Darwin Shared Path & Bicycle Lane Technical Notes

2. Bicycle Wayfinding Signage

Objective

The objective of the *Darwin Shared Path & Bicycle Lane Technical Notes* is to provide direction and guidance for the planning and delivery of cycling facilities within the City of Darwin area. These technical notes are also intended to provide information for other stakeholders including the NT Government, cycling groups and the community to enable a consistent standard of infrastructure and treatments to be provided across the Metropolitan area.

References

Throughout this document, references have been made to the following technical standards and guidelines:

- AS 1742.9-2000 *Manual of Uniform Traffic Devices Part 9: Bicycle Facilities*
- Austroads AP-R492-15 *Bicycle Wayfinding* (2015)
- Darwin Wayfinding Signage Plan (under development)
- Department of Transport and Main Roads *A Guide to Signing Cycle Networks* (2009)
- Road and Traffic Authority *NSW Bicycle Guidelines* (2005)
- Main Roads WA *Road and Traffic Engineering 1.3 Guide Signs – Category 1*
- VicRoads *Cycle Notes 11 Directional Signing for Off-road Paths* (2002)

The technical note should be read in conjunction with these documents.

Introduction

This technical note provides direction and guidance on bicycle wayfinding signage. The information is compiled from multiple sources detailing good design practices and appropriate signage location and installation processes adopted throughout Australia.

Bicycle wayfinding signage is integral in providing guidance to cyclists to ensure that they are able to make an informed decision and reach their intended destination. A well designed wayfinding signage system should provide the following:

- Important wayfinding information – i.e. destinations and distances, with route numbers or names as appropriate.
- A clear and concise message which can be read by cyclists while riding at a reasonable speed.
- A consistent and distinct design which is easily recognisable to cyclists and other road users as wayfinding information, as opposed to advertising or other non-essential information.

Types of wayfinding signage

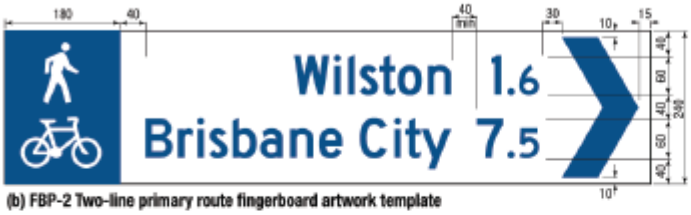
It is important to ensure that the wayfinding signage used throughout the City is consistent and based on the same design and specifications. The types of signs which are commonly used throughout Australia include:

- Fingerboards – these are the main signs location on intersections and critical junctures.
- Advanced direction boards – provide advance warning of nearby destinations and routes.
- Reassurance direction boards – reassures and instils confidence to riders that they are going in the right direction
- Map signs – signs showing a local area map with bicycle routes and key destinations marked

An example of these signage types are provided below.

Primary Bicycle Route Direction Sign Layouts

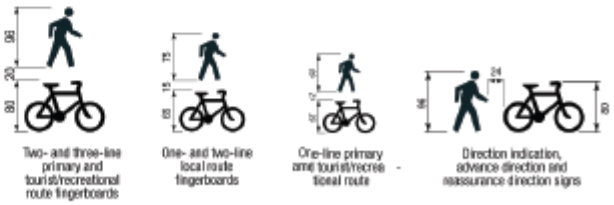
(a) FBP-1 One-line primary route fingerboard artwork template



(b) FBP-2 Two-line primary route fingerboard artwork template

(c) FBL-2PR Local cycle route fingerboard indicating a junction with a primary route
The end destinations of the primary route are shown on the lower line.

(d) DIP-2 Two-line direction indication sign artwork template



(e) User symbols template for route shared between pedestrians and cyclists

SOURCE: AUSTROADS 2015 BICYCLE WAYFINDING, FIGURE B 29

Information displayed on signage

The information to be printed on all wayfinding signs includes:

- Key destinations
- Direction of key destinations
- Distance to key destinations
- Bicycle symbol
- Blue text, symbols and lines over a white background is to be used on bicycle direction signage in accordance with AS1742.9.

The name or route number of the cycling route should be included in the sign if the route forms part of a designated route in a Wayfinding Strategy. This information can be included in the main panel or mounted in a separate plate on top if there is insufficient space available inside the panel.

Pedestrian symbols may also be displayed on bicycle wayfinding signage if the bicycle route is coincident with a pedestrian route to the same destinations.

Location of signage

In regards to bicycle signage location and alignment at intersections and paths including installation, AS 1742.9 Appendix B provides general principles for the uniform installation and location of these signs.

Wayfinding strategy

In order to maximise the benefits of bicycle direction signage, the signage needs to be place along a continuous route of network, with signage at all decision points at a minimum. Signage must include the key destinations in a consistent manner to ensure cyclists will not get lost when following the directions given by the signage.

In order to achieve a consistent route or network, a future overall Wayfinding Strategy should clearly set out the key routes and destinations to be signed. Legends for individual signs can then be worked out based on the overall strategy. Before selecting key routes and destinations, consideration should be given to desire lines and likely routes to ensure as far as possible that the signage meets the needs of path users.