in manageable amounts when wayfinding. Too much information can be difficult to understand; too little and decision-making becomes impossible.

Wayfinding for cycling is similar to guide signing for drivers; information provided to users who are moving must be provided in advance of where major changes in direction are required, repeated as necessary and confirmed when the manoeuvre is complete.

6 Help users learn
For many in the target market for cycling, the process of travelling by bike will be new or largely forgotten. Wayfinding information should take this into consideration and seek to help newcomers to cycling understand what is accessible and how to navigate the network and any challenging situations.

Wayfinding information provided for bike facilities should also complement other information and resources, such as the CRD Bike Map, so that learning is easier and quicker.

7 Keep information simple
Information should be structured and presented to the rider in as clear and logical a form as possible. During a journey, a cyclist may have to make decisions quickly for safe movement. Too much information requires extra time to understand and use.

Badly designed, structured or located information forces users to spend more time wayfinding. The longer someone has to try to understand information, the less likely it will be used.
1.4 Destinations

Destination hierarchy

Following from the first principle, "Connect Places", the major focus of these guidelines is how to direct cyclists along the designated cycling network to the places they want to go. In order to do this, a set of destinations and their names must be agreed regionally. It is a fundamental user-expectation that wayfinding will refer to destinations consistently and predictably until they are reached.

A hierarchy of destinations is necessary in order to prioritize which destinations to include when there are too many possible destinations than can fit legibly on a sign. In preparing these guidelines, municipalities have agreed to the following hierarchy.

Level 1 – Regional Centres
These are the major centres of activity identified as Complete Hubs, Gateway Hubs, and Rural Hubs in the Regional Transportation Plan. Centres are the main centres within individual municipalities offering a full range of attractions and services, and provide the primary geographic orientation points for regional cycling.

Level 1 destinations are included on signs up to 8 kilometres away, a distance which encompasses roughly 90 percent of all bicycle trips (TransLink Regional Trip Diary Survey, 2004). The map on the following page shows the suggested Level 1 destinations and an 8 kilometre scale bar for reference.

In some cases the distance between Level 1 Regional Centres is greater than 8km. In such cases it is appropriate to sign from one Level 1 destination to another that is more than 8 KM away so that users can orient themselves.

Level 2 – Local Neighbourhoods
These represent centres of community with sub-regional importance. Local Neighbourhoods provide a mixture of services used by local people and should be determined in alignment with local Official Community Plans.

Level 2 destinations are included on signs up to 4 kilometres away.

Level 3 – Major Attractions
These trip attractors include transit stations and exchanges, major tourist venues, regional parks, post-secondary education institutions and the region's border crossings. These should be determined from regionally agreed resources.

Level 3 destinations are included on signs up to 2 kilometres away.

Level 4 – Local Destinations
A municipality may wish to increase wayfinding to include local destinations. This may be useful to reflect the nature of lower density areas or to integrate bicycle wayfinding with walking wayfinding on shared paths. They may also be useful if a municipality wishes to provide wayfinding signage on a route that does not connect Level 1–3 destinations (which should take priority on wayfinding signage).

Local destinations may include a wide range of possible places from parks and schools in towns to washrooms and bike shops off of trails. Municipalities should determine what they consider appropriate and useful to cycling locally.

However it is important to consider the principle of keeping information simple. Overloading signs with information while well-intentioned can easily have the effect of making them harder to understand and therefore less useful.

Signing distances for Level 4 destinations may vary depending on the degree of attraction they have. As a guide, Level 4 destinations that may attract a relatively large number of trips or attract a wide range of people (such as a school or community centre) may be signed from 2km away, while destinations that offer services (such as bike shops and washrooms) may be signed from up to 1km away.

Destination hierarchy

It is a fundamental user-expectation that wayfinding will refer to destinations consistently and predictably until they are reached.
Cycling Destination Wayfinding Guidelines

1.0 Introduction

Level 1 Regional Centres

Principle 2  **Use Consistent Destination Names**
Use common terminology to allow cyclists to follow wayfinding signage across different jurisdictions. (See page 10 for principles.)

![Map 1. Regional Destinations](image)
# 2.0 Regional Wayfinding System

Signs form the basis of the wayfinding system. This section describes the sign family and how to reduce excessive signage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Sign family</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1</td>
<td>What signs are needed?</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Decision sign</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>Decision sign variants</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Confirmation sign</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1</td>
<td>Confirmation sign variants</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Turn Fingerboard</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.1</td>
<td>Turn Fingerboard variants</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Off-network Waymarker</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.1</td>
<td>Off-network Waymarker variants</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1 Sign family

2.1.1 What signs are needed?

Sign types
There are four types of wayfinding signs, shown here.

Two different combinations of sign types are used dependent on the nature of intersection they are signing. These are detailed on the next page.

**D** Decision sign
On the approach to a decision point, decision signs point the direction to control destinations.

**T** Turn fingerboard
Fingerboard signs should be placed after the decision sign, at the point of the turn.

**C** Confirmation sign
After a turn, confirmation signs reassure cyclists of their direction and confirm additional destinations reached along that route.

**W** Off-Network Waymarker
Optional signs to indicate connections to designated bike routes from other streets or paths.

---

Principle 5  
**Disclose information progressively**

Progressive disclosure spreads information along journeys in a logical way to avoid overloading signs and confusing users. (See page 10 for Principles.)

---

Additional signage to be considered

**Street name signs**
The installation of street name signs at every bike route intersection, including where off-street trails join or cross public roads, is an important measure to reassure cyclists that they are making the correct route choice, including where off-street trails join or cross public roads.

**Other common bicycle signage**
Please refer to the BCMoT and particularly to the Specifications for Standard Highway Sign Materials, Fabrication and Supply for other common bicycle signage, including bicycle parking signage.

3 Part system
On connections to and from regional routes
This is the typical configuration of signs at an intersection on connections to or from regional routes. Each direction has a decision sign on the approach, a turn fingerboard at the turn and a confirmation sign on the exit.

