

Trail Wayfinding Systems

A Practical Guide



Alta Planning + Design

- Creating Active Communities
- 29 office with 100+ planners, designers, and engineers
- Over 7,000 miles of bikeways, walkways, and trails planned and designed



Wayfinding PRINCIPLES



Elliott Erwitt/Magnum Photos

- Connect Places
- Be Predictable
- Be Inclusive
- Keep Information Simple

Wayfinding BENEFITS

Encouragement



Go Bronzeville
Chicago, IL

Wayfinding BENEFITS

Economic Investment



Photo: Baker County Tourism

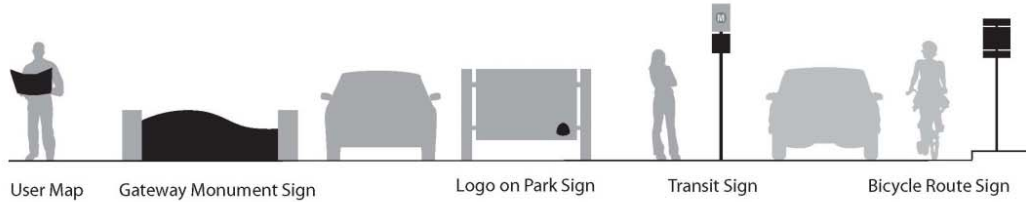
Wayfinding BENEFITS

Community Pride

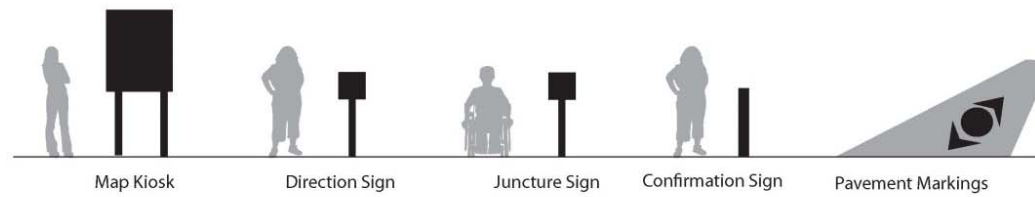


Family of TOOLS

OFF SITE ELEMENTS



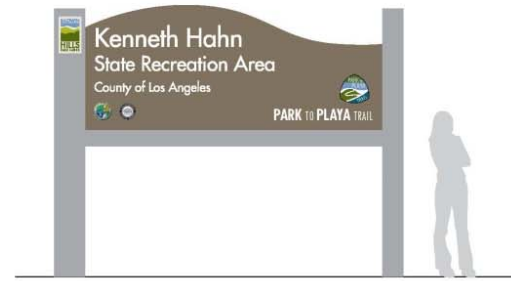
ON TRAIL ELEMENTS



	Description	Application/Location
Off Trail Elements		
User Map	Paper or digital map with trail route and amenities.	Visitors center or online
Trail Medallion on Park Sign	Trail medallion or vehicular scale park identification sign	Park entrances
Gateway Sign	Vehicular scale park identification sign	Park entrances at the Five Points intersection
Transit Sign	Small directional plaque to direct transit riders to adjacent P2P gateway entrance.	Bus stops and Metro transit stations
Bicycle Guide Sign	MUTCD Bicycle Guide Sign with Park to Playa supplemental plaque	Along on-street bicycle facilities
Warning Sign	MUTCD vehicular warning signs	Road crossings
On Trail Elements		
Map Kiosks	Large displays to orient users through maps, educational and guidance information	Trailheads, trail gateways and other nearby major destinations
Direction Signs	Guide users to destinations along trail. Destination information (name, distance and direction)	At trail decision points
Juncture Signs	Guide users to trail. Inform users of use restriction or trail conditions	Intersecting trail juncture points
Confirmation Signs	Guide users along trail and provide mile marker information	Mile markers every half mile and minor trail junctures
Pavement Markings	Mark paved portions of the path	Paved trail segments, city sidewalks, Ballona Creek Path, on-street bicycle routes



Gateway Monument Sign



Transit Sign



Map Kiosk



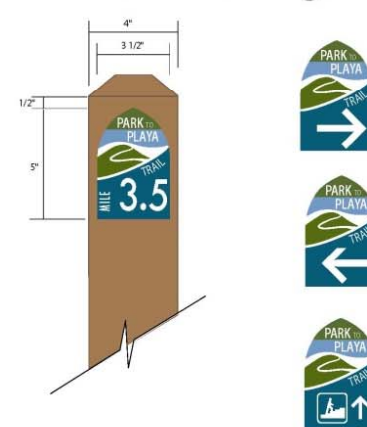
Direction Sign



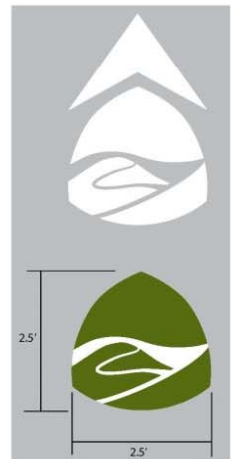
Juncture Sign



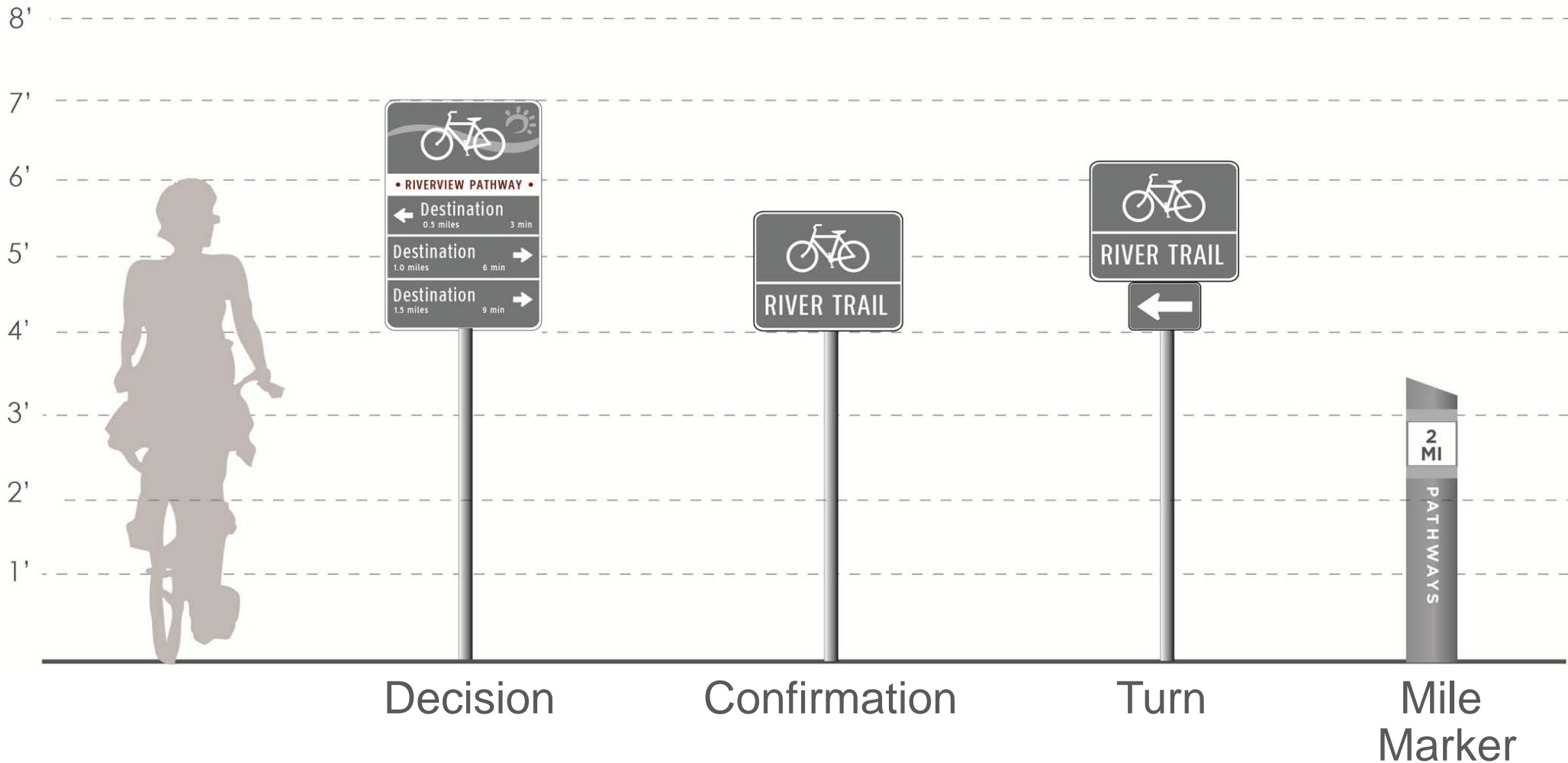
Confirmation Sign



Pavement Marking

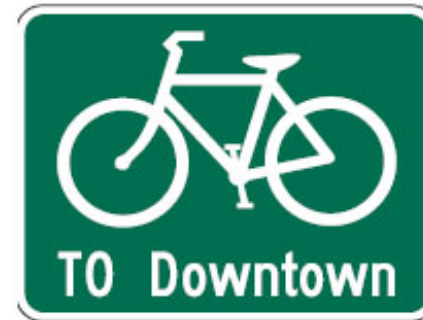


TOOLS: Fundamental



Standards: Bicycle

- **Manuel on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)**
- *Traffic control devices shall be defined as all **signs**, signals, markings... used to regulate, warn, or **guide** traffic, placed on, over, or adjacent to a street, highway, pedestrian facility, **bikeway**, or private road open to public travel...*
- All in the name of **consistency**



D11-1c



M1-8



D1-3c

Standards: Bicycle

Do MUTCD standards pertain to my trail project?

