

OTHER GUIDE SIGNS

Section 2D.55 Community Wayfinding Signs

Support:

- 01 Community wayfinding guide signs are part of a coordinated and continuous system of signs that direct tourists and other road users to key civic, cultural, visitor, and recreational attractions and other similar secondary destinations within a city or a local urbanized or downtown area.
- 02 Community wayfinding guide signs are a type of destination guide sign for conventional roads with a common color and/or identification marker for destinations within an overall wayfinding guide sign plan for an area.
- 03 Figures 2D-30 through 2D-32 illustrate various examples of the design and application of community wayfinding guide signs.

Standard:

- 04 **The use of community wayfinding guide signs shall be limited to conventional roads. Community wayfinding guide signs shall not be installed on freeway or expressway mainlines or ramps. Direction to community wayfinding destinations from a freeway or expressway shall be limited to the use of a Supplemental guide sign (see Section 2E.51) on the mainline and a Destination sign (see Section 2D.36) on the ramp to direct road users to the area or areas within which community wayfinding guide signs are used. The individual wayfinding destinations shall not be displayed on the Supplemental guide and Destination signs except where the destinations are in accordance with the State or agency policy on Supplemental guide signs.**
- 05 **Community wayfinding guide signs shall not be used to provide direction to primary destinations or highway routes or streets. Destination or other guide signs shall be used for this purpose as described elsewhere in this Chapter and shall have priority over any community wayfinding sign in placement, prominence, and conspicuity.**
- 06 **Because regulatory, warning, and other guide signs have a higher priority, community wayfinding guide signs shall not be installed where adequate spacing cannot be provided between the community wayfinding guide sign and other higher-priority signs. Community wayfinding guide signs shall not be installed in a position where they would obscure the road users' view of other traffic control devices.**
- 07 **Community wayfinding guide signs shall not be mounted overhead.**

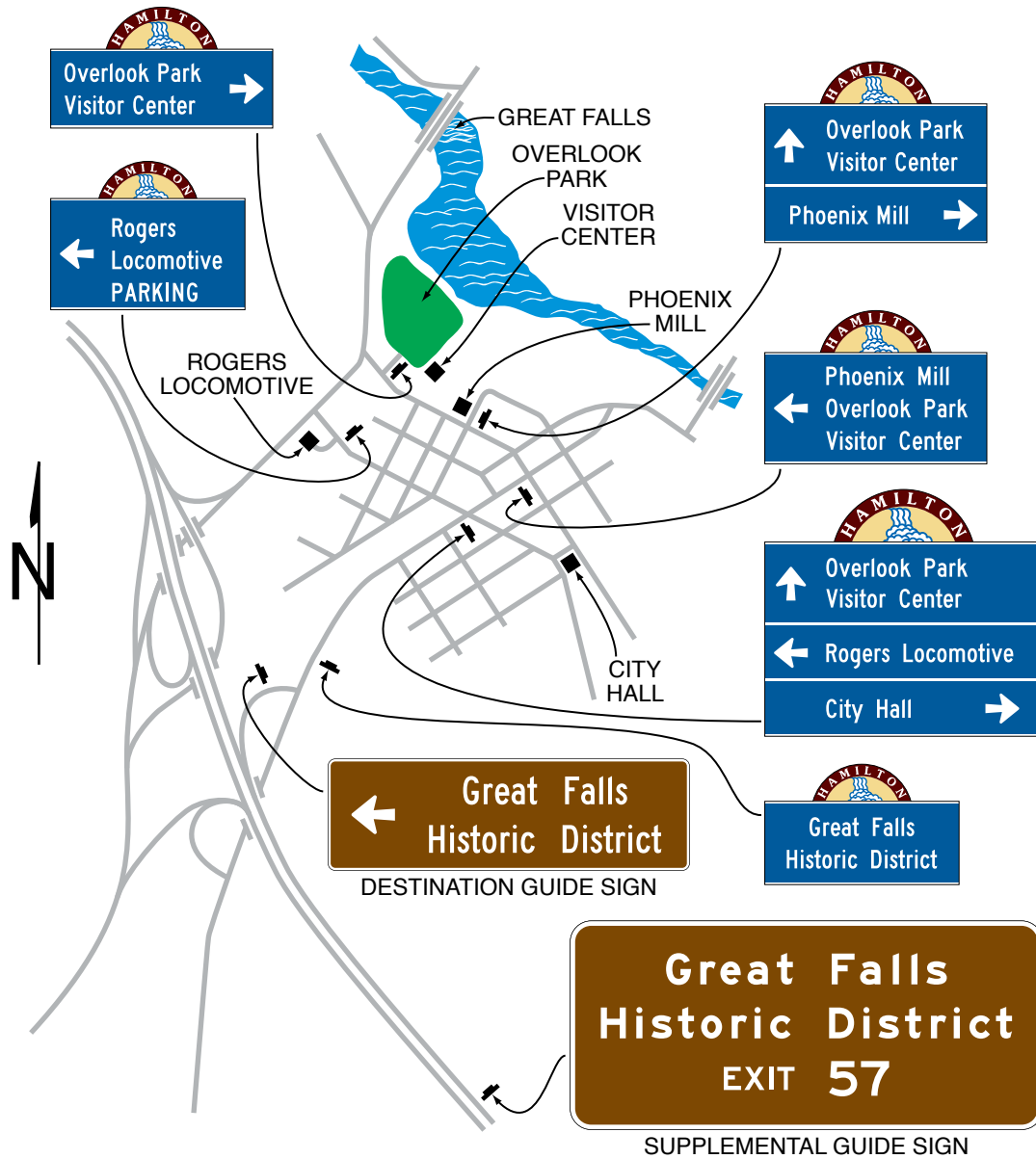
Guidance:

- 08 *If used, a community wayfinding guide sign system should be established on a local municipal or equivalent jurisdictional level or for an urbanized area of adjoining municipalities or equivalent that form an identifiable geographic entity that is conducive to a cohesive and continuous system of signs. Community wayfinding guide signs should not be used on a regional or statewide basis where infrequent or sparse placement does not contribute to a continuous or coordinated system of signing that is readily identifiable as such to the road user. In such cases, Destination or other guide signs detailed in this Chapter should be used to direct road users to an identifiable area in which the type of eligible destination described in Paragraph 1 of this Section is located.*
- 09 *When a system of community wayfinding guide signs is being considered, the system of existing guide signs should be evaluated for applicability and general compliance with the provisions of this Manual to ensure road user directional guidance is adequately being addressed.*

Figure 2D-30. Examples of Community Wayfinding Guide Signs



Figure 2D-31. Example of a Community Wayfinding Guide Sign System Showing Direction from a Freeway or Expressway



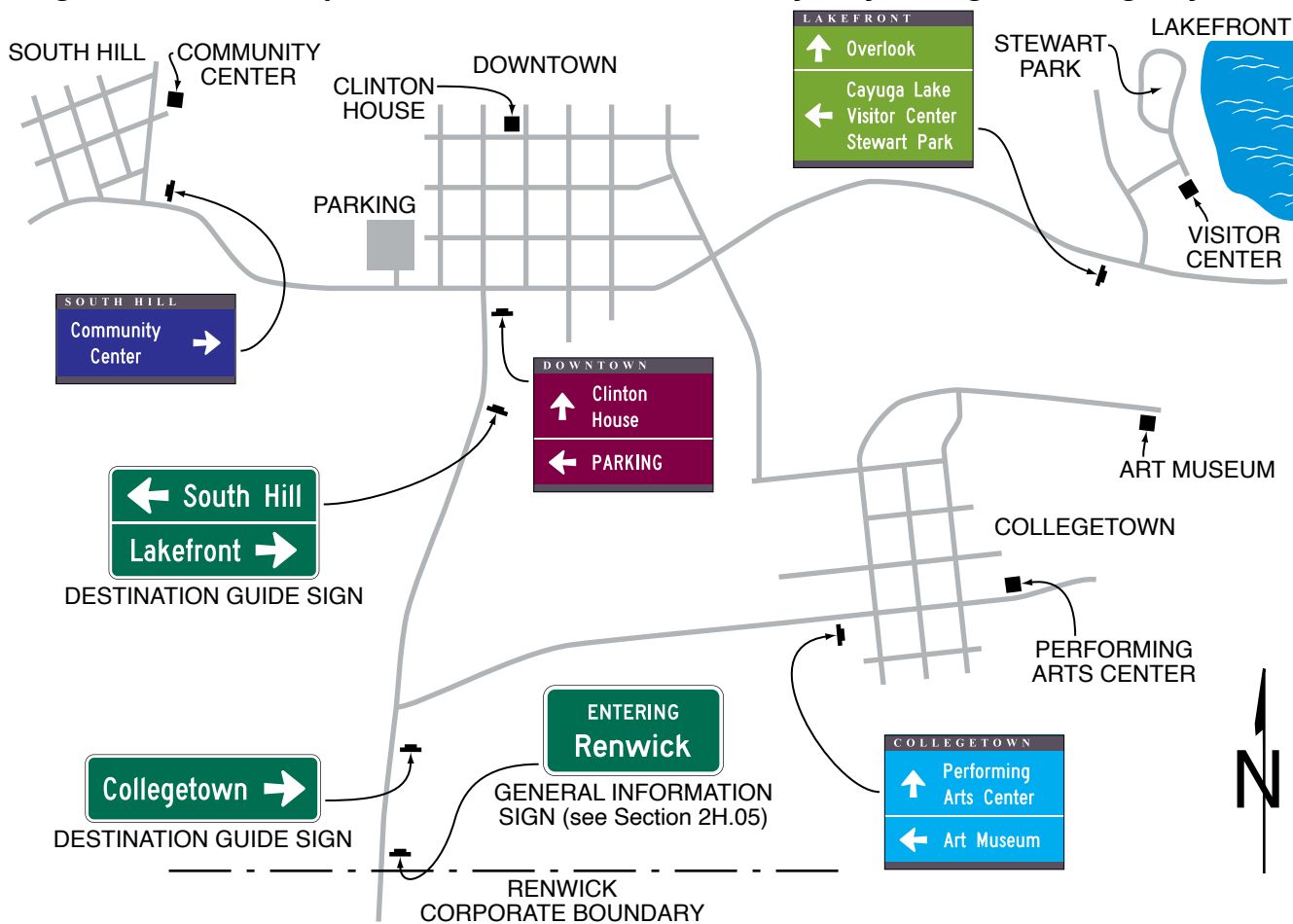
Support:

10 The specific provisions of this Section regarding the design of community wayfinding sign legends apply to vehicular community wayfinding signs and do not apply to those signs that are intended only to provide information or direction to pedestrians or other users of a sidewalk or roadside area.