2 Part system
On all other routes
This is the typical configuration of signs at an intersection where none of the routes are connections to or from regional routes. Each direction has a decision sign on the approach and a confirmation sign on the exit.
2.2 Decision Sign

Decision signs provide directions to selected destinations.

They are located in advance of intersections to provide cyclists the time to slow and manoeuvre if necessary.

Placement

Decision signs should be located at a safe stopping distance before the turn. Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidance on stopping distances cannot be reproduced here in full, but is available in the TAC Geometric Design Guide (1999), Chapter 3.4, Table 3.4.5.1 (page 3.4.5.2).

It is also important that decision signs are located so that the turn it refers to is obvious. Care should be taken not to locate signs close to lanes, paths and other accesses that could be confused with the designated bike route.

On routes where speed is likely to be high, decision signs can be repeated ahead of the turn. Repeated decision signs should be spaced according to the design speed.

Format

To manage the information load, in normal circumstances decision signs will contain up to three destinations. Long names may extend over two, or exceptionally three lines, and where alternative routes exist, the addition of subtext lines may be used.

Decision signs may also be designed as diagrammatic (map type) signs. These can be useful by illustrating circuitous routes or special features, such as crossings, without the need for complex text or multiple signs. Two possible examples are shown over the page.

Content

Sign content is determined according to a system of progressive disclosure described in section 3.1.

Each direction on the Decision Sign should show a single control destination, which is the next Level 1 Regional Destination in that direction. If there is no Level 1 destination in that direction, then the highest ranking destination within its signing distance, or the route terminus, is shown.

Where there is a choice of route to reach a destination or a significant constraint on route choice such as a bridge, a subtext line indicating the ‘via’ route may be used.

To identify their function as bicycle wayfinding signage, the top portion of decision signs should include a bicycle symbol and the route name, if any. Destination content only appears on the lower portion of the signs.
### 2.2.1 Decision Sign Examples

This section shows typical layouts and common variations to accommodate additional information. Section 3.4.1 Decision Signs provides specifications for these and other variations.

#### Text types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image1.png" alt="Sign 1" /></th>
<th><img src="image2.png" alt="Sign 2" /></th>
<th><img src="image3.png" alt="Sign 3" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>D1 Typical sign</strong></td>
<td><strong>D1.1 Including bikeway on route of travel</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination I</td>
<td>Destination I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination II</td>
<td>Destination II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination III</td>
<td>Destination III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>D1.2 Including descriptive subtext</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The addition of a subtext indicating route characteristics such as via 'route name', 'via (name) bridge', 'via scenic route' or 'via quiet route' can help cyclists make decisions about the journey ahead.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Map types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image4.png" alt="Sign 4" /></th>
<th><img src="image5.png" alt="Sign 5" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Map type signs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map type signs should be considered unique to the circumstances they depict. The signs shown are illustrative of possible approaches.

---

**Principle 7**  
Keep information simple  
A cyclist may have to make decisions quickly for safe movement. Signs with too much information may be missed or ignored. (see page 10 for Principles.)

---

[See page 43 for design specifications and further variations]
2.3 Confirmation Sign

Confirmation signs are used to reassure cyclists that they are on the correct course for their destination. They also provide information about other destinations that may be reached on the route.

**Placement**

Confirmation signs should be located at 20–30 m after turns. This proximity reinforces the correct exit route. This is especially relevant where a single bike route travels through a complex intersection.

Confirmation signs may also be used alternately with standard BC MoTI or TAC Bike Route signs to reassure cyclists on long sections of route. A suggested frequency for reassurance signs is every 400 m in urban areas and every 800 m in rural areas. Frequency should be increased where there are changes in route direction or where there are side routes that could be confusing.

A further way to reassure route choice is to ensure that street name signs are installed at every bike route intersection, including where off-street trails cross or join public roads.

**Format**

Confirmation signs are located after turns where information load is less distracting. For this reason it is possible to include destination names and distances. Normally three, and up to four, destinations would be shown in ascending order of distance. Where necessary, subtext lines may be included under destinations, though they should be limited to avoid overloading cyclists with information.

**Content**

Confirmation signs should always include the next Level 1 Regional Centre or the terminus of the route whichever would be reached first. Other destinations should be included according to rank and relative proximity.

Confirmation signs should always include distances to the nearest whole kilometre. When the distance is below 2 km, fractions of 0.1 km can also be used.

Further guidance on sign content design is described in section 3.4.
2.3.1 Confirmation Sign Examples

This section shows typical layouts and common variations to accommodate additional information. Section 3.4.2 Confirmation Signs provides specifications for these and other variations.

Text type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination I</th>
<th>0.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination III</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination I</th>
<th>0.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination III</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination I</th>
<th>0.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>via quiet route</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination III</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C1 Typical sign

C1.1 Including bikeway name header

When a route is named, this name can be shown in the header section of the sign.

C1.2 Including descriptive subtext

The addition of a subtext indicating route characteristics such as via ‘(route name)’, ‘via (name) bridge’, ‘via scenic route’ or ‘via quiet route’ can help cyclists make decisions about the journey ahead.
2.4 Turn Fingerboard

Turn fingerboards are used to highlight turns from one cycle route to another. The fingerboard is material and space efficient, while its shape has the advantage of being inherently directional.

Placement

Turn fingerboards should be located as close as possible to the turning point. Normally turn fingerboards are located on the approach side of the turn but may be located on the opposite side where this makes directional or positional sense. Further guidance on siting signs is given in section 3.3.2.

Format

Turn fingerboards are located at the point where a cyclist may need to concentrate and so should be as simple as possible. Normally only one destination is included, but in quieter areas two destinations may be used.

Content

Turn fingerboards should show next Level 1 Regional Centre (or if none, then the highest ranking destination in that direction), or the terminus of the route whichever is closest.

