

Wayfinding

The term wayfinding most commonly refers to a system of signage that helps cyclists navigate an existing cycling network. The first step is obviously to have a connected cycling network. The second step is to identify a set of destinations. The third step is to erect enough signs so people can find their way from one place to another.

The Vancouver Translink, an umbrella organization of public transit corporations, has produced “Get There by Bike”, an extensive 122 page document on wayfinding guidelines. It is based on the existing extensive bike network and identifies some 300 destinations suitable for signing, probably more than a thousand signs (no indication of how much of this has been done).

The Translink document has considerable detail on signage standards. Many of the signs are multiple destinations or route maps. These are suitable for dedicated bike paths but not for bike lanes on busy streets.

There are many similar documents out there. Miami, Florida has one that discusses facilities in several other cities.

Without a well developed bike network it is difficult to make wayfinding proposals for Winnipeg other than to make simple references to what has been accomplished in other cities.

Bike path finding

A less ambitious form of wayfinding would be to help people find bike lanes at all. This closer to where we are in Winnipeg.

Better markings for bike lanes are needed. Lines on pavement don't last more than a few months. In the winter they disappear altogether. Some sort of overhead or signpost indication of bike lanes is required.

More seriously there needs to be signage to indicate where bike lanes start and stop. This is essential for cyclists and motorists to be able to predict where cyclists should be.

A Map

A paper or online map may be the best thing to emphasize at this point.

References:

1. “Get there by Bike” (Sept. 2013), Translink Vancouver, translink.ca/en/Getting-Around/Cycling/Bicycle-Wayfinding-Guidelines.aspx
2. “Cycling Wayfinding Signage Planning” (draft), District of North Vancouver, dnv.org/sites/default/files/edocs/cycling-wayfinding-signage-planning.pdf
3. “Bicycle Wayfinding”, Miami-Dade planning organization, <http://miamidadempco.org/library/studies/bicycle-wayfinding-system-study-final-report-2016-07.pdf>