- Recreational natural surface trail
 - NO
- Paved shared-use pathway with transportation function
 - YES



Photo: Metro

Intertwine Regional Trail Sign
Portland Metro, OR

Case Study: The Intertwine



Photo: Metro

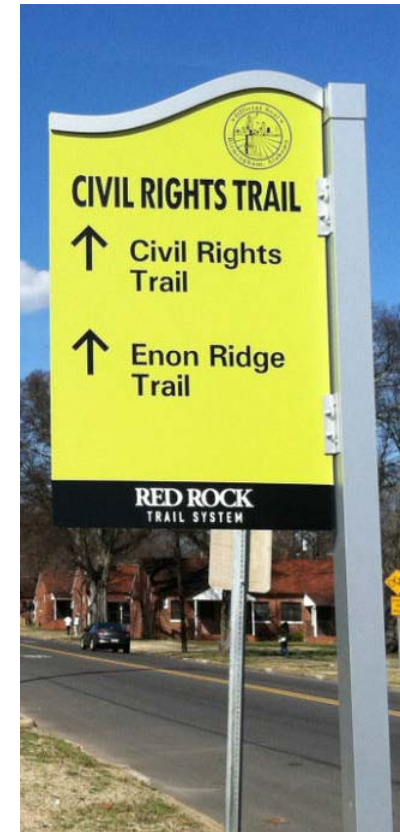
Photo: The Intertwine

Design: Mayer/Reed

Owner: Metro

Portland Metro, OR

The MUTCD Continuum



Rigid
\$



Flexible
\$\$\$

Flexibility

MUTCD section 2D.50 Community Wayfinding allows custom colors and enhancement markers (logos)

- *“Limited to conventional roadways”*

NCUTCD - Current proposal to apply Community Wayfinding standards to shared-use paths



Design: Standard



Standard color

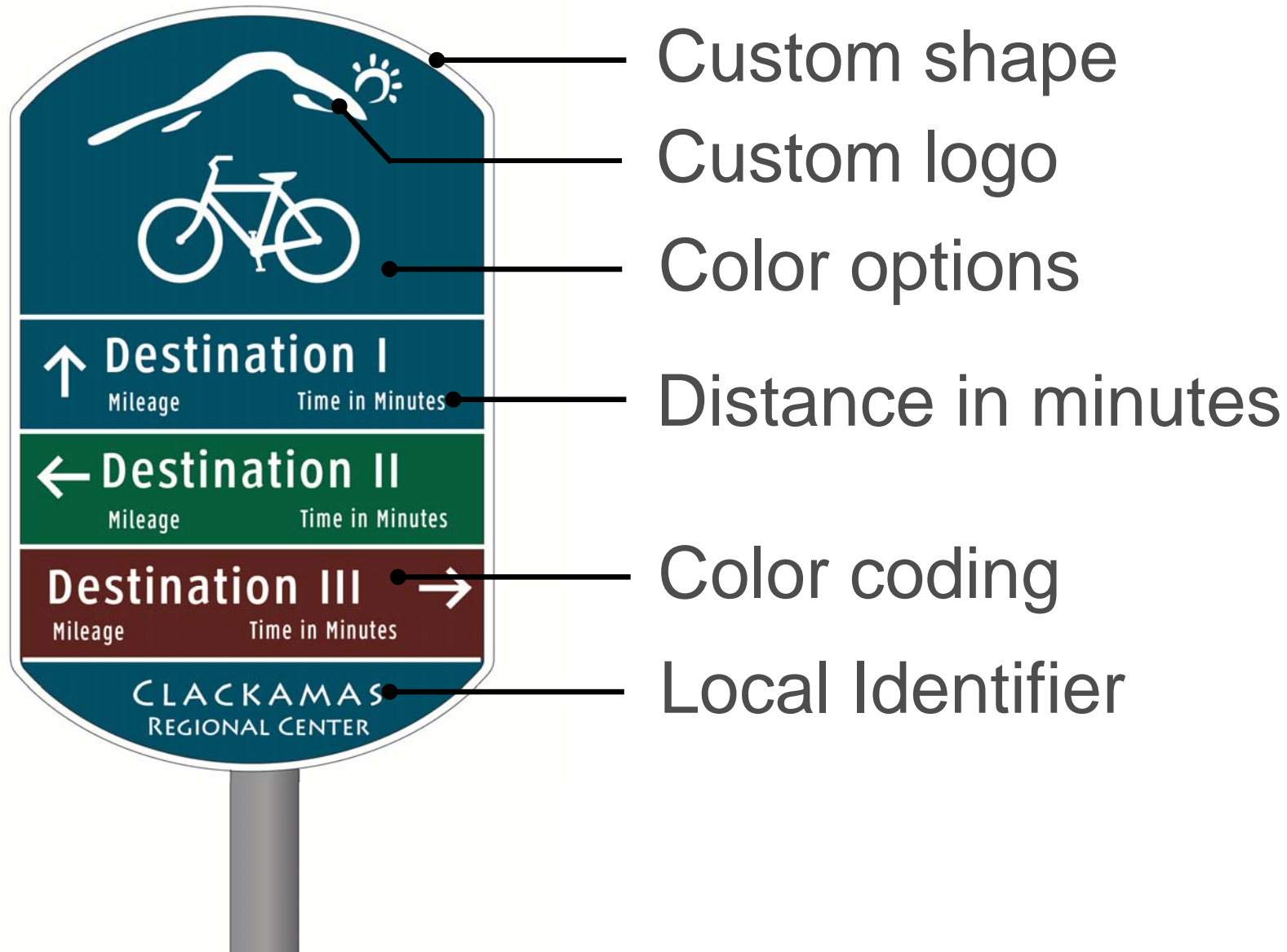
Standard icon

Three destinations

Rectangular shape

Arrow location

Design: Flexible

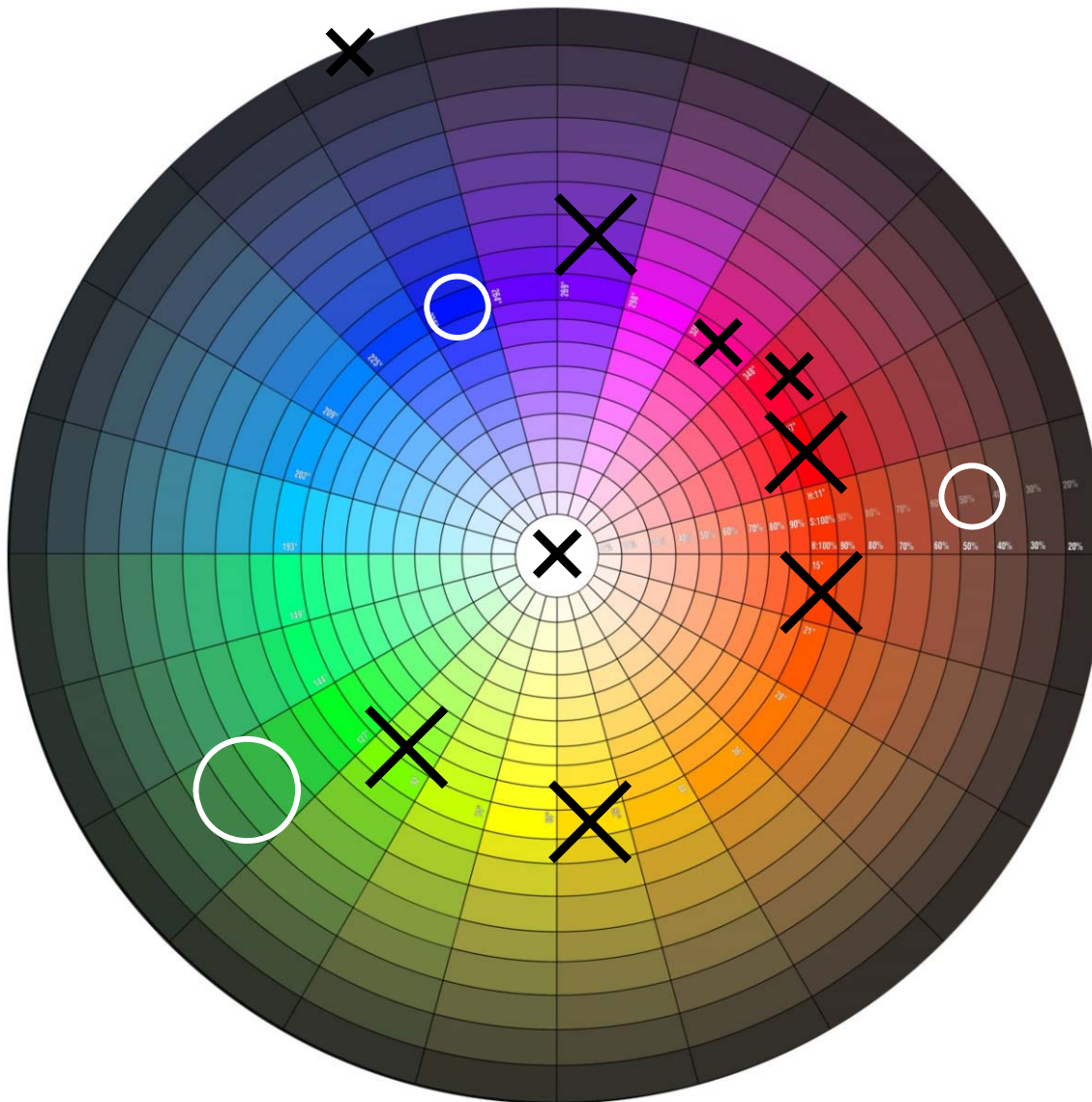
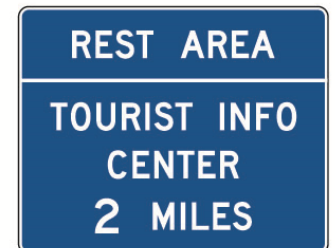
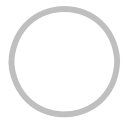