Where a second destination is included, it should represent the next highest ranking destination and, if more than one, the closest.
2.4.1 Turn Fingerboard Examples

This section shows typical layouts and common variations to accommodate additional information. Section 3.4.2 Confirmation Signs provides specifications for these and other variations.

T1 Typical sign

T1.2 Including descriptive subtext
The addition of a subtext indicating route characteristics such as via '(route name)', 'via (name) bridge', 'via scenic route' or 'via quiet route' can help cyclists make decisions about the journey ahead.

Standard TAC signage to bicycle parking areas

Standard TAC signage can be used to provide turn information from designated bikeways to bicycle parking areas that are out of sight.
2.5 **Off-network Waymarker**

Off-network waymarkers are optional signs with the specific purpose of indicating short links to designated bike routes from other streets or paths.

To avoid confusing the meaning of the sign across the network, they should not be used for marking the route of designated bikeways.

**Placement**
Off-network waymarkers should be located as close as possible to the point that marks the change in direction towards a designated bikeway, to reassure where there are jogs in links to designated bikeways. Off-network waymarkers may also be used to provide reassurance on links to the bike network. However, typically such links will be short and direct with few decision-points and so should not require reassurance.

As the signs are small, it may be appropriate to locate them at eye height on walls, on low posts or in combination with other street signs to reduce clutter, provided they remain clear and logical in the context of the link direction.

**Further guidance on siting signs is given in section 3.3.2.**

**Format**
These signs are small fingerboards and the content is purposefully as simple as possible to act as a 'breadcrumb trail' to the designated bikeway.

**Content**
Off-network waymarkers do not contain destination information but may include a route name or brand logo. It is critical that all Off-network waymarkers include the word 'To' to confirm that they are not signing the route of a designated bikeway but access to it.
2.5.1 Off-network Waymarker Examples

See page 64 for design specifications

**W1 Typical sign**

Used on non-designated cycle route to direct cyclists to a designated route.

Waymarkers direct either ahead, left or right.

The 'straight ahead' version can be used as a repeated sign to instruct cyclists to continue in the direction they are going.
3.0 Design Guidance

This section describes how to assess, design and schedule a wayfinding project for a designated bicycle route or network. It gives examples of how to apply the design principles, how to approach atypical situations and provides specifications for the recommended signs.

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3.1 **Wayfinding strategy**

3.1.1 **System approach**

The Regional Bicycle Wayfinding Guidelines are intended to promote utility trips between the principle destinations in the region using the designated bike network.

The cornerstone of the approach has been to agree on a list of destinations ranked according to trip attractiveness. This destination hierarchy is included in Section 1.4 and identifies destinations that should or may be signed.

Each authority that proposes to implement bicycle wayfinding should design signs using the same destinations and the design steps in order to ensure consistency.

Although it is preferable to develop a wayfinding plan for the full regional network, it is feasible to develop plans within the local context, so long as there is general agreement on higher order destinations to which to sign and on which routes to include with neighbouring municipalities.

The design steps are described in the following sections:

**A** Consult on local destination hierarchy  
**B** Define a network to be signed  
**C** Divide the routes into segments  
**D** Define links to the route segments  
**E** Identify the decision points  
**F** Prepare a sign schedule

The wayfinding system is designed to connect agreed places using the bike network for utility cycling trips. To be consistent across the different areas of the region, a systematic approach is necessary.
A  Local destination hierarchy

In general, regionally agreed destinations include Level 1 Regional Centres and Level 2 Local Neighbourhoods (identified through the Regional Transportation Plan) as well as Level 3 Major Attractions. However provision is also made to extend this list further to include a Level 4 class of Local Destinations (see section 1.4 for advice).

Any authority wishing to include Local Destinations in their bicycle wayfinding should consider the likely need for additional signage to accommodate the extra destinations and the related need to maintain the accuracy of the information.

B  Signed network

All the destinations selected in Step A should be connected by bike routes to be included in the regional wayfinding system. Routes between Level 1 Regional Centres and Level 2 Local Neighbourhoods will be the most heavily used for utility cycling and these should be identified as the primary network to be signed.

A planning exercise, preferably as part of a bike route plan, should establish which bike routes are best suited to provide connections between destinations within Levels 1 and 2. Consideration should include who will use the signs and where they may wish to ride for utilitarian purposes. The CRD’s Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan (PCMP) includes a Bikeway Facility Classification that describes the physical route characteristics which best support utility cycling. Further consideration should be given to route connectivity beyond municipal borders and necessary municipal liaison.

This exercise will provide a network of connecting routes to be signed. It should be noted that some designated routes may be omitted if they do not connect significant trip-generating destinations while other routes may be added if they run parallel or are recreational trails that offer cyclists quieter or more scenic options.

It is also conceivable that some destinations are not yet accessible from a designated bike route. In these cases the authority should decide whether to include minimal directional signage as an Off-network Link (see Step D below) or to defer signing until a suitable route has been identified and upgraded to meet designated facility standards identified in the PCMP PIC.

C  Route segments

A developed cycling network may include long routes that join several intermediate destinations. Because of this, using the route’s end points as control destinations may not be useful to most cyclists.

When preparing a content schedule, it is useful to consider long routes as a series of smaller segments, with a Level 1 or Level 2 control destination at each end of the segment. These segments are purely planning tools, and not explicitly named or presented to the public.

Each segment should start and end at a destination to produce a logical sequence for wayfinding signage. The wayfinding signage will join the segments into a series of steps for people

The notional segments will be linked by signs on actual trips
Advice for defining route segments:

– Segments should only start and end at the Level 1 and 2 destinations to ensure that wayfinding directions benefit the widest number of users.

– Segments should not start or end at Level 3 Major Attractions or Level 4 Local Destinations but may connect them if they are on the route.

