

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN

# CYCLING NETWORK HIERARCHY

The Western Australian Cycling Network Hierarchy designates routes by their function, rather than built form. Function considers the type of activities that take place along a route, and the level of demand (existing and potential).

The built form of a route is based on the characteristics of the environment, including space availability, topography, traffic conditions (speed, volumes), primary users, and so on.

When considering appropriate built forms for primary, secondary and local routes, an all ages and abilities design philosophy should be adopted.

	1. PRIMARY ROUTE	2. SECONDARY ROUTE	3. LOCAL ROUTE
Function	Primary routes are high demand corridors that connect major destinations of regional importance. They form the spine of the cycle network and are often located adjacent to major roads, rail corridors, rivers and ocean foreshores. Primary routes are vital to all sorts of bike riding, including medium or long-distance commuting / utility, recreational, training and tourism trips.	Secondary routes have a moderate level of demand, providing connectivity between primary routes and major activity centres such as shopping precincts, industrial areas or major health, education, sporting and civic facilities.  Secondary routes support a large proportion of commuting and utility type trips, but are used by all types of bike riders, including children and novice riders.	Local routes experience a lower level of demand than primary and secondary routes, but provide critical access to higher order routes, local amenities and recreational spaces. Predominantly located in local residential areas, local routes often support the start or end of each trip, and as such need to cater for the needs of users of all ages and abilities.
Design Philosophy	An <u>all ages and abilities</u> design philosophy is about creating places and facilities that are safe, comfortable and convenient for as many people as possible.  By planning for and designing infrastructure that caters for the youngest and most vulnerable users, we create a walking and bike riding network that everyone can use.  At the heart of this approach is fairness and enabling all people to use the network regardless of age, physical ability or the wheels they use.		
Form	All routes can take a number of different forms and are designed to suit the environment in which they are located.  These forms include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicycle only, shared and/or separated paths;</li> <li>• Protected bicycle lanes (uni or bi-directional, depending on the environment); and</li> <li>• Safe active streets</li> </ul> Principal Shared Paths (PSPs) are often built along primary routes. A PSP is a high quality shared path built to MRWA PSP standard which generally means the path will be 4m wide, have adequate lighting and be grade separated at intersections (where possible).  In some locations, quiet residential streets incorporating signage and wayfinding may be appropriate for local routes.		

Road Cycling Routes and Transport Trails form part of the complementary network, supporting more select user groups, primarily for recreational, sport and/or tourism purposes.

	ROAD CYCLING ROUTE	TRANSPORT TRAIL
Function	Road cycling routes are designated routes for bike riders undertaking long distance rides in (predominantly) on-road environments, for training, sports or recreational purposes.	Transport trails provide long-distance, off-road (predominantly unsealed) riding experiences through natural settings, away from motorised traffic.  They often support recreational and tourism trips between towns and regions.
Form	Road cycling routes are predominantly located on lower order, rural or semi-rural roads on the outskirts of cities and towns. Sections may follow busier roads, particularly as road cycling routes typically begin and end in built up areas and often follow scenic roads popular with other road users.  These routes support bike riders undertaking challenging longer distance rides by raising awareness and encouraging safe behaviour by all road users.  This is achieved through advisory signage, warning technology and other road safety initiatives.	Transport trails are typically located within underutilised transport and service corridors in rural areas. Due to their relatively gentle gradients, former railways and certain utility corridors make excellent candidates for these trails.  Transport trails should be constructed from materials appropriate to the environment and level of service required. Well drained, compacted gravel with supporting infrastructure such as wayfinding signage is a common form.  In some instances transport trails will be sealed, such as where they intersect with busy roads or run through town sites. They will often change classification to a primary or secondary route when they pass through a town, reflecting the more holistic role they perform in the transport network in these situations.