Design: Flexible

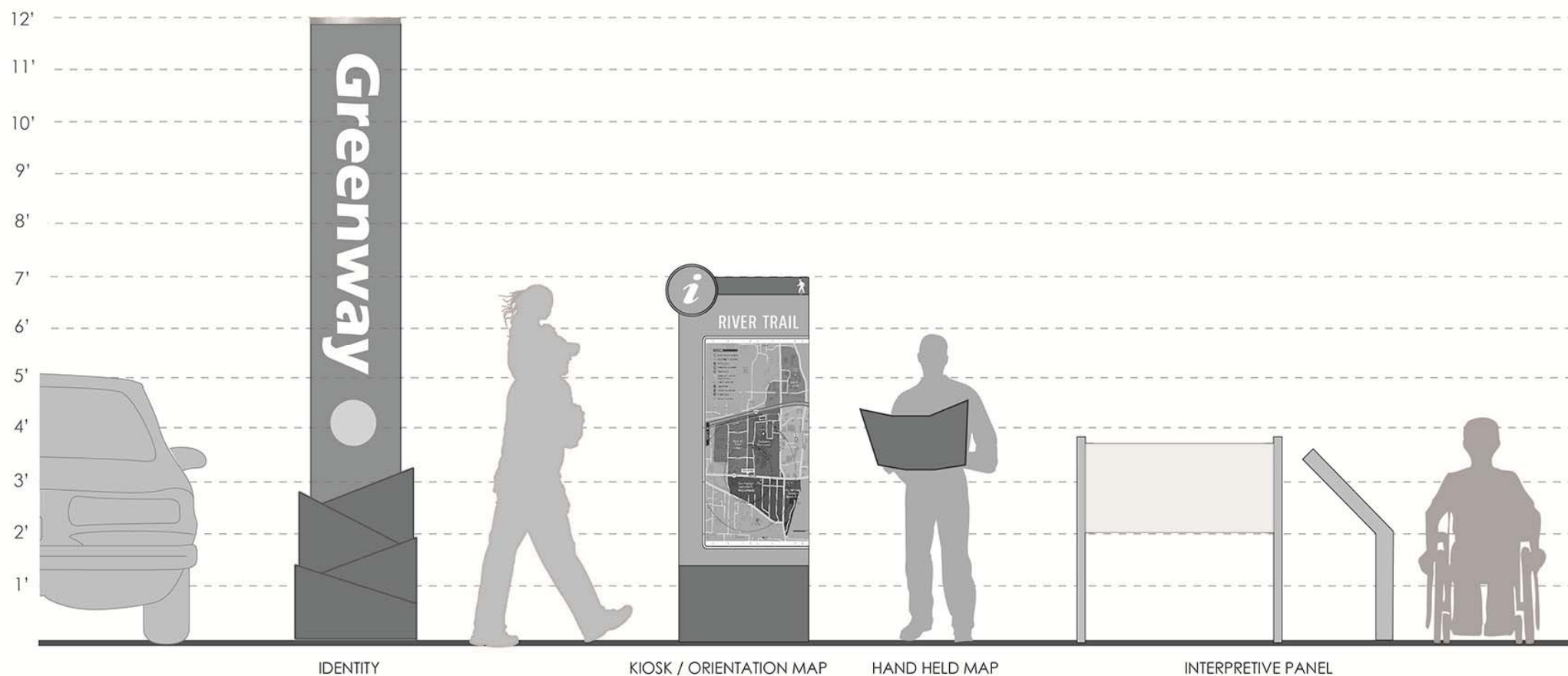
Restricted



Allowed

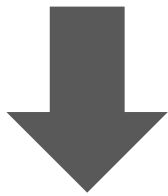


TOOLS: Enhanced

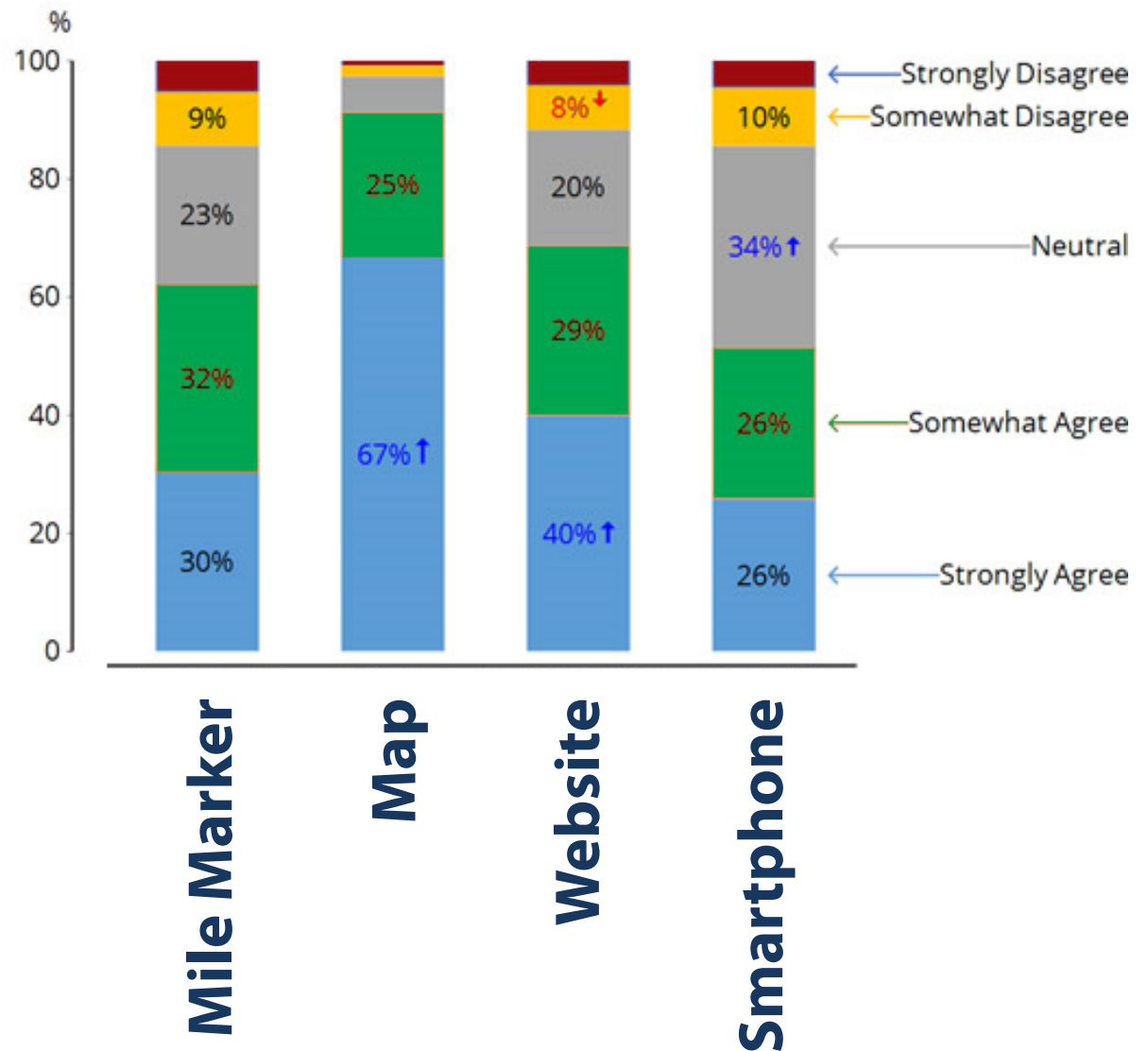


Community Input

Feedback



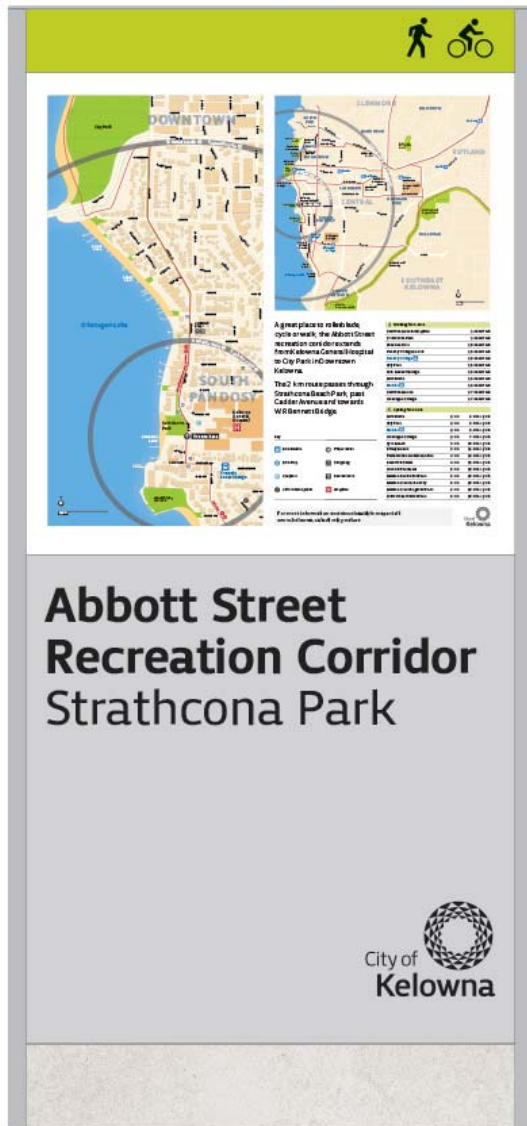
Communication
Needs and
Preferences



*MAG Off-Street Bicycle
