

*DRAFT* (November 18, 2015)

# **Emergency Response Support Signage on Multi-Use Trails**

**Plan**

Prepared for:

**SATS Multi-Use Trails  
Jurisdictions Committee**



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### **FACILITY TYPE DEFINITIONS**

*On-road facility – A bicycle accommodation that is on the road pavement such as a bike lane or shared use lane.*

*Sidepath – A wide sidewalk or path for bicyclists and pedestrians that runs parallel to a roadway and is in the public right-of-way.*

*Trail – An off-road facility for bicyclists and pedestrians located on a separate right-of-way. A trail may include minimal travel on off-trail facilities such as the Junction Circle sidepath and short stretch of Pedigo Lane used as part of the Interurban Trail.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The SATS Multi-Use Trails Jurisdictions Committee has created this plan to address the need for quick and efficient response to emergency situations on the multi-use trails in Sangamon County. Over the years there have been incidents on the trails when locating and reaching the emergency site has been a challenge for emergency responders. Many times trail users do not know how to identify where they are on a trail or even the name of the trail they are on, so when calling 9-1-1 they cannot provide accurate information on their location.

The approach taken in this plan is to integrate the enhancement of trail usage with the ability of users to pinpoint their location on the trails. This includes adding three elements to the trail system.

- Posting of mileage markers every one-half mile along the trails using color-coded symbols that are unique to each trail. The zero point would be at one end of the trail only.
- Providing identifiers at rest stops along each trail.
- Posting street name signs at all road crossings.

Additionally, maps that show mileage marker location, rest stop location, and trail access points will be provided to the Sangamon County 9-1-1 Office.

Short trails used as connectors in the Multi-Use Trails Bicycle Network will not contain mileage markers but will be named and the name will be posted at each end of the trail. Two such trails are currently built:

- Stuart Park-Sangamon Valley Trail Connector
- Ash Street-Stanford Avenue Connector (to be completed in 2016)

Although on-road and sidepath routes to connect trails have been identified as part of the Multi-Use Trails Bicycle Network, any on-road or sidepath connectors between trails will not be measured in connection with multi-use trail mileage or signed with mileage markers. These locations are visible from the road and it is believed that anyone riding between trails would use building addresses and street names or other visible clues to identify their location for emergency response purposes.

However, any sidepath or on-road corridor identified as part of a specific multi-use trail will be included in mileage measurement and signage on the trail. For example: the Interurban Trail includes a sidepath along Junction Circle and uses part of Pedigo Lane. These will both be included in total trail mileage measurement and signage.

All signage references in this plan are to the 2009 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

## MILEAGE MARKERS

Mileage markers will be placed at ½ mile intervals with mileage calculation starting at one end of the multi-use trail. The mileage shown on the markers will be the same on each side of the markers. The mileage marker used will be from Part 9 of the MUTCD manual, D10-1a which will be placed on D4-3 with a color-coded circle containing the initials of the trail as shown below.



D10-1a



D4-3



Example of color-coded symbol to be included on top of mileage post



***Mileage Marker Example***

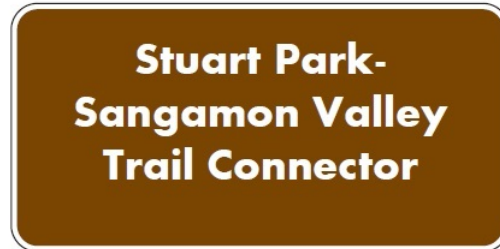
TRAIL NAME	TRAIL INITIALS IN WHITE	TRAIL COLOR *	TRAIL ZERO MARKER
Interurban Trail	IT	Blue	West end of Park Street parking lot (same point as Wabash Trail)
Lost Bridge Trail	LBT	Yellow	Trail start at east end of IDOT parking lot
Sangamon Valley Trail	SVT	Brown	Bunker Hill Road (until trail is extended south)
Wabash Trail	WT	Black	Trail start at west end of Park Street parking lot

\* Colors were selected to be discernible to people who are color-blind.

Connector trails will be identified with the following type of sign from Figure 2M-2 in Part 21 of the MUTCD Manual as shown below.



From MUTCD



*Trail Connector Sign Example*

### **REST STOP IDENTIFIERS**

Each rest stop on the trail (bench or picnic table) will have an identifying sign that includes the trail color-coded symbol and rest stop mileage (mileage will be determined based on placement of the sign). Rest stops off the trail, such as in parks or at trailheads or other parking lots, will not have rest stop identifiers.

The sign used will be the same as mileage markers but will include "Rest Stop" as shown below.



*Rest Stop Identifier Example*

### **STREET NAME SIGNS**

At each road crossing a street name sign will be posted to orient users on the trail unless there is already a street name sign on the roadway visible from the trail. The street name sign used on the trail will be from Part 9 of the MUTCD manual, D3-1 as shown below.



D3-1