Guidance:

11 *Because pedestrian wayfinding signs typically use smaller legends that are inadequately sized for viewing by vehicular traffic and because they can provide direction to pedestrians that might conflict with that appropriate for vehicular traffic, wayfinding signs designed for and intended to provide direction to pedestrians or other users of a sidewalk or other roadside area should be located to minimize their conspicuity to vehicular traffic. Such signs should be located as far as practicable from the street, such as at the far edge of the sidewalk. Where locating such signs farther from the roadway is impracticable, the pedestrian wayfinding signs should have their conspicuity to vehicular traffic minimized by employing one or a combination of the following methods:*

- A. *Locating signs away from intersections where high-priority traffic control devices are present.*
- B. *Facing the pedestrian message toward the sidewalk and away from the street.*
- C. *Cantilevering the sign over the sidewalk if the pedestrian wayfinding sign is mounted at a height consistent with vehicular traffic signs, removing the pedestrian wayfinding signs from the line of sight in a sequence of vehicular signs.*

Figure 2D-32. Example of a Color-Coded Community Wayfinding Guide Sign System

12 To further minimize their conspicuity to vehicular traffic during nighttime conditions, pedestrian wayfinding signs should not be retroreflective.

Support:

13 Color coding is sometimes used on community wayfinding guide signs to help road users distinguish between multiple potentially confusing traffic generator destinations located in different neighborhoods or subareas within a community or area.

Option:

14 At the boundaries of the geographical area within which community wayfinding guide signing is used, an informational guide sign may be posted to inform road users about the presence of wayfinding signing and to identify the meanings of the various color codes or pictographs that are being used.

Standard:

15 These informational guide signs shall have a white legend and border on a green background and shall have a design similar to that illustrated in Figure 2D-1 and shall be consistent with the basic design principles for guide signs. These informational guide signs shall not be installed on freeway or expressway mainlines or ramps.

16 The color coding or a pictograph of the identification markers of the community wayfinding guide signing system shall be included on the informational guide sign posted at the boundary of the community wayfinding guide signing area. The color coding or pictographs shall apply to a specific, identifiable neighborhood or geographical subarea within the overall area covered by the community wayfinding guide signing. Color coding or pictographs shall not be used to distinguish between different types of destinations that are within the same designated neighborhood or subarea. The color coding shall be accomplished by the use of different colored square or rectangular panels on the face of the informational guide sign, each positioned to the left of the neighborhood or named geographic area to which the color-coding panel applies. The height of the colored square or rectangular panels shall not exceed 2 times the height of the upper-case letters of the principal legend on the sign.

Option:

- 17 The different colored square or rectangular panels may include either a black or a white (whichever provides the better contrast with the color of the panel) letter, numeral, or other appropriate designation to identify the destination.
- 18 Except for the informational guide sign posted at the boundary of the wayfinding guide sign area, community wayfinding guide signs may use background colors other than green in order to provide a color identification for the wayfinding destinations by geographical area within the overall wayfinding guide signing system. Color-coded community wayfinding guide signs may be used with or without the boundary informational guide sign displaying corresponding color-coding panels described in Paragraphs 13 through 16 of this Section. Except as provided in Paragraph 19 of this Section, in addition to the colors that are approved in this Manual for use on official traffic control signs (see Section 2A.06), other background colors may also be used for the color coding of community wayfinding guide signs.

Standard:

- 19 **The standard colors of red, orange, yellow, purple, or the fluorescent versions thereof, fluorescent yellow-green, and fluorescent pink shall not be used as background colors for community wayfinding guide signs, in order to minimize possible confusion with critical, higher-priority regulatory and warning sign color meanings readily understood by road users.**
- 20 **The minimum contrast value of legend color to background color for community wayfinding guide signs shall be at least 0.70 (or 70%).**
- 21 **All messages, borders, legends, and backgrounds of community wayfinding guide signs and any identification markers shall be retroreflective (see Sections 2A.21 and 2A.22).**
- 22 **Community wayfinding guide signs, exclusive of any identification marker used, shall be rectangular in shape.**

Guidance:

- 23 *Simplicity and uniformity in design, position, and application as described in Section 2A.04 are important and should be incorporated into the community wayfinding guide sign design and location plans for the area.*
- 24 *Community wayfinding guide signs should be limited to three destinations per sign (see Section 2D.06).*
- 25 *Abbreviations (see Section 1D.08) should be kept to a minimum, and should include only those that are commonly recognized and understood.*
- 26 *Horizontal lines of a color that contrasts with the sign background color should be used to separate groups of destinations by direction from each other.*

Support:

- 27 The basic requirement for all highway signs, including community wayfinding signs, is that they be legible to those for whom they are intended and that they be understandable in time to permit a proper response. Section 2A.04 contains additional information on the design of signs, including desirable attributes of effective designs.