Network Wayfinding Guide*

Phoenix Metro Region, AZ

TOOLS: Orientation Maps



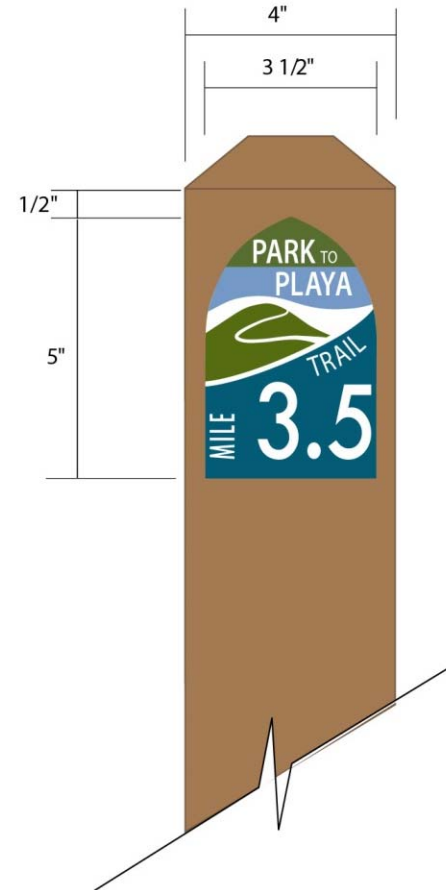
Map Kiosk



City of Kelowna Transit and Pathways Wayfinding Guide
Alta | Applied

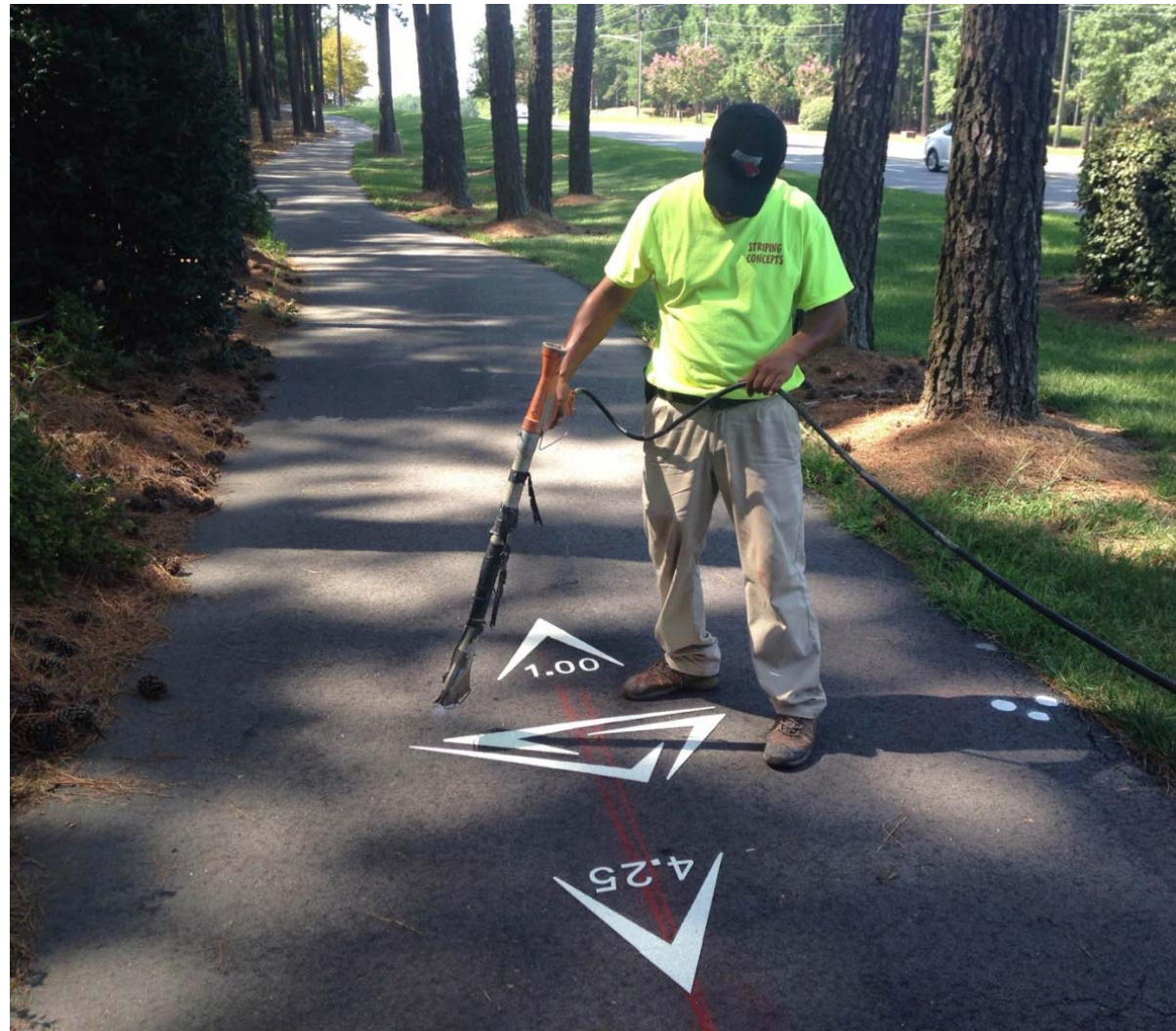
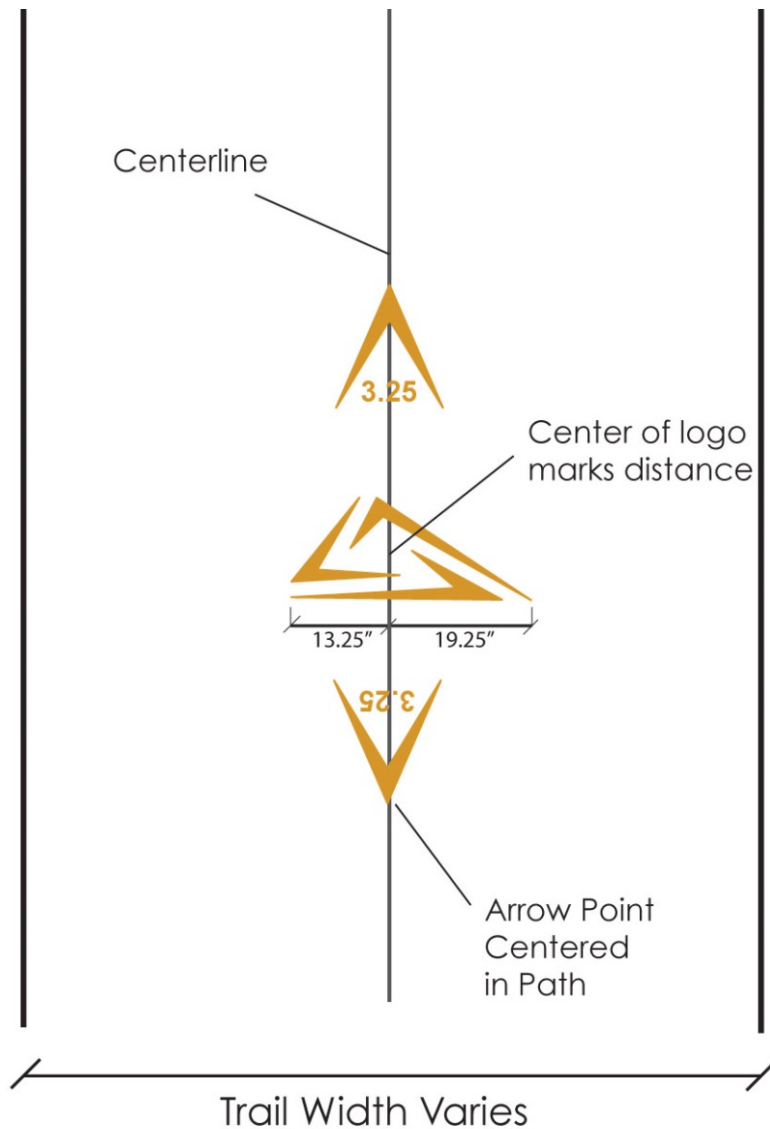
TOOLS: Mile Marker