– The length of each segment should ideally not exceed 8 km to match average journey distances. Where this is not practical segment lengths may be increased.

– In order of preference, segments should connect: Level 1 Regional Centres to other Regional Centres, Regional Centres to Level 2 Local Neighbourhoods and Level 2 Local Neighbourhoods to other Local Neighbourhoods.

D Links to segments

The route segments identified in the previous step link all the Level 1 and 2 destinations in the network, as well as any Level 3 and 4 destinations located along the way. There will likely also be some Level 3 and 4 destinations that are not on these segments, but still reachable via designated bike routes. Fewer cyclists are expected to use these routes, because they join destinations that are smaller trip attractors. These designated routes are Links between the Level 3 or 4 destination and the segments that join greater trip attractors.

Links may be signed in the same way as network segments. However, to optimize funding for greatest benefit, a municipality may choose to sign network Links as a secondary priority. In this case, a Turn Fingerboard can be included on the network Segment at the intersection with the Link, and the remainder of the Link identified with TAC Bike Route signs rather than full wayfinding signage.

After network Segments and Links have been identified, there may still be some Level 3 and 4 destinations that are not on the designated bicycle network. Generally, wayfinding signage should only occur on the designated bicycle network. For this reason, Off-network links should only be identified when the destination is relatively close to the designated network and reachable in a straight line. Signing from this destination back to the bike route may be signed using Off-network Waymarkers.

E Decision points

The preceding steps produce a map with all the agreed destinations connected by a network of segmented routes and links. At each intersection of two or more designated bikeways, a decision point is created where cyclists must choose which designated route to follow to their destination. At these intersections, full wayfinding signs are recommended.

Other types of decision points may merit different signing approaches. For instance there may be points where a designated bicycle route intersects with the general-purpose street network in a way that is confusing to follow. At these locations, Decision Signs and Confirmation Signs, at a minimum, should be included to assist with route-following.

In other situations it may be sufficient to simply use TAC Bike Route arrow signage. This may be the case where a designated route changes direction at an intersection and there are no alternative bike routes.
F Sign schedule

The sign schedule is the last part of the planning process. The sign schedule is a list of all the directional signs needed along each route, their location, and the directions to be included on signs. The sign schedule should cover the whole route including all its component segments.

Preparing the sign schedule requires a consistent logic to be applied to the directions. Once included on a sign it is most important that a destination is signed continuously until it is reached. This can be challenging however as signs have a limited text capacity and there may be many possible destinations that could be included.

Progressive disclosure

Referencing the principle ‘Disclose information progressively’, information should be spread along the journey. This manages the demand on cyclists’ attention to only what is required at that point in their journey, and also decreases the amount of information on, and size of, signs.

Signing distances suggest the maximum distance that different destinations should appear on directional signage. This simple process ensures that directions to the most important places take priority on signs.

Sign distances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of destination</th>
<th>Normal max. signing distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1 Regional Centres</td>
<td>8 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Local Neighbourhoods</td>
<td>4 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 Major Attractions</td>
<td>2 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4 Local Destinations</td>
<td>varies - see 1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes on signing distances:
1. Exceptions to these normal maximums may include long sections of route without qualifying destinations, where it is acceptable to indicate the next highest level destination.
2. Level 2 Local Neighbourhoods selected as segment ends may also be signed from up to 8 km away in low density areas.

3. Distances are measured either to the boundary or the heart of the destination, as appropriate. Level 1 Regional Centres are typically large areas, so distance should be measured to the nearest boundary the cyclist will reach. Level 2 Local Neighbourhoods should be measured to the heart or centroid of the neighbourhood, which is typically a more well-known reference than its boundaries. Level 3 and 4 destinations are typically specific addresses or small land parcels and should be measured directly to the destination. If a Level 3 or 4 destination is large (for example, some parks or recreational trails), distance should be measured to the point at which the cyclist would arrive at the destination given the current path of travel.

4. All distances should be measured along the traveled path from the intersection to the centroid or boundary to the nearest 0.1 km.

Connecting segments

The idea of using segments for planning is to ensure that directions generally refer to moderate distances. However some people will want to ride on longer journeys where segments form longer routes. To ensure the segments are signed continuously, where they form a route, it is important that the wayfinding signs continue through the segments ends. This is achieved using the two sign elements:

Decision signs – the highest priority destination in the straight ahead direction and within its signing distance should be shown until it is reached. Once the cyclist is able to recognize the destination, the next successive Level 1 Regional Centre or Level 2 Local Neighbourhood may be shown as the straight-ahead direction on Decision Signs. The notes concerning exceptions to maximum distances should be applied if necessary to ensure a further destination is shown.

Once the cyclist has arrived at a control destination, the next Level 1 or 2 destination that anchors the end of the next network segment should appear on subsequent Decision Signs. The exact point at which it is appropriate to stop signing to the current straight-ahead destination...
and change to the next one depends on what environmental cues are present to signal to the cyclist that they have arrived at the named destination.

Landmarks, neighbourhood name signs, store or street names, are some physical elements that can inform the cyclist that they have arrived at a destination, and hence a point where it is logical to begin using the next straight-ahead destination on Decision Signs.

Confirmation signs – Confirmation signs show the straight-ahead destinations in order with the nearest destination at the top. Intermediate destinations should be shown within the signing distance appropriate to their level.

Sometimes the number of possible intermediate destinations may exceed the number that can fit on a single Confirmation Sign. If so, priority should be given to the highest level destinations, as they are likely to be more popular destinations, and also better known, therefore making them more useful for geographic orientation.

**Named routes**

Route names provide a useful way to connect segments. The sign designs provide space for route names to achieve this. A number of routes across the region are already named.

It is sometimes the case that more than one route shares infrastructure. In general, the name of the infrastructure should be shown in preference to a promoted route as these may change. Promoted routes may be indicated by the promoting authority on other information, such as route maps and trailblazers. For instance the Trans-Canada Trail uses the Galloping Goose Trail as it approaches Downtown Victoria and applying this guidance, the Galloping Goose should take precedence.

