

Eastern Trail Management District

On-Road Trail Signage Policy

Purpose: To outline the way in which the on-road Eastern Trail Route shall be signed so that it is consistent along the entire trail from Kittery to South Portland.

I. Definitions

As used in this Policy, the following terms have the meaning indicated:

Trail – Refers to the on-road Eastern Trail route

MUTCD – Refers to Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for streets and highways

ETMD – Refers to the Eastern Trail Management District

II. Applicable Standards and/or Regulations

- A. **MUTCD** – The manufacturing and installation of traffic control devices for the Trail shall follow the guidelines and regulations contained in the current version of the Manual of Uniform Control Devices for streets and highways, specifically the section titled “Traffic Controls for Bicycle Facilities”.
- B. **M.R.S.A. Title 23 §1351 – Installation of signals, devices and signs** – The installation of any traffic control devices such as signs on a state, state aid highway or street constructed with federal aid shall be subject to the approval of the Maine Department of Transportation in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 23 §1351.

III. Sign Type and Description

The following signs shall be used to mark the Trail.

A. Trail Route Marker

Designated by MUTCD as sign M1-8, this is a 32 inch tall by 18 inch wide metal sign that includes a bicycle symbol and the capital letters “ET” on a green oval background on a retroreflectorized white legend and border. The Eastern Trail Alliance logo with a web address that will direct users to the primary site for notifying the ETMD of user issues, and the East Coast Greenway logo will be placed below the green oval. **See Section VIII**

B. Directional Arrow Sign

This is a 9 inch tall by 12 inch wide metal sign that includes an arrow on a green background on a retroreflectorized white legend and border. Two type of arrows are typically used: A single pointed arrow designated by MUTCD as sign M7-1 which can be attached to a post to indicate a left or right turn and straight ahead; and A double sided arrow designated by MUTCD as sign M7-5 to indicate that the trail continues to the left and right of the user. Specialized arrow shall be designed as outline in MUTCD. **See Section VIII**

C. Begin/End Route Sign

This is a 9 inch tall by 12 inch wide metal sign that has the word “END” or “Begin” on a green background on a retroreflectorized white legend and border, designated by MUTCD as sign M4-12 for “End” and sign M4-11 for “Begin”. **See Section VIII**

IV. Placement

- A. **Route Marker & Arrow Signs** – Markers and arrows will be provided at decision points along the Trail including signs to inform users of route direction changes and confirmation signs for route direction. These signs should be repeated at regular intervals.

- B. Begin/End Route Signs** – These two signs are reserved for use in South Portland, specifically Bug Light Park where the trail terminates and in Kittery, specifically at the Memorial Bridge where the Trail terminates.

V. Installation

- A. Restrictions** – Signs or other traffic control devices, not to include temporary traffic control devices, will not be installed when ground conditions prohibit safe and effective installation. This means that under typical conditions installation will not occur during winter months.
- B. Dig Safe** – Prior to the in-ground installation of any traffic control device the entity performing the work on behalf of the ETMD shall comply with the Maine Dig Safe Statute, M.R.S.A., Title 23, §3360-A
- C. Sign Posts** – Signs should typically be attached to a metal channel post. The use of the breakaway feature of the channel post is preferred to facilitate faster replacement of damaged posts. When purchasing posts the ETMD will purchase the breakaway system. When requesting a municipality to provide the post a request will be made for the use of the breakaway system, but shall not be required. Wooden posts that are currently in use will be replaced by the metal channel post at such time as a repair or replacement is needed.
- D. Breakaway Nut & Bolt** – Signs will be attached to the metal channel post using a standard metal bolt and a specialized nut called a “breakaway” or “vandal proof” nut. Once installed, the component of the nut that accepts a regular wrench breaks off leaving another component that requires a special wrench to loosen.

VI. Coordination

- A. Reporting** – The Eastern Trail Alliance and other users will help to report to the ETMD missing or damaged signs and confusing sections of the route that could be clarified with additional signs.
- B. Repair/Replacement** – The ETMD will collect reports of missing or damaged signs or areas requiring additional signage and will coordinate with local departments of public works to undertake the work at the appropriate time.

VII. Temporary Signage or Markings

- A. Detours** – When a section of the Trail is closed to through traffic and a detour route has been identified, detour signs should be used. The entity responsible for causing the detour is responsible for the signage. A sign reading “Detour Ahead” should be placed to provide advance warning of the detour to the users. Two options for marking the detour route are available; however, both should follow the guidelines for the placement of detour signs as outlined in MUTCD. **See Section VIII**
 - 1. ET Route Marker with Detour Arrow Sign** – An ET Route Marker can be used in combination with the appropriate “Detour” arrow, designated by MUTCD as Sign M4-10. **See Section VIII**
 - 2. Pedestrian/Bicycle Detour Sign** – A Bicycle/Pedestrian Detour sign that includes the appropriate arrow, designated by MUTCD as Sign M4-9b may be used. It is also acceptable to use a supplemental sign for the arrow. **See Section VIII**
- B. Markings** – Temporary markings may be used to designate the Trail route when a sign is missing. The markings should not be maintained when adequate signage is in place.
 - 1. Arrow with “ET”** – White spray paint can be used to draw a directional arrow with the letters “ET” on the pavement of a public road.

VIII. Examples of Signs Named in this Policy