- System/Path name and brand mark
- Agency name
- Allow use of icons
- Distance
- Place every $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile



Park to Playa Trail – Los Angeles, CA

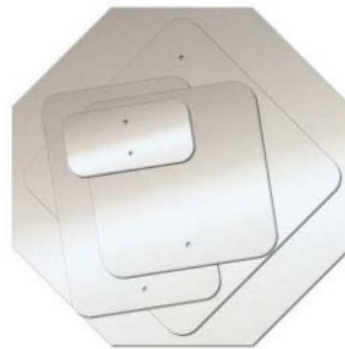
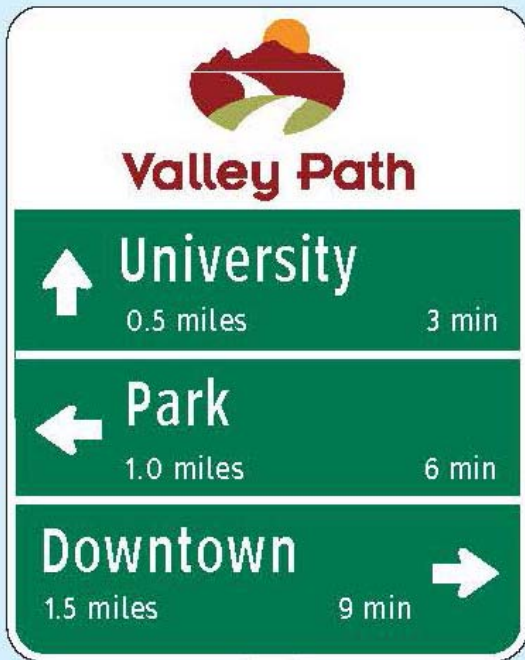
TOOLS: Pavement Markings



Research Triangle Park, NC

TOOLS: Material Selection

Base Package components (plus assorted standard mounting hardware)