Guidance:

- 28 *Word messages should be as brief as practical and the lettering should be large enough to provide the necessary legibility distance.*

Standard:

- 29 **The minimum specific ratio of letter height to legibility distance shall comply with the provisions of Section 2A.08. The size of lettering used for destination and directional legends on community wayfinding signs shall comply with the provisions of minimum letter heights as provided in Section 2D.05.**
- 30 **Interline and edge spacing shall comply with the provisions of Section 2D.05.**
- 31 **Except as provided in Paragraph 34 of this Section, the lettering style used for destination and directional legends on community wayfinding guide signs shall comply with the provisions of Section 2D.04.**
- 32 **The lettering for destinations on community wayfinding guide signs shall be a combination of lower-case letters with initial upper-case letters (see Section 2D.04). All other word messages on community wayfinding guide signs shall be in all upper-case letters.**

Guidance:

- 33 *Except as provided in Paragraphs 34 and 35 of this Section, letters, numerals, and other characters should be composed of the Standard Alphabets as detailed in the “Standard Highway Signs” publication (see Section 1C.05).*

Option:

- 34 A lettering style other than the Standard Alphabets provided in the “Standard Highway Signs” publication (see Section 1C.05) may be used on community wayfinding guide signs if an engineering study determines that the legibility and recognition values for the chosen lettering style meet or exceed the values for the Standard Alphabets for the same legend height and stroke width.

Standard:

35 **If a lettering style other than the Standard Alphabets is used, the alternative lettering style shall be conventional in form. The letters, numerals, and other characters shall not be italic, oblique, script, highly decorative, or of other unusual forms.**

36 **In accordance with Section 2A.04, except for signs that are designed and located with the intent to be viewed only by pedestrians, bicyclists stopped out of the flow of traffic, or occupants of parked vehicles, Internet and e-mail addresses, including domain names and uniform resource locators (URL), and scanning graphics for the purpose of obtaining information (see Section 2A.04), shall not be displayed on any community wayfinding guide sign or sign assembly.**

37 **The arrow location and priority order of destinations shall follow the provisions described in Sections 2D.08 and 2D.36. Arrows shall be of the designs provided in Section 2D.08.**

Option:

38 Pictographs (see definition in Section 1C.02) may be used on community wayfinding guide signs.

Standard:

39 **If a pictograph is used, its height shall not exceed 2 times the height of the upper-case letters of the principal legend on the sign.**

40 **Except for pictographs, symbols that are not approved in this Manual for use on guide signs shall not be used on community wayfinding guide signs.**

41 **Business logos, commercial graphics, or other forms of advertising (see Section 1D.07) shall not be used on community wayfinding guide signs or sign assemblies.**

Option:

42 Other graphics that specifically identify the wayfinding system, including identification markers, may be used on the overall sign assembly and sign supports.

Support:

43 An identification marker consists of a shape, color, and/or pictograph that is used as a visual identifier for the community wayfinding guide signing system for an area. Figure 2D-30 shows examples of identification marker designs that can be used with community wayfinding guide signs.

Option:

44 An identification marker may be used in a community wayfinding guide sign assembly, or may be incorporated into the overall design of a community wayfinding guide sign, as a means of visually identifying the sign as part of an overall system of community wayfinding signs and destinations.

Standard:

45 **The sizes and shapes of identification markers shall be smaller than the community wayfinding guide signs themselves. Identification markers shall not be designed to have an appearance that could be mistaken by road users as being a traffic control device.**

Guidance:

46 *The area of the identification marker should not exceed 1/5 of the area of the community wayfinding guide sign with which it is mounted in the same sign assembly.*

Section 2D.56 Signing of Named Highways for Mapping and Address Purposes**Support:**

01 A highway name is the officially designated name of a freeway, expressway, or conventional road for navigational, official mapping, and address purposes. Some highways are named in addition to or in lieu of being assigned a highway route number. Memorial, honorary, ceremonial, or other secondary names, such as touring route and byway names, are not considered to be highway names.

Option:

02 Guide signs may contain street or highway names if the purpose is to enhance driver communication and guidance; however, they are to be considered as supplemental information to route numbers.

Standard:

03 **Highway names shall not replace official numeral designations.**

04 **Memorial, honorary, or other secondary names (see Section 2M.10) shall not appear on supplemental signs or on any other information sign on or along the highway or its intersecting routes.**

05 **The use of route signs shall be restricted to signs officially used for guidance of traffic in accordance with this Manual and the “Purpose and Policy” statement of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials that applies to Interstate and U.S. numbered routes.**

Option:

- 06 Unnumbered routes having major importance to proper guidance of traffic may be signed if carried out in accordance with the aforementioned policies. For unnumbered highways, a name to enhance route guidance may be used where the name is applied consistently throughout its length.

Guidance:

- 07 *Only one name should be used to identify any highway, whether numbered or unnumbered.*

Section 2D.57 National Scenic Byways Sign and Plaque (M10-1 and M10-1aP)

Support:

- 01 Certain roads have been designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads based on their archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, or scenic qualities.