**Atypical decision points**

In some instances, wayfinding signs alone will not be adequate to guide riders through a complex decision point. Where these locations are identified in the planning stage, they should be highlighted for site assessment.

Solving physically difficult decision points may require engineering or landscaping design as well as signage.

A sample sign schedule is provided on the following pages.
3.2 Sign planning

Planning exercise

The illustration shows a theoretical cycle network connecting the fictitious City of Centreville. The graphics right show a simplified sign schedule for key decision points marked \( W, X, Y \) and \( Z \). A more detailed sign schedule may be found on page 35. 
Step A  Consult on local destination hierarchy
The City of Centreville is planning its bicycle wayfinding. Centreville planners consult these guidelines to identify the relevant control destinations that have been agreed for the region. Centreville is a Level 1 Regional Centre while Midhurst and Southland are nearby Level 2 Local Neighbourhoods.

The River Path Trail, which runs through the City, is recognized as a Level 3 Major Attraction.

Step B  Define a network to be signed
The designated cycling network connects the City of Centreville to the neighbouring District of North River and the Cities of Fordley and Westham via bridges.

The route between the bridges through Centreville is part of a long-distance regional route called the Bridges Bikeway. Unnamed designated bicycle routes connect Southland and Midhurst to Centreville via the Bridges Bikeway. The River Path Trail is also connected to Centreville via an unnamed designated bicycle route and the bridges Bikeway.

Step C  Divide the routes into segments
For signage purposes the network must be divided into notional segments with anchor destinations.

Segment 1 connects Centreville to a bridge that leads to the District of North River. No Level 1 or Level 2 destinations are within the signing distance in North River so it is determined to be more logical to sign to the municipality.

Segment 2 connects Centreville to the Level 1 Regional Centre Fordley via West Bridge. Fordley is within the 8 km signing distance and will be signed.

Segment 3 connects Centreville to Southland which is a Level 2 Local Neighbourhood 6 km away. In this instance it is decided that while Southland is outside of its signing distance, the low density of the area makes it a logical segment anchor.

Step D  Define links to the route segments
A designated route connects each trailhead of the River Path Trail (a Level 3 Major Attraction) to the Bridges Bikeway. These routes are identified as designated route Links.

Step E  Identify the decision points
For the purposes of the example, four decision points are selected. These are:

Point W – at the intersection at Centreville. All three segments connect here giving three destination choices at this point. Segment 2 and 3 run parallel to the south and southwest, requiring a decision on the southbound direction. In this case, Fordley ranks higher than Southland.

Point X – a right angle turn on the parallel route of segment 2 and 3 and an intersection with the link to the River Path Trailhead.

Point Y – the point where segment 2 and 3 divide before continuing to their respective destinations.

Point Z - A turn in the local cycling route linking the Midhurst and Southland neighbourhoods.
Step F Prepare a sign schedule
Each line of the following schedule represents a separate sign. In addition to the directional signs, repeat confirmation signs or BC MoTI or TAC Bike Route signs may be required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Sign type</th>
<th>Route name (for sign headers)</th>
<th>Content (italics denote subtext lines)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Nearside southbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>→ Fordley</td>
<td>Fordley is a Level 1 Regional Centre and ranks above Southland which is the other segment end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nearside southbound</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>→ Fordley via West Bridge 6.5 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nearside westbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>Midhurst 3.4 km Fordley via West Bridge 6.5 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farside Eastbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>← North River</td>
<td>The distance is measured to the municipal boundary. The trailhead is beyond its 2km signing distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farside Eastbound</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>← North River via North Bridge 3.6 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farside northbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>North River via North Bridge 3.6 km</td>
<td>It is not logical to include the trail access at this point in the journey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Farside westbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>↑ River Path Trail ← Fordley</td>
<td>Midhurst could be included within the maximum 3 destinations but is only shown on confirmation signs as it not a segment end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farside westbound</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>← Fordley via West Bridge 5.5 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farside westbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>River Path Trail 1.7 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nearside southbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>Fordley via West Bridge 5.5 km Midhurst 2.4 km</td>
<td>Southland remains beyond its signing distance of 4 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farside northbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>← River Path trail → Centreville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farside northbound</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>← River Path trail 1.7 km → Centreville 1.0 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farside eastbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>Centreville 1.0 km North River via North Bridge 4.6 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nearside eastbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>↑ Centreville → Fordley</td>
<td>Route from the River Path – note this may be considered as a ‘quiet route’ alternative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nearside eastbound</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>← Fordley via West Bridge 5.5 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Farside southbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>↑ Southland → Fordley</td>
<td>At this point Southland appears at the segment end. Midhurst is an intermediate included on confirmation signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farside southbound</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>→ Fordley via West Bridge 4.5 km</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearside southbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Midhurst 1.4 km Southland 2.9 km</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farside westbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>Fordley via West Bridge 4.5 km</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearside eastbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>← Centreville → Southland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearside eastbound</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>← Centreville 2.0 km Southland 2.9 km</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farside northbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>↑ Centreville ← Fordley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farside northbound</td>
<td>Turn</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>← Fordley via West Bridge 4.5 km</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farside northbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Bridges Bikeway</td>
<td>Centreville 2.0 km</td>
<td>At this point River Path Trail remains beyond its signing distance of 2 km</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Farside northbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>→ Centreville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farside northbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Centreville 3.4 km Fordley via West Bridge 5.9 km</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearside southbound</td>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>← Southland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farside southbound</td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Southland 1.5 km</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3 Site assessment

Introduction

The preceding section describes the planning process to determine a sign schedule suitable for site assessment. Site assessment is invaluable as it allows the designer to evaluate conditions, determine exact sign locations, and to identify any specific wayfinding challenges.

It is recommended that, where possible, site assessments are made by bicycle to give a representative perspective of the issues.