Standard size Aluminum sign panels



Mill Finish Steel 2x2 or 3x3 post



Mill Finish Steel 6" x 4" I-Beam



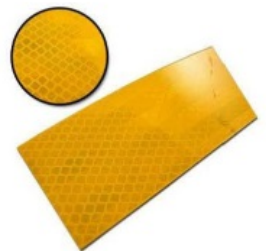
Mill Finish Steel
Architectural angles



SS perforated screen
slotted hole



Direct Embed Graphic panel



Reflective vinyl

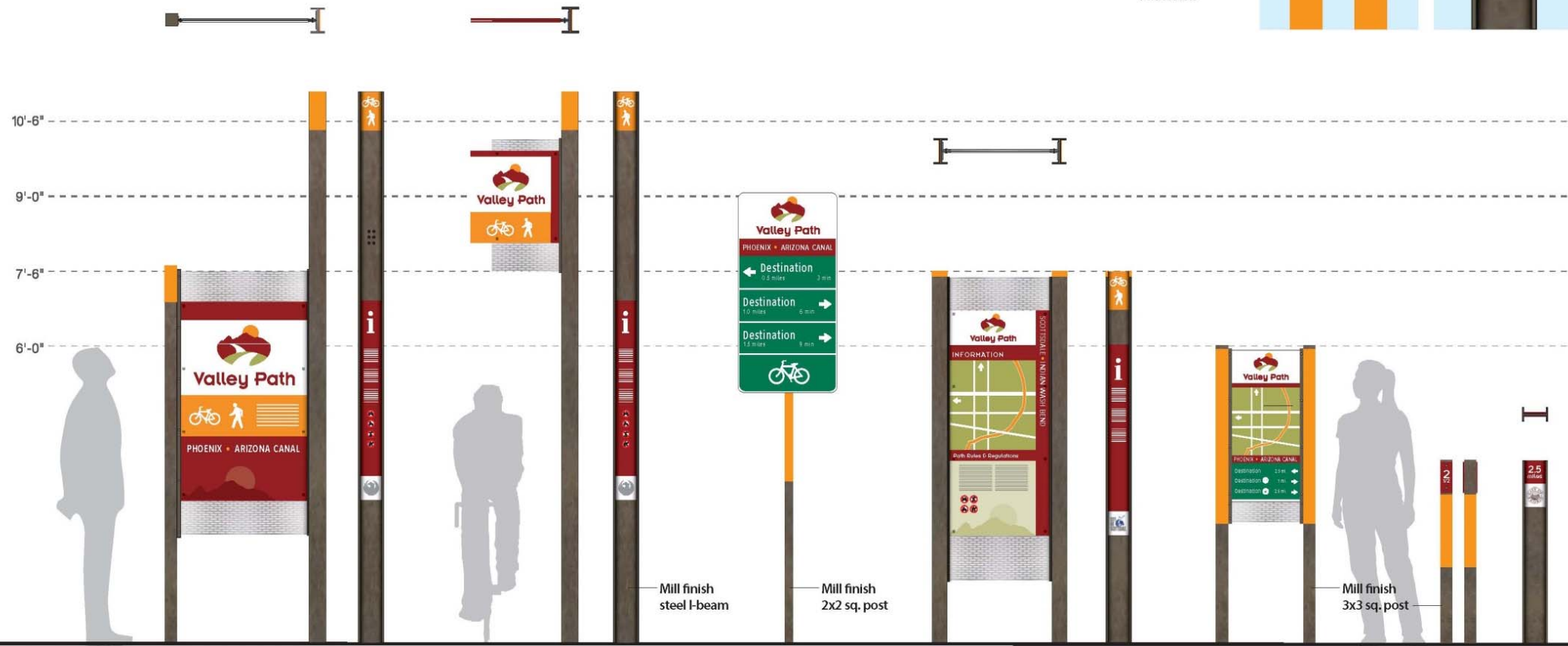
TOOLS: Cohesive Family



Valley Path



Path Icons

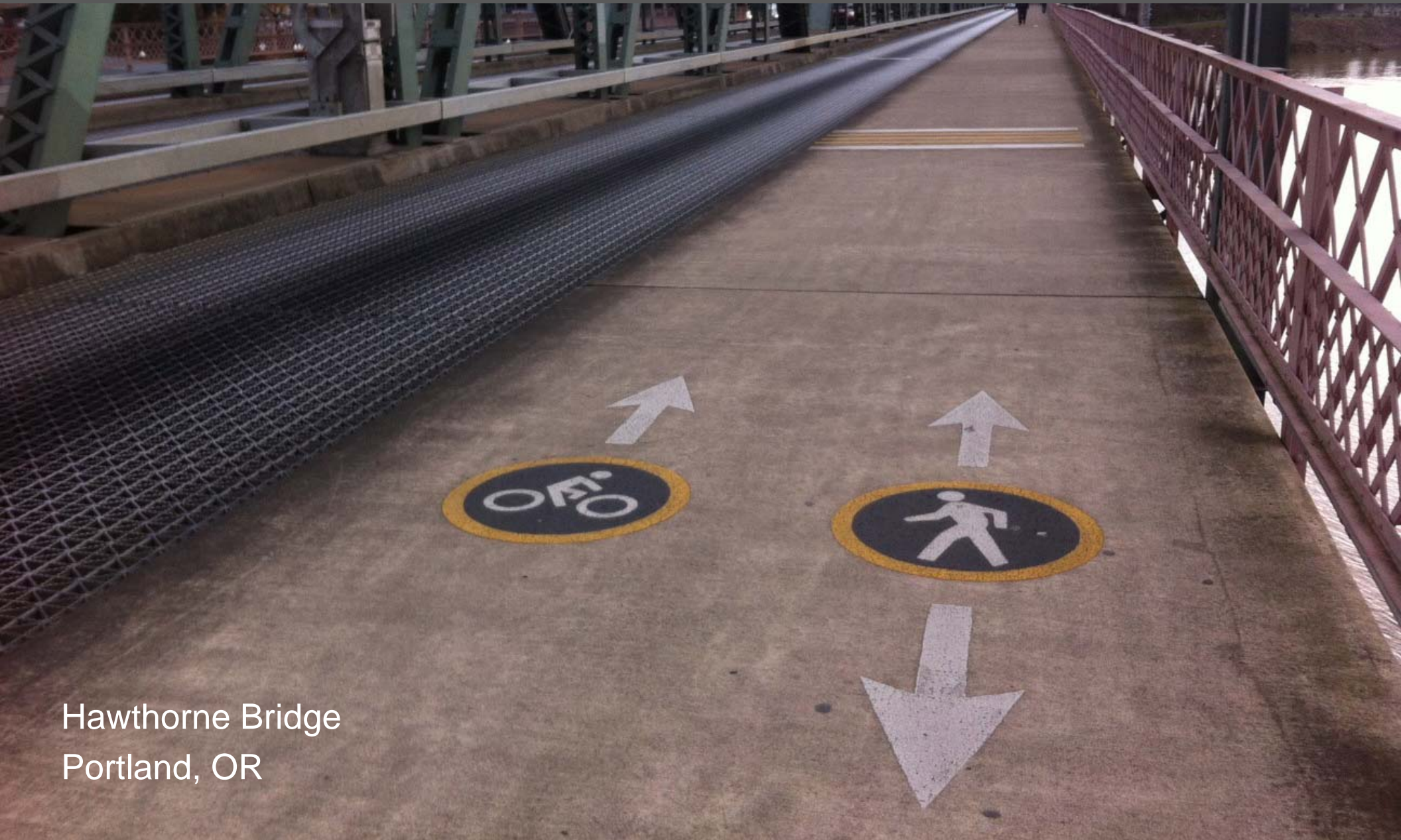


Management: User Conflicts

- Clarify allowed uses
- Reinforce trail etiquette



Management: User Conflicts



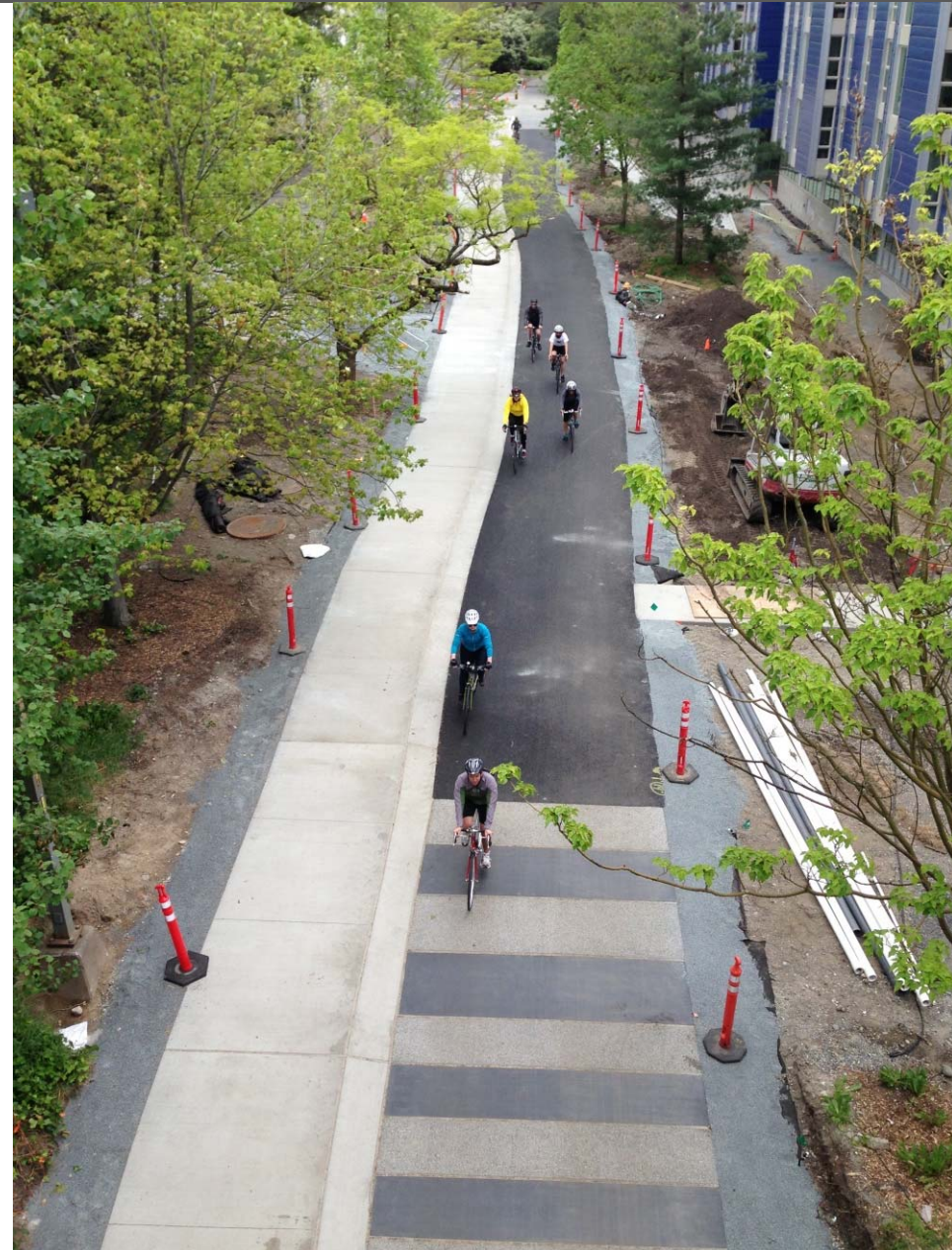
Hawthorne Bridge
Portland, OR

Management: User Conflicts

Intuitive Legibility



Burke Gilman Trail – Seattle, WA

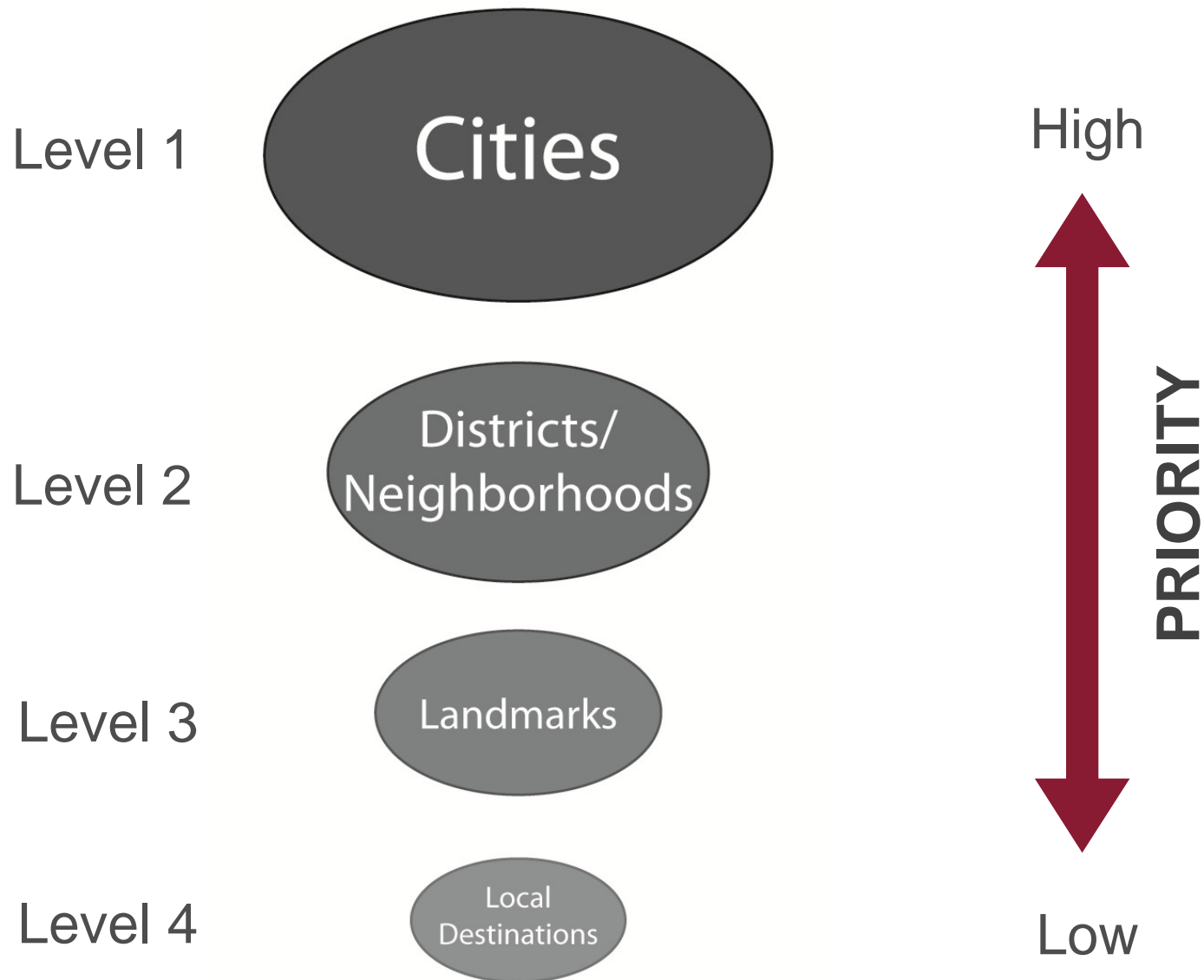


Logic: Destinations



- Many potential destinations
- Limited space per sign
- Need a consistent approach