Option:

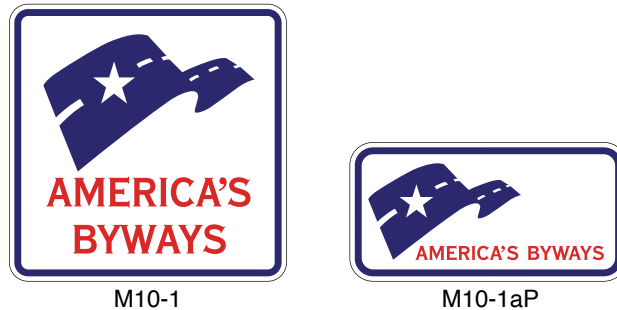
- 02 State and local highway agencies may install the National Scenic Byways (M10-1) sign or (M10-1aP) plaque (see Figure 2D-33) at entrance points to a route that has been recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation as a National Scenic Byway or an All-American Road. The M10-1 sign may be installed as independent Directional (see Section 2D.32) or Confirming (see Section 2D.33) assemblies at periodic intervals along the designated route and near intersections where the designated route turns or follows a different numbered highway. The M10-1aP plaque may be installed below a route sign in a Confirming assembly. At locations where roadside features have been developed to enhance the traveler’s experience such as rest areas, historic sites, interpretive facilities, or scenic overlooks, the National Scenic Byways sign or plaque may be placed on the associated sign assembly to inform travelers that the site contributes to the byway travel experience.

Guidance:

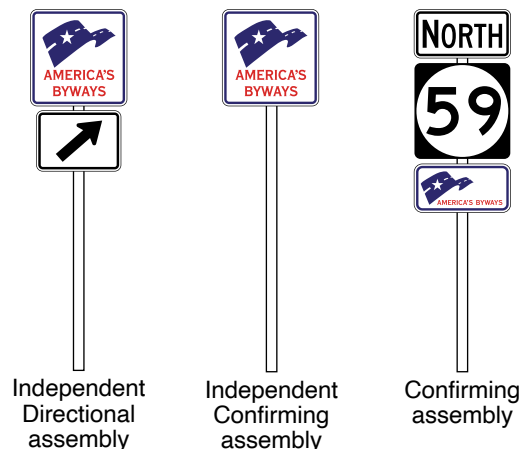
- 03 *Where the byway is identified only by the National Scenic Byways sign, the Directional assembly should consist of the M10-1 sign and an M5 series or M6 series auxiliary plaque when indication of a turn is necessary to remain on the byway route.*

Figure 2D-33. National Scenic Byways Sign and Plaque, and Examples of Use

A – National Scenic Byways sign and plaque



B – Examples of use of the National Scenic Byways sign and plaque



- 04 *Where the name of the byway is to be displayed on identification signs or plaques along the byway route, the name should be displayed in a Directional or Confirming assembly as follows (see Figure 2D-34):*
- A. *On a Byway Identification (M10-2aP) plaque (see Section 2D.58) mounted below the M10-1 sign; or*
 - B. *On a Byway Identification (M10-2) sign (see Section 2D.58) with the M10-1aP plaque mounted below the sign.*
- 05 *In either case, the size of the National Scenic Byways (M10-1) sign, (M10-1aP) plaque, Byway Identification (M10-2) sign, and Byway Identification (M10-2aP) plaque should be consistent with that specified for route signs (see Section 2D.10) for the roadway classification.*
- 06 *Where the name of the byway is to be displayed along the byway route as provided in Paragraph 4 of this Section, the byway Directional or Confirming assemblies should be located separately from any Route Sign assemblies or Destination guide signs.*

Standard:

- 07 **When a National Scenic Byways sign is installed on a National Scenic Byway or an All-American Road, the design shown for the M10-1 sign or M10-1aP plaque in Figure 2D-33 shall be used. Use of this design shall be limited to routes that have been designated as a National Scenic Byway or All-American Road by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.**
- 08 **If used, the M10-1 sign or M10-1aP plaque shall be placed such that the highway route signs have primary visibility for the road user.**
- 09 **The M10-1 sign or the M10-1aP plaque shall not be installed as sign panels on a guide sign or as part of a guide sign assembly.**

Section 2D.58 State-Designated Scenic Byway, Historic Trail, and Auto Tour Route Signs**Support:**

- 01 *Signing for State-designated scenic byways, historic trails, and auto tour routes, is similar in concept to that for National Scenic Byways as provided in Section 2D.57.*
- 02 *Named highways are officially designated and shown on official maps and serve the purpose of providing route guidance, primarily on unnumbered highways, and property addresses. A highway designated as a trail, auto tour route, or byway is not considered to be a highway name for the purposes of highway signing or road user navigation and orientation. Section 2D.56 contains provisions for the signing of named highways.*
- 03 *Section 1D.09 provides information on the authority for placement of traffic control devices within the highway right-of-way.*

Guidance:

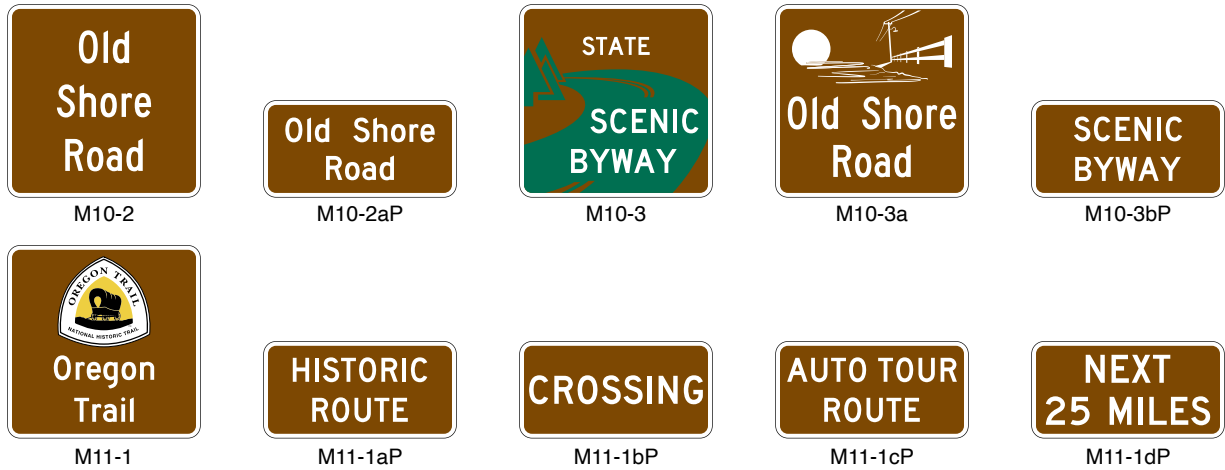
- 04 *Route Sign assemblies and Destination guide signs should have priority in visibility and location over signing related to historic trails, auto tour routes, and byways.*

Option:

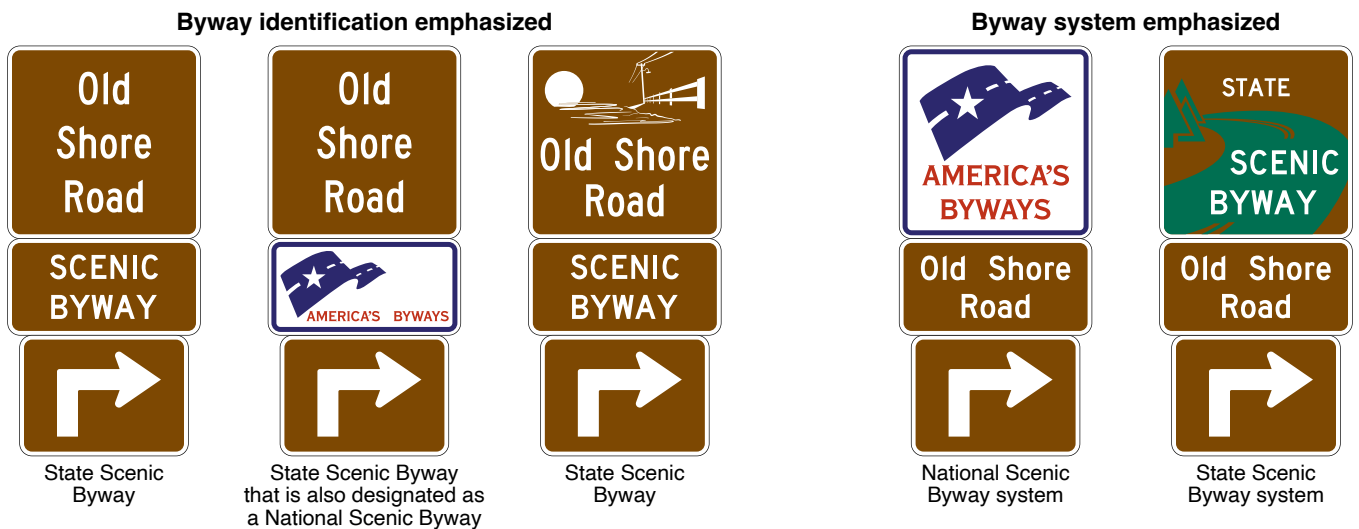
- 05 *Identification signs for a State scenic byway may be installed along conventional roads that have been designated as part of a State scenic byway system. A Byway Identification (M10-2) sign (see Figure 2D-34) with the name of the byway displayed may be installed in a Directional or Confirming assembly with the SCENIC BYWAY (M10-3bP) plaque (see Figure 2D-34) mounted below the M10-2 sign.*
- 06 *Where a National Scenic Byway is part of a State scenic byway system, the National Scenic Byways (M10-1aP) plaque (see Section 2D.57) may be installed in a Directional or Confirming assembly below the Byway Identification (M10-2) sign or State Scenic Byway (M10-3 or M10-3a) sign (see Figure 2D-34) for the State scenic byway.*
- 07 *A State Scenic Byway System (M10-3) sign may be installed in a Directional or Confirming assembly with the name of the byway displayed on a Byway Identification (M10-2aP) plaque below the sign (see Figure 2D-34).*
- 08 *A State Scenic Byway (M10-3a) sign with a simple graphic and the name of the byway displayed may be installed in a Directional or Confirming assembly with the SCENIC BYWAY (M10-3bP) plaque mounted below the M10-3a sign.*
- 09 *Identification signs for a historic trail, such as the National Historic Trails administered by the National Park Service, may be installed along segments of conventional roads that coincide with the original route of the trail. National Historic Trail Identification (M11-1) signs (see Figure 2D-34) may be installed in a Directional or Confirming assembly with a HISTORIC ROUTE (M11-1aP), CROSSING (M11-1bP), or AUTO TOUR ROUTE (M11-1cP) auxiliary plaque (see Figure 2D-34) mounted below the M11-1 sign. The beginning and end of a historic trail route or auto tour route may be indicated with a BEGIN (M4-14P) or END (M4-6P) auxiliary plaque (see Figure 2D-5) with a white legend and border on a brown background mounted above the historic trail identification sign. The length of the route may be identified by a NEXT XX MILES (M11-1dP) auxiliary plaque mounted below the M11-1aP or M11-1cP auxiliary plaque.*