3.3.1 Geometric considerations

The site assessment is an opportunity to review geometric design considerations that relate to wayfinding including:

– Should a bike box for a two-stage "hook" left turn be considered?
– Are sight lines acceptable?
– Are on-road to off-road transitions clear?

For geometric design guidance please refer to:

The Transportation Association of Canada’s Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads and Bikeway Traffic Control Guidelines for Canada provides guidance concerning the design of facilities.

National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide also includes additional information especially on Two stage Turn Queue boxes (Bike boxes for left turns).
### 3.3.2 Siting signs

Placement recommendations based on TAC and MoTI guidance are provided below. However, engineering judgment and a review of the existing site conditions should also be used on a case-by-case basis to determine the specific placement of each sign.

#### Decision signs

Deciding the distance of a decision sign from a turn or transition will be affected by design speed, site lines and slope. Decision signs should be placed along the right-of-way in places where the cyclist can see an upcoming sign from an appropriate distance given the design speed and physical context. For guidance, see TAC Bikeway Traffic Control Guidelines for Canada for minimum stopping sight distances for cyclists.

Signs should be placed further from the intersection on busier streets with a centre turn lane or left turn pocket to decrease the possibility of conflicting cyclist/motorist movements while preparing for a left turn. The location of the sign should exceed the stopping distance needed by the fastest expected travel speed, but should not be placed so far in advance that the relevance of the sign is lost or forgotten.

#### Confirmation signs

Confirmation signs provide reassurance of direction after decision points, or repeated along long routes with no intervening destinations or decision points as follows:

- After a turn, the sign should be placed 20–30 metres following the intersection or decision point.
- Repeated signs in urban areas, Confirmation signs should be placed about every two or three blocks, or 400 metres, to provide reassurance.
- Repeated signs in rural areas or in places where less reassurance is needed (for example, less built-up areas, low volume streets, or separated pathways) Confirmation signs should be placed roughly every 800–1,000 metres.

Some other issues to consider include:

1. **Turn signs**

   Turn sign fingerboards have a supporting role and mark the turn. These are normally placed on the near-side of an intersection in close proximity to the turn. At large or complex intersections, it may be appropriate to place signs at both near and far sides or at multiple locations. In some cases, it may be appropriate to locate fingerboards only on the far side of the turn, including:

   - T-intersections
   - Off-street bike paths
   - Two-stage turns
   - Where a centre island or refuge is available

2. **Place signs as beacons**

   In addition to the information they provide, bike route signs often provide the only indication of the presence of a bike facility. Confirmation signs should be used to mark the exit point of a bike route across a complex area.

3. **Avoid suggesting unintended turns**

   When assessing sign locations it is important to take account of unintended turn options. A decision sign sited too far from the intersection may risk confusion if it appears to indicate a turn along a laneway, private access or pedestrian path.

4. **Don’t create obstacles**

   Signs are additional elements in the street and if poorly located, can restrict the available travelling space on a cycle route and so create a hazard for all users.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illustrative sign placement for cyclist arriving at a T-intersection from the west</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sign type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Principle 4: **Be predictable**

If riders trust that they will encounter consistent and predictable information, new journeys can be made more easily. (See page 10 for principles.)
### 3.3.3 Lateral and vertical placement

**Lateral Placement**
Signs should be placed so that the distance from the near edge of the nearest traffic lane to the near sign edge is not less than 2.0 m nor more than 4.5 m. For bicycle paths and multi-use paths, this minimum distance may be reduced to 1.0 m. Other exceptions are where conditions do not permit, or where other requirements are specified with regard to signs described in this Guide.

Where there is a raised curb, a sign ordinarily should be placed adjacent to the bikeway with its nearest edge not less than 0.3 m nor more than 2.0 m from the curb face.

**Vertical Placement**
Signs in rural areas should be mounted at a height of 1.5 m above the near edge of the nearest traffic lane to the bottom of the sign. This height may be as much as 2.5 m for special conditions. Signs in urban and suburban areas should be mounted at a height of 2.0 m to 3.0 m. At locations where pedestrian traffic is likely, the sign should be mounted at a minimum height of 2.0 m.

On all roads permitting bicycle travel, overhead signs must not be less than 4.5 m above the road surface and preferably centred over the traffic lanes to which they apply. For off-road facilities, this vertical dimension may be reduced to 3.0 metres. The vertical clearance requirements for service vehicles must be considered before utilizing this lower clearance.

### 3.3.4 Route characteristics

A site assessment should always note changes in route character, surface condition or traffic speed and volume. Cyclists often select routes according to a range of factors including directness, suitability of the surface to the user’s bicycle, personal risk threshold and physical effort.

Where route conditions change along its length a cyclist may look for alternative routes.

If possible, it is helpful to consider providing signage for alternative routes where:

- Paved routes become unpaved routes, or
- Quieter routes join much busier or faster moving traffic, or
- Routes climb steep hills.

### 3.3.5 Maps and other wayfinding

Some locations may function as important nodes on the cycling network and be places where additional information such as maps, interpretive, transit information or route diagrams may be welcomed.

Good candidates for such nodes include:

**Transit facilities**
Train stations, ferry ports or bus exchanges will often lie on or close to designated bike routes. Linking bike journeys with transport is an essential component of bicycle accessibility in many areas of the region.

**Trailheads**
In some areas, designated bike routes join trails and recreational paths. These provide access for recreational cycling and can be of regional or local importance as leisure or sporting attractions.
3.4 **Sign design**

**General guidance**

**Typeface**
The typeface selected for the wayfinding sign designs is the Regular weight of ClearviewADA Condensed. This font has been selected as it meets US Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines for legibility, and the Clearview family of fonts are increasingly being adopted for road signage in jurisdictions across North America.