Destination Prioritization



Destination Prioritization

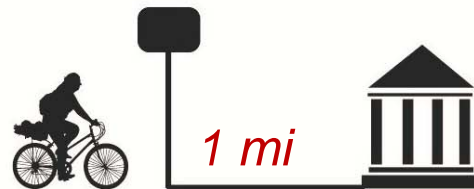
Cities



Districts/
Neighborhoods



Landmarks



Local
Destinations



Challenges



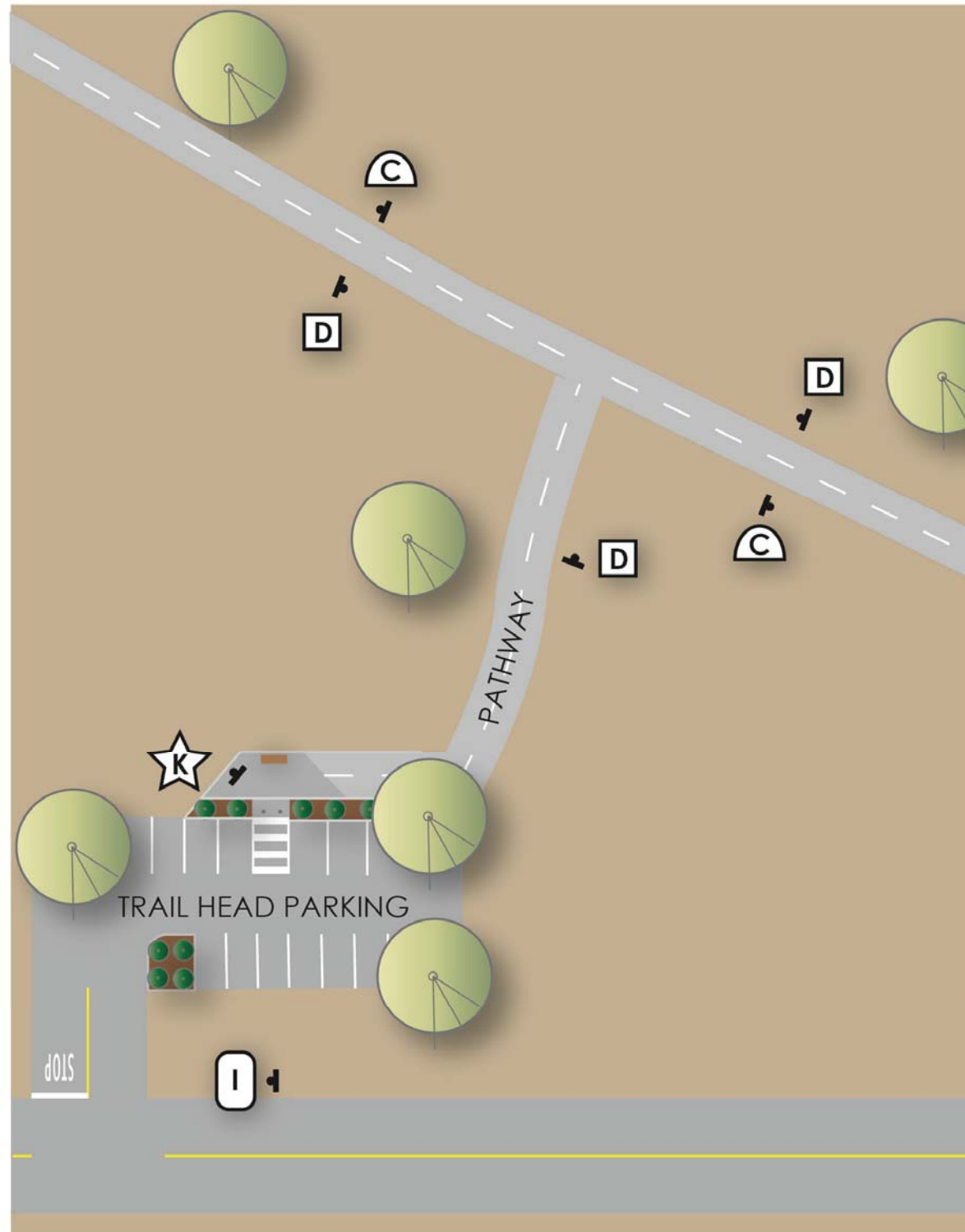
Challenges: Placement



- Path access points
- Path-path intersections
- Path gaps
- Off-street / on-street connections
- Path-roadway intersections
- Path bifurcations