Figure 2D-34. Byway Identification, State Scenic Byway, and National Historic Trail Signs and Plaques, and Examples of Use

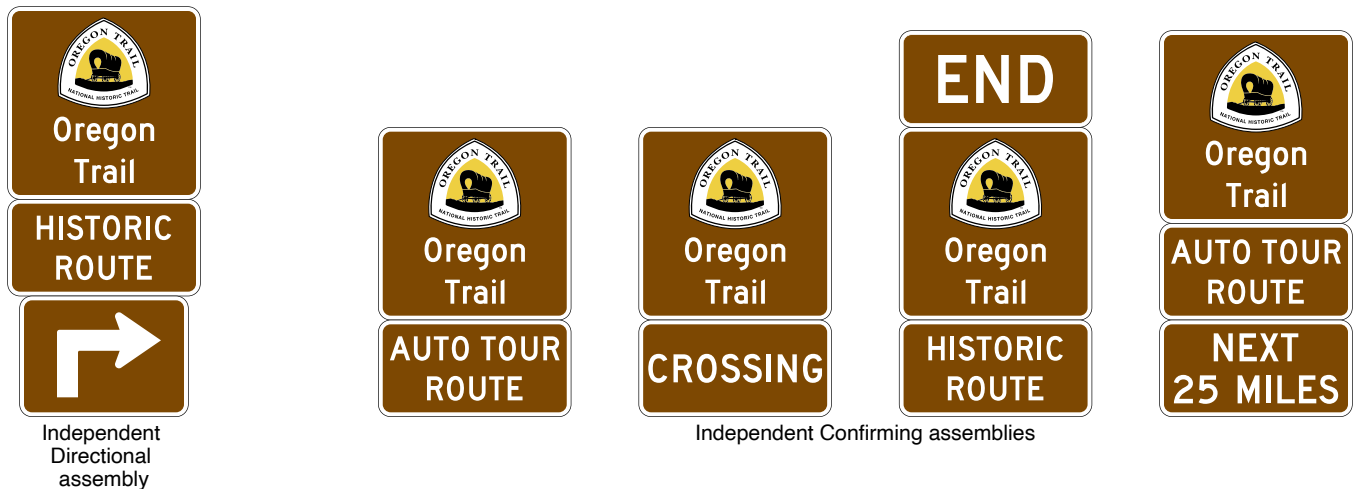
A – Byway Identification, State Scenic Byway, and National Historic Trails signs and plaques



B – Examples of Directional assemblies for National and State Scenic Byways



C – Examples of Directional and Confirming assemblies for National Historic Trails



Guidance:

- 10 *The design and size of historic trail and State scenic byway identification or system signs should comply with the general provisions and principles for route signs (see Section 2D.10). Designs should be simple, dignified, and devoid of complex graphics. The size of the signs should not exceed the size of the route signs used along a particular route.*

Standard:

- 11 **Scenic byway, historic trail, and auto tour route sign designs shall not have a similar design to or resemble a highway route sign**

Guidance:

- 12 *Where used, historic trail and State scenic byway identification signs should be installed as Directional (see Section 2D.32) or Confirming (see Section 2D.33) assemblies at independent locations, separate from other Route Sign assemblies and Destination guide signs. Where used, Confirming assemblies for the trail or byway should be installed at less frequent intervals than Confirming assemblies for the numbered route.*

Support:

- 13 Where all or part of the original route of a historic trail does not follow a roadway, an auto tour route is sometimes established along a conventional road in the general vicinity of the historical route of the trail. Examples include auto tour routes following other routes that parallel the original routes of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the Oregon National Historic Trail, and the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. The auto tour route is shown on touring maps along State or other highways and provides access to sites on the trail from those highways.
- 14 A system of signing providing direction along conventional roads for a historic trail with an auto tour route is shown in Figure 2D-35. Examples of Destination and Supplemental guide signs providing direction to historic trail sites from a freeway or expressway interchange are shown in Figure 2D-36.

