

Bike Route Signing

Use of Bicycle Route signs will vary based on the type of path or trail: shared use roadway, dedicated bicycle lane, or trail. Safety of bicyclists should be the most important consideration in placement of signs.

Use of standard Bicycle Route signs on rural roadways is not always recommended. These signs may encourage less experienced bicyclists to ride in conditions exceeding their skill level. Route maps explaining the terrain and skill levels required to ride the routes are recommended for identifying routes.



Additional signage at intersections or other decision points is important to inform riders of less obvious direction changes.

Warning Signs

In some locations along the bike trails, warning signs should be posted to alert motorists to the possible presence of bicyclists and to advise riders to use caution. These locations include areas of higher traffic volumes or narrow lanes. Warning signs placed after decision points can confirm route direction. The standard yellow bicycle warning sign, shown below, is recommended. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or MUTCD, (U.S.DOT 1988) is the national standard for signage and should be followed when implementing a sign program for a bike route system.



Another option is to use the “Share the Road” subplate with the standard warning sign. These signs are intended to alert motorists that cyclists may be present, particularly in potentially hazardous areas such as blind curves or hills.



When bike routes must cross a busier highway, the yellow diamond bicycle crossing sign should be used and supplemented with plates that read “Xing” or “Next x Miles” as appropriate. According to the MUTCD, these signs should be placed 750 feet before intersections in rural areas and 250 feet in urbanized places.

For more specific information for signing multi-use trails and stand-alone paths, consult the “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices” from the DOT. You can access this manual on the web at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>