Path/Path Intersection

Path Access Point



D DECISION
SIGN



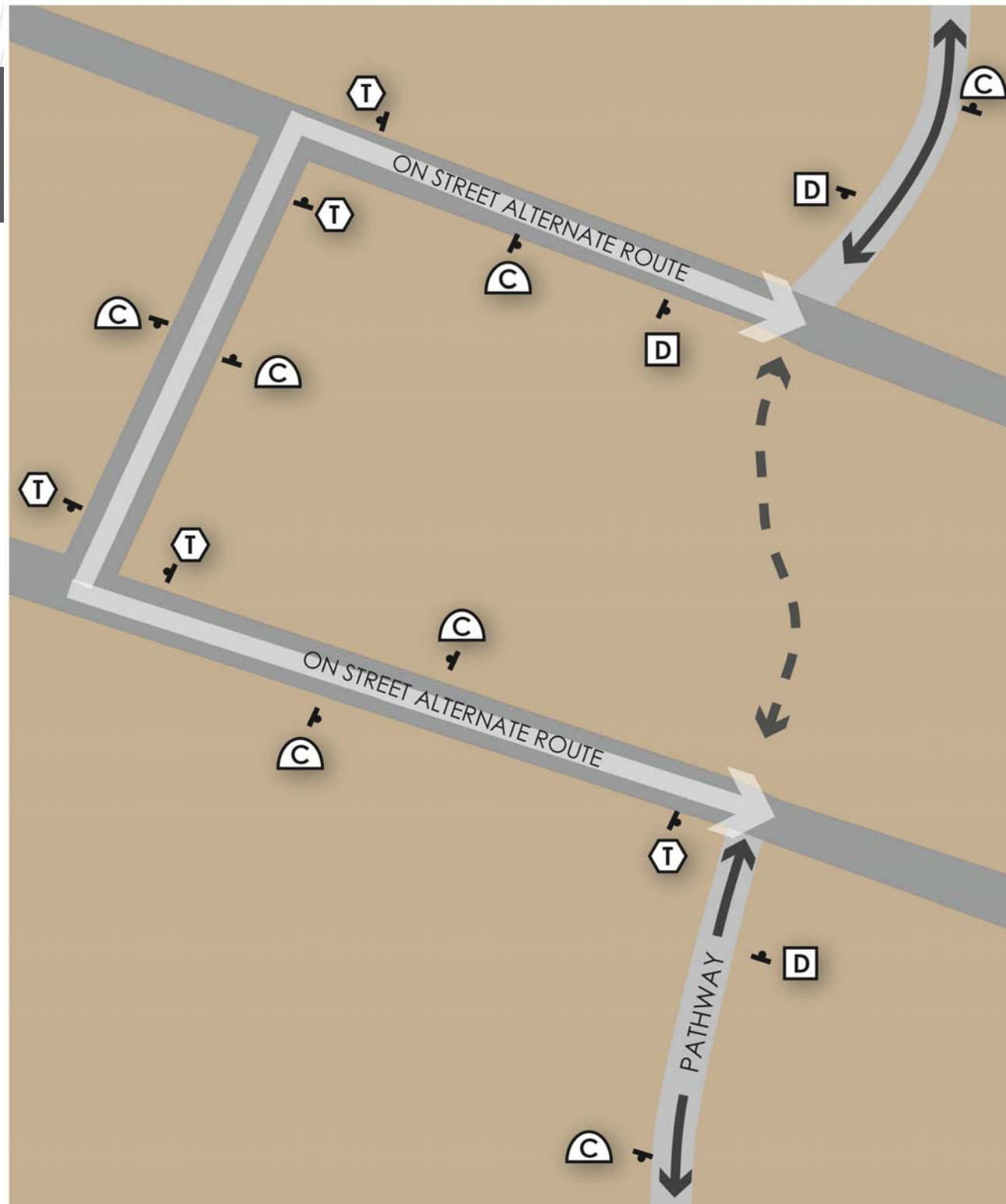
C CONFIRMATION
SIGN



K KIOSK

I VEHICLE
ORIENTED
PRIMARY
IDENTITY SIGN

Network Gap



D DECISION SIGN



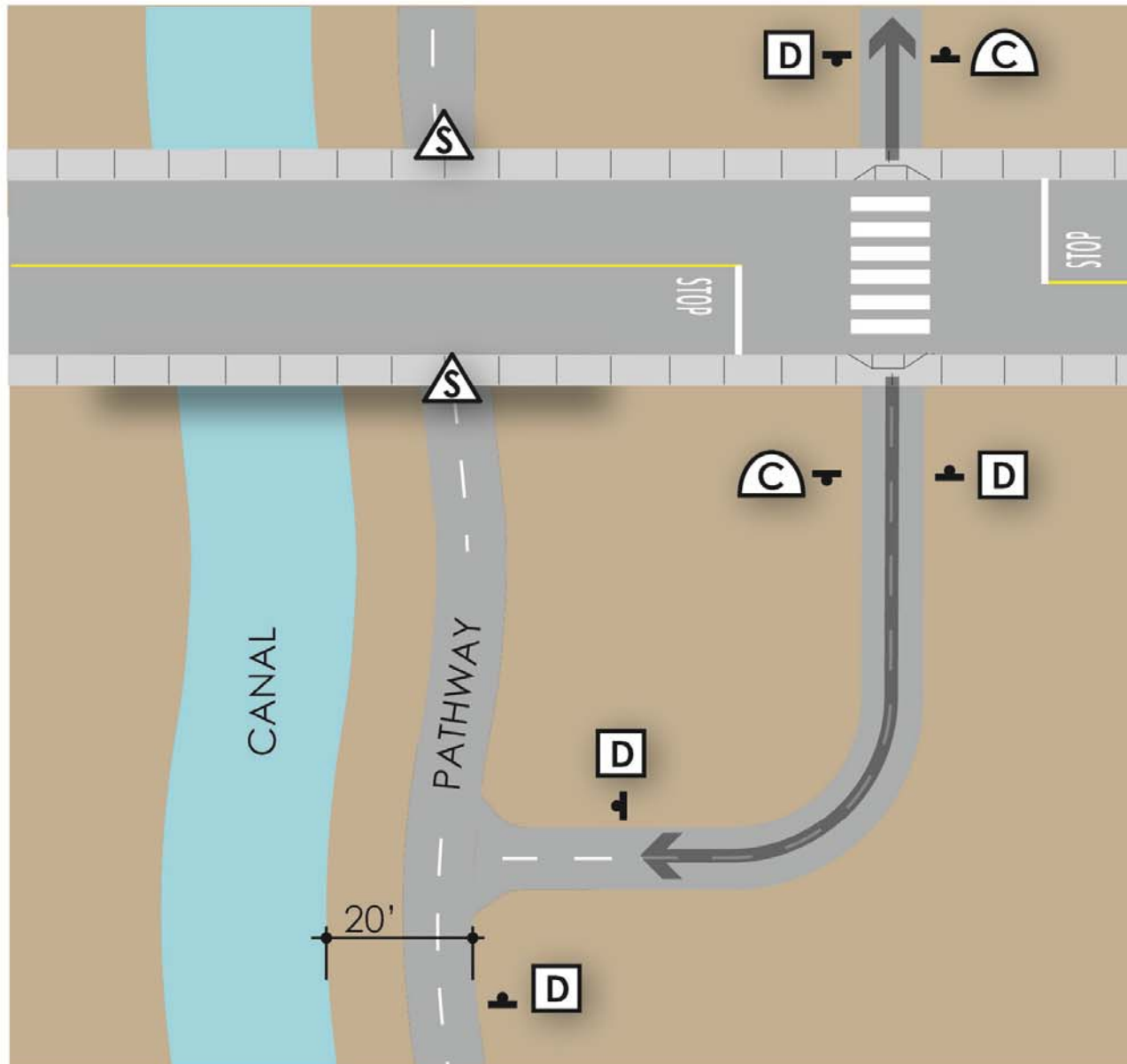
T TURN SIGN



C PATH CONFIRMATION



Path Bifurcation



D DECISION
SIGN



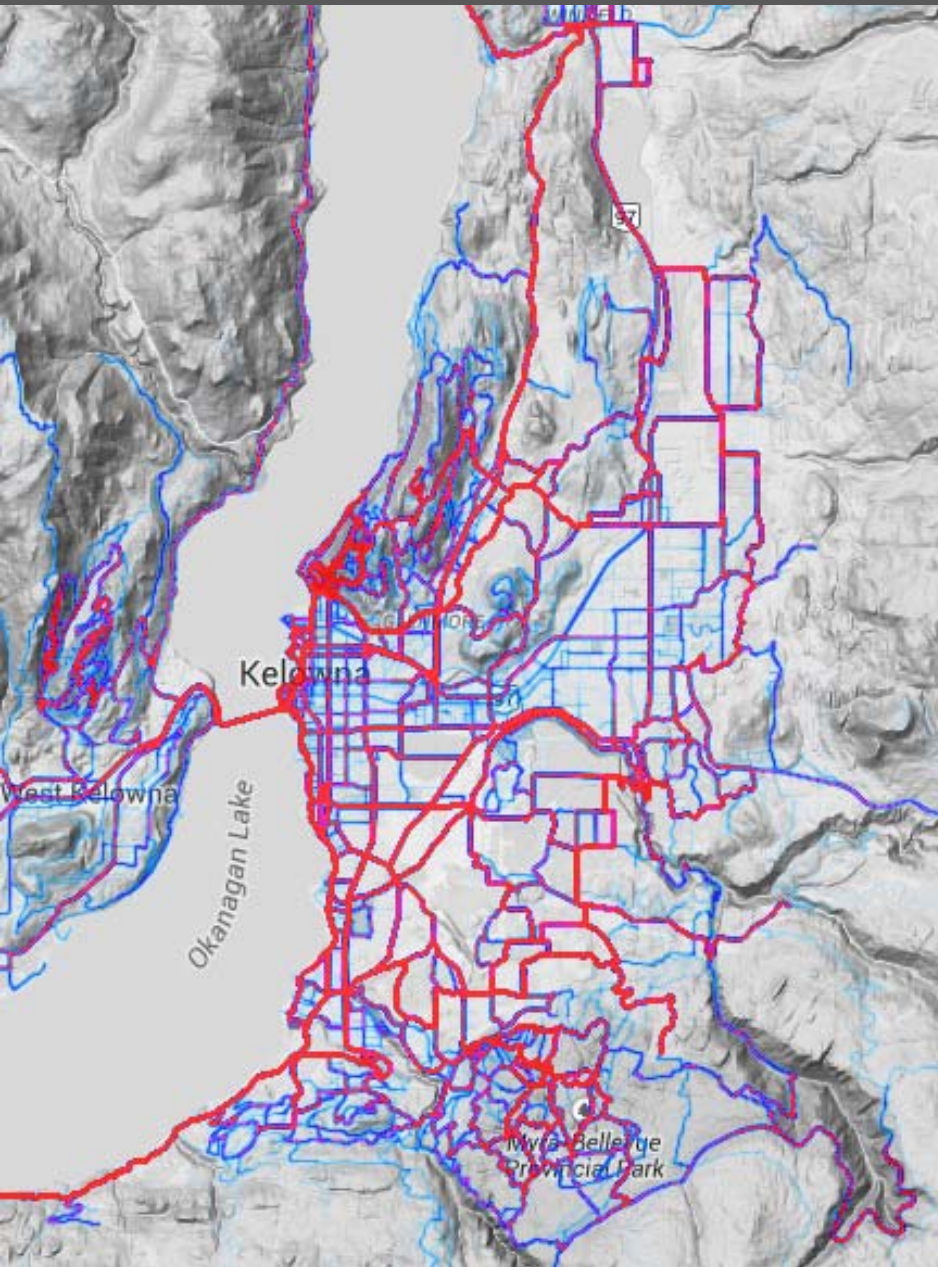
C CONFIRMATION
SIGN



S STREET SIGN



Route Prioritization



- Connect high priority destinations
- Need for route clarification
- Trail infrastructure provides a safe experience

Transit and Pathways Wayfinding Guide
Kelowna, BC

Demonstration Projects



Bicycle Boulevards Plan
Rochester, NY

Demonstration Projects



*Bicycle
Boulevards Plan*

Rochester, NY