Guidance:

- 15 *Signing for historic trails should be limited to Destination signs for the sites related to the trail and to Directional and Confirming assemblies for the original portions of the trail itself. If an auto tour route has been designated along other highways to provide access to sites along the original trail as described in Paragraph 13 of this Section, then the signing should be limited to Destination signs for those sites and directional signing to access the original route of the trail. Identification signs for the auto tour route should not be installed. Instead, direction along the auto tour route should rely on the touring map and other directional signs for the highways that the auto tour route follows.*

Standard:

- 16 **Identification signs for historic trails, auto tour routes, and scenic byways shall not be installed on freeways or expressways, except as necessary to provide continuity between discontinuous segments of conventional roadways that are designated as a trail, auto tour route, or byway, for which the freeway or expressway provides the only connection between the segments. If installed on freeways or expressways, the identification signs shall be installed as independent trailblazer assemblies (see Sections 2D.34 and 2E.55) and shall not be installed with other route signs or Confirming assemblies or on guide signs. If installed on freeways or expressways, the trailblazer assemblies for the trail, auto tour route, or byway shall be installed at less frequent intervals than Confirming assemblies for the highway route.**
- 17 **Identification signs for historic trails, auto tour routes, and scenic byways shall not be installed as sign panels on a guide sign or as part of a guide sign assembly.**

Figure 2D-35. Example of Guide and Directional Signing for a National Historic Trail

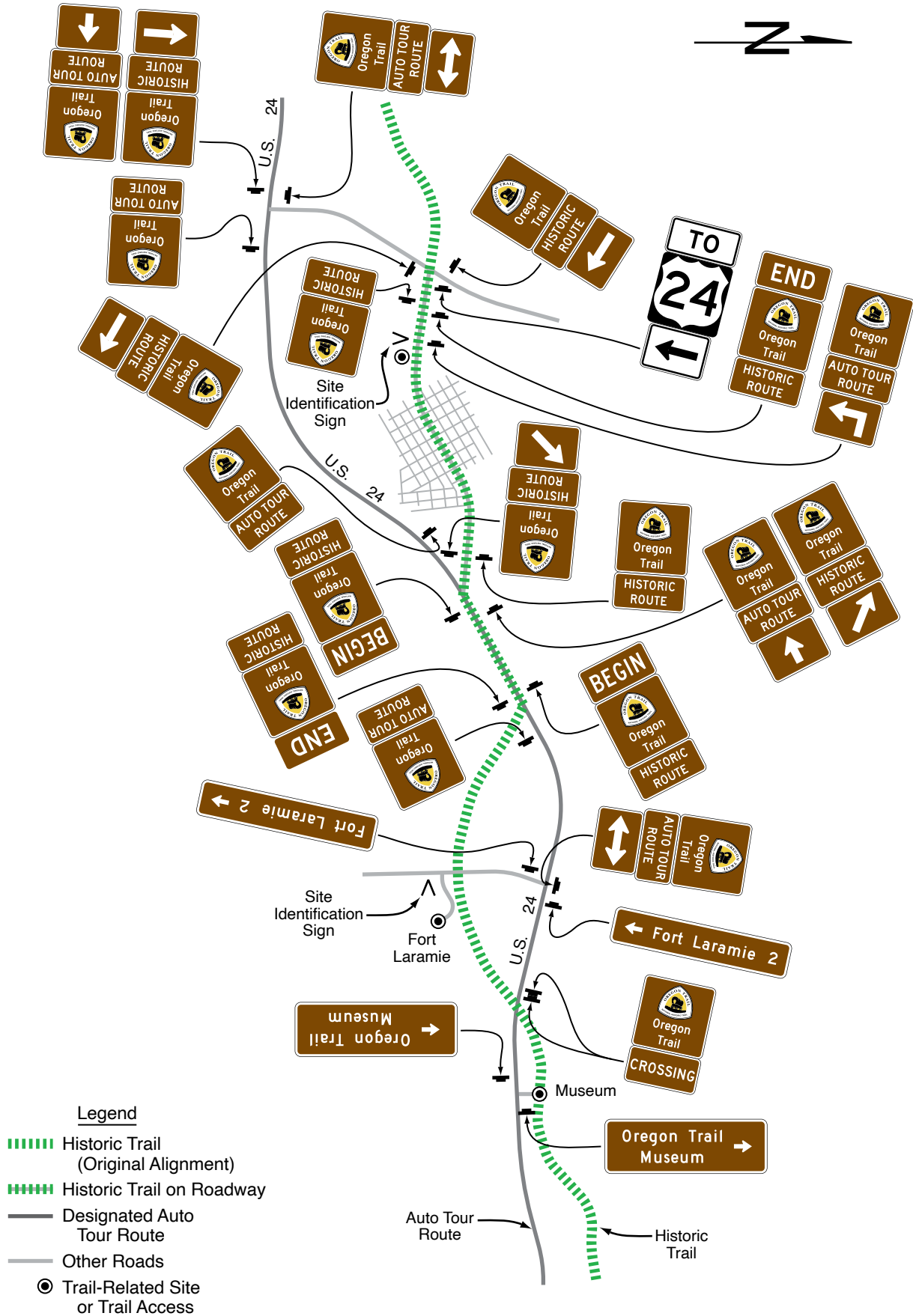


Figure 2D-36. Example of Historic Trails Signing from an Expressway or Freeway