ClearviewADA Condensed Regular is also a space-efficient typeface which is important to minimizing sign size and the resultant visual impact and use of materials. The font is designed by Terminal Design and is available from their website [www.terminaldesign.com](http://www.terminaldesign.com).

Vector templates are included as part of this plan to help municipalities implement the sign guidelines.

**Typesize**
For legibility at utility cycling travel speeds, these guidelines recommend typesizes of 50 mm cap height for destinations and 40 mm cap height for route names and subtext lines.

In sensitive or quiet off-street situations it may be appropriate to reduce typesize to 40 mm cap height for route names and directions and 35 mm cap height for subtext lines. This option could also be used if it provides better compatibility with branded signs.

**Sign colour**
All signs should be standard white text on a highway green base. References for sign colours are available from the Transportation Association of Canada or BC Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure.

---

**Principle 3  Maintain movement**
Continuous, visible and clear wayfinding will help identify routes and enable cyclists to maintain an even pace (See page 10 for principles.)
Sign sizes
A consideration in the design of the system is optimizing sign sizes in order that they are manageable and affordable to produce but large enough to convey the information clearly.

All signs have standard sizes which will provide a sign large enough to show typical information.

Turn fingerboards and Off-network Waymarker sizes are demonstrated in the design specifications on the following pages.

Decision and Confirmation signs conform to the standards set out by TAC. Hence the standard width of Decision and Confirmation signs is fixed at 600 mm. Sign heights are however changeable subject to the required content.

The standard height of a Decision sign is 600 mm and a Confirmation sign is 750 mm. Both of these signs can be increased by an increment of 150 mm to 750 or 900 mm respectively if the necessary content does not fit within the standard size.

Where the designer believes the sign height needs to be increased further, the following steps should be followed until content fits within the sign:

1. Increase the standard sign height by 150 mm
2. Use standard abbreviations. These are listed within the relevant sections on the following pages
3. Remove a destination from the list adjusting upstream signs if necessary to ensure that once a destination is mentioned, it is shown consistently on Confirmation Signs until it is reached.
4. Reduce text size to 40 mm for destination names and 35 mm for subtexts (not advised for complex urban areas or where cyclists may be travelling faster than average, such as downhill)
5. If none of these options provide adequate space then consider taller signs using standard increments of 150 mm.

Complementing warning and regulatory signage
Wayfinding signage should be developed to complement other higher order signage including warning and regulatory information. This may be achieved by co-location of signs on a single pole, composite signage panels or other methods described by local bylaws and practice.

A possible example of composite signage for a shared path is shown right. Please note this is for illustration only and not part of the CRD bicycle wayfinding standards.
Municipal branding
Where necessary, a potential option for adding municipal identity to bicycle wayfinding is the addition of a branded sign plate above the sign panel to display municipal branding.

Alternatives might include alternate locations on the pole, a vinyl decal or finial.

Note: The above is for illustration only and not part of the CRD bicycle wayfinding standards. The CRD logo has been used as a placeholder for municipal identity.
3.4.1 Decision signs

Standard dimensions

Panel size
600 x 750 mm

Decision signs should be designed in the way shown. Ahead directions should be shown first, followed by directions left and then directions right.
Standard elements

**Bicycle icon**

The bicycle icon should appear as shown.

**Directional arrow**

Arrows should conform to the specification shown. These are used as standard highway arrows may be less easily recognized at the small sizes appropriate to bicycle signage. They should only be used at the orientations illustrated below. These orientations are set at 90° increments.

Arrows should conform to ahead, left and right directions only. Where unusual angles are required a Turn fingerboard or diagrammatic Decision sign (as shown on page 19) is preferable.

**Using icons**

The use of icons to aid quick comprehension of common facilities is advised. Standard icons can be found in the design templates that accompany these guidelines.

Icons appear at the end of destination names. They should be used in addition to the identifier ('Station' or 'Exchange', or their abbreviated versions, 'Stn' or 'Exch') not as a replacement.
Adding a route name

Icon and route name centred within panel

Remaining sign conforms to standard dimensions shown previously

Type centre aligned

Adding a subtext

Subtexts should be incorporated under the relevant destination name as shown. They should always be included on a second line, with a lowercase 'via'.

Note that the 158 mm containing area does not change regardless of the introduction of the new line.

When adding a subtext to a destination name that is already two lines, the designer should use the three-line specification shown on page 47.
Destination names that run to two lines

Longer destination names may require two lines. This should be done as shown.

Again, the 158 mm containing area does not change regardless of the introduction of the new line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>158 mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap height 50 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap height 50 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standard Abbreviations

Generally abbreviations should be kept to a minimum. However where necessary the following standard abbreviations can be used to avoid lengthy destination names.

| Exchange = Exch | North = N |
| Bridge = Br | South = S |
| East = E | West = W |
On rare occasions it may be necessary to run a destination name over three lines.

Due to the reading time and space requirements, this is undesirable and should be avoided if possible by using standard abbreviations shown below.

Where essential displaying a destination name over three lines will require the sign to be extended to the next standard sign increment which is 900 mm. All other dimensions are retained.

When a destination runs to three lines the panel should be extended to 900 mm in height. See page 41 for more information on sign sizes.
More than one destination in a given direction

More than one destination in an ahead direction
When there is more than one destination in the ahead direction, the standard dimensions should be altered to appear like this.

Note that the dimensions of the left or right direction do not change, they only shift down to accommodate the greater height of the ahead direction.

Any dimensions not shown conform to the standard dimensions previously shown.

When all destinations are straight ahead, the layout shown should be used.

If a destination name requires a second line it should be implemented as shown previously with a 20 mm gap between lines. Subsequently all elements below are moved down to accommodate the new line(s). If more than one destination requires a second line the sign panel will have to be extended to 900 mm. All other dimensions stay the same.
More than one destination in a left or right direction

When there is more than one destination in a left or right direction, the standard dimensions should be altered to appear like this.

The dimensions of the ahead direction does not change.

