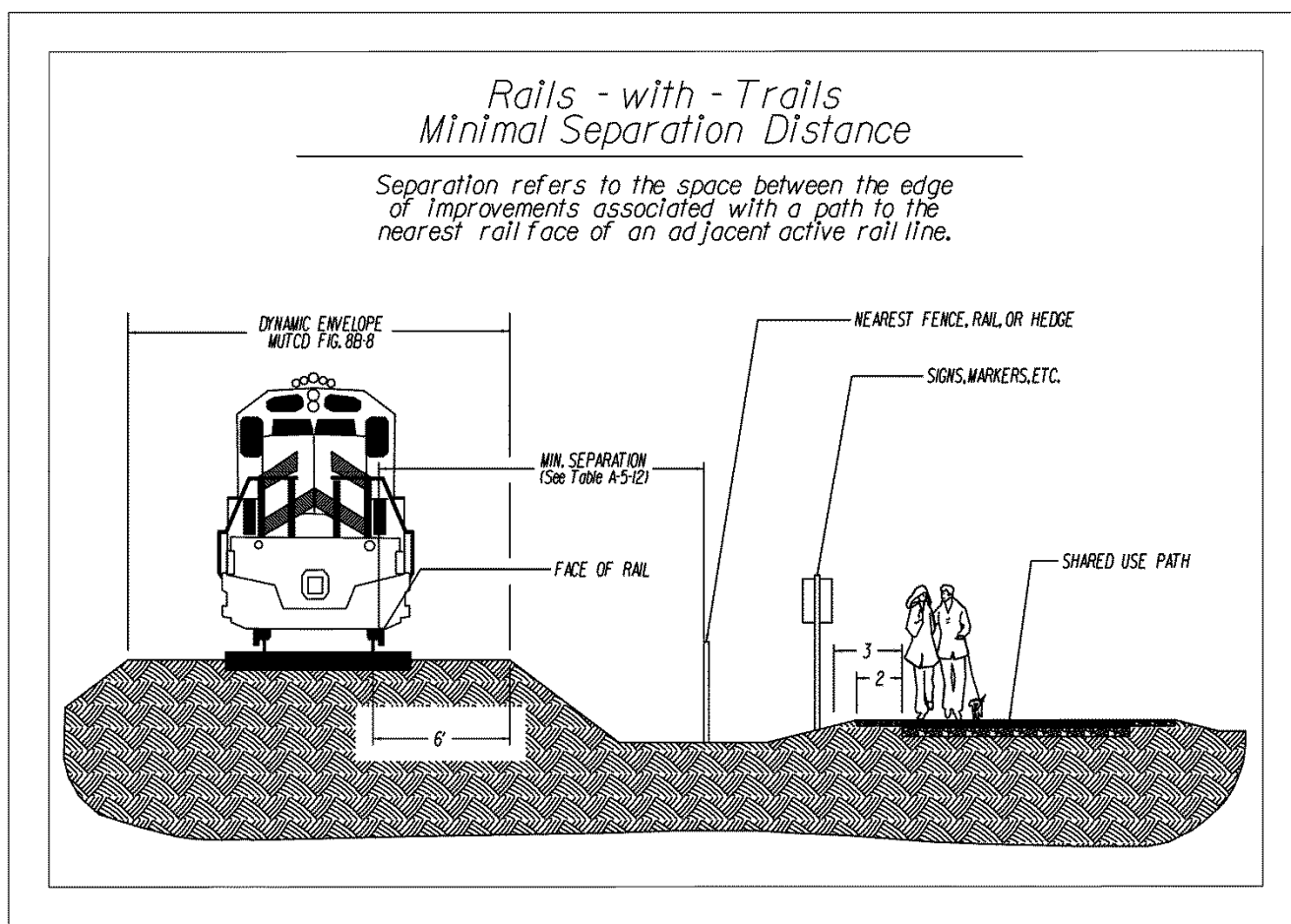


RAILS – WITH – TRAILS

“Rails-with-Trails” (RWT) describe any shared-use path or trail adjacent to an active railroad corridor. These trails are located adjacent to active rail lines ranging from a few slow-moving short-haul freight trains weekly, to high-frequency Amtrak trains traveling as fast as 140 mph. Like shared-use paths, RWT’s are used by bicyclists and pedestrians. Many of the characteristics of shared-use paths are also common to RWT’s. These include continuous separation from motor vehicle traffic; frequent access points; increased levels of safety and security; scenic qualities; connectivity to a variety of land uses, etc. RWT’s can bring numerous benefits to communities and railroads alike. Working closely with railroad companies and other stakeholders is critical to a successful RWT. Limiting new and/or eliminating at-grade RWT crossings, separating trails back as far as possible from tracks and providing physical separation through fencing, vertical distance, vegetation and/or drainage ditches can help create a well-designed trail. See Figure A-5-11 and Table A-5-12* for minimum separation distance between active rails and paths (RWT).



Source: Adapted from the *VTrans Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Planning and Design Manual*

FIGURE A- 5-11 SEPARATION BETWEEN ACTIVE RAIL LINES AND PATHS (RWT)