Any dimensions not shown conform to the standard dimensions previously shown.

The examples shown illustrate destinations in the right direction. As would be assumed from previous sign illustrations, if creating a sign with destinations in the left direction, replicate the layout from the left edge of the sign instead of the right.

When all destinations are in a single direction turning from the route of travel the layout shown should be used.

If a destination name requires a second line it should be implemented as shown previously with a 20 mm gap between lines. Subsequently all elements below are moved down to accommodate the new line(s). If more than one destination requires a second line the sign panel will have to be extended to 900 mm. All other dimensions stay the same.
3.4.2 Confirmation signs

Standard dimensions

Panel size
600 x 600 mm
Standard elements

**Bicycle icon**

The bicycle icon should appear as shown.

**Icons**

See page 44 for how to incorporate icons into signage.
Adding a subtext

Subtexts should be incorporated under the relevant destination name as shown. It should always be included on a second line, with a lowercase ‘via’.

When adding a via subtext to a destination name that is already two lines, use the three-line specification shown opposite.

The top margin shown on previous pages of 20 mm is retained if the destination is at the top of the list.

If more than one destination name runs over two lines, the panel will have to be extended in height to 750 mm. All other dimensions are retained.

Destination names that run to two lines

Longer destination names may extend over two lines. This should be done as shown.

If more than one destination name runs over two lines, the panel will have to be extended in height to 750 mm. All other dimensions are retained.
Destination names that run to three lines

When there is more than one destination in a left or right direction, the standard dimensions should be altered to appear like this.

The dimensions of the ahead direction does not change.

Any dimensions not shown conform to the standard dimensions previously shown.

The illustration shows an example of a right direction. As previously, the left direction is a mirror image of the right direction, with dimensions measured from the left of the sign instead of the right.

When a destination runs to three lines the panel should be extended to 750 mm in height. See page 41 for more information on sign sizes.

Standard Abbreviations

Generally abbreviations should be kept to a minimum. However where necessary the following standard abbreviations can be used to avoid lengthy destination names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>Exch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>Br</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.4.3 Turn Fingerboards

Standard dimensions

Panel size
850 x 215 mm

Fingerboards should take the form shown. They may be mounted on top or on the shaft of longer poles. Fingerboards may be centre or end mounted depending on circumstances.

This layout is the standard layout with two single line destinations on each fingerboard.

Further variation with single destinations and multiple line destinations are shown on the following pages.
Standard elements

**Bicycle icon**

The bicycle icon should appear as shown.

**Icons**

See page 44 for how to incorporate icons into signage.
Fingerboards with only one destination

**Panel size**
850 x 215 mm

1 line destination

Chevron centred within panel

Type left-aligned

1 line destination with subtext

Type right-aligned

2 line destination

Destination text should not run beyond this point to avoid confusion with distance numbers
Destination I
via two lines

Destination I
over two lines

Destination text should not run beyond this point to avoid confusion with distance numbers

Chevron detail
Fingerboards with two and three-line destinations and subtexts

Panel size
850 x 285 mm

1 and 2 line destinations

Destination I
over two lines
Destination II

2 line destination with subtext

Destination I
running over via three lines

3 line destination

Destination I
running over three lines

Cap height

14 mm
23 mm

14 mm
33 mm

14 mm
33 mm

14 mm
33 mm

Type left aligned

Type right-aligned
Chevron detail

Destination I
over two lines

Destination II

Destination I
running over via three lines

Destination I
running over three lines

Type left aligned

Destination text should not run beyond this point to avoid confusion with distance numbers

Chevron centred within panel

30 mm

Destination I
running over via three lines
Fingerboards with more than one, two-line destinations

Panel size
850 x 350 mm

Two 2 line destinations

Destination I
over two lines
Destination II
over two lines

Chevron centred within panel

Panel size
850 x 350 mm

Distance number cap height centred within destination name cap heights

Cap height
five tf/zero tf mm
one tf/four tf mm
four tf/zero tf mm
five tf/zero tf mm
two tf/zero tf mm
two tf/one tf mm
four tf/five tf˚

Panel size
eight tf/five tf/zero tf x three tf/five tf/zero tf mm

Distance number cap height centred
within destination name cap heights

Cap height
14 mm
21 mm
14 mm
21 mm
25 mm
14 mm
25 mm
14 mm
25 mm

Cap height
20 mm
50 mm
40 mm
50 mm
20 mm
50 mm
21 mm
21 mm
14 mm
14 mm

standard Abbreviations
Generally abbreviations should be kept to a minimum. However where necessary the following standard abbreviations can be used to avoid lengthy destination names.

Exchange = Exch
Bridge = Br
North = N
South = S
East = E
West = W
Destination I
over two lines

Destination II
via two lines
3.4.4 Off-network Waymarkers

Standard dimensions

**Directional chevron**

Panel size
300 x 450 mm

**Bicycle icon**

The bicycle icon should appear as shown. The bicycle should face the direction of travel.

Off-network Waymarkers should take this form, with variation in directions (ahead, left and right) and route name length (one or two lines) shown over opposite.
## Text and bicycle icon dimensions

### Ahead direction

- **Icon and text centred within panel**

- 30 mm border

- 30 mm width

- 14 mm border

### Left direction

- **Icon and text centred**

- 31 mm width

- 14 mm border

### Right direction

- **Icon and text centred**

- 31 mm width

- 14 mm border
3.4.5 Specifying for manufacture

CRD municipalities determine their own standards for signage products. Specifications for materials, reflectivity, mounting and installation methods should be added to the agreed sign schedule in a manner appropriate to the application and relevant local, provincial and national sign production standards.
Appendix
Appendix 1

Intersection example

Bikeway design shown is to display typical signage requirements only, and is not intended to illustrate recommended bikeway design. Consult TAC Bikeway Traffic Control Guidelines and NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide for guidance, ensuring the design minimizes conflicts with right turns.