



BIKE SHARED LANE MARKINGS

Shared lane markings for bicycles, often referred to as “sharrows”, are pavement markings that indicate a lane explicitly intended to be shared by motor vehicles and bicyclists. Shared lane markings alert motorists to expect bicyclists, remind motorists of the legitimacy of bicyclists to use the roadway, and orient bicyclists to the preferred line of travel outside the door zone. Shared lane markings also remind bicyclists to ride with traffic, not against it. Shared lane markings do not create a dedicated bicycle facility, so some bicyclists will not be comfortable riding in travel lanes and relying on these markings to alert motorists.

Shared lane markings are generally considered a minimalist bicycle accommodation and should be limited in their use. Shared lane markings are not dedicated facilities and do not provide any added separation from motor vehicle traffic to bicyclists.

USE

- Shared lane markings may be used on all street types. However their use should be limited to locations where no other solution is possible.
- Shared lane markings are not appropriate solutions for any bicycle emphasis corridor, except when used as wayfinding on bicycle boulevards.
- Because bicyclists remain in mixed traffic, shared lane markings generally do little to enhance comfort for the most vulnerable or risk-intolerant bicyclists and are generally not appropriate on streets

with high traffic volumes and vehicle speeds above 35 mph. On streets with high traffic volumes and higher speeds, dedicated bike facilities should be used or bike traffic routed onto other streets.

- Shared lane markings are not typically used on roadways with very low vehicle volumes and speeds, such as neighborhood residential streets unless used as wayfinding for bicycle boulevards.

DESIGN

- Shared lane markings are two chevron symbols positioned above a bicycle symbol. The chevrons should guide bicyclists out of the door zone and be positioned to point bicyclists in the direction of travel.
- If the travel lane is adjacent to the curb, shared lane markings are positioned at least four feet from the curb face. If the travel lane is adjacent to a parking lane, shared lane markings are placed at least 12 feet from the face of curb.
- Shared lane markings should be placed in both directions of travel if other bicycle facilities, such as climbing lanes, are not provided.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Experimental treatments include the use of dotted lines and/or painted zones used in conjunction with shared lane markings to designate the bicycle line of travel. These are referred to as “priority shared lanes.” Although more visible, priority shared lanes are not an adequate substitute for dedicated bicycle facilities on streets with high traffic volumes and higher speeds.
- Additional street signage, such as a “Bikes May Use Full Lane” signs, may be used in conjunction with shared lane markings to further reinforce the shared use of the road for motorists.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- As shared lane markings are additional pavement markings in the roadway, they require maintenance to ensure they remain highly visible. Use of dotted lines and/or colored markings in conjunction with shared lane markings adds further maintenance requirements.
- Placing shared lane markings toward the center of the travel lane may reduce wear and fading because the shared lane markings are located between the primary wheel track of vehicles.
- The travel lane and parking lane should be cleared of snow for the full width to reduce vehicle encroachment onto the line of travel established by shared lane markings.

REFERENCES

- NACTO: Urban Bikeway Design Guide, Second Edition, 2014
 - Bikeway Signing & Marking: Shared Lane Markings <http://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/bikeway-signing-marking/shared-lane-markings/>
- AASHTO: Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 2012
 - Section 4.4: Marked Shared Lanes
 - MMUTCD, 2011
 - Part 9 Traffic Control for Bicycle Facilities: Chapter 9C. Markings
 - Section 9C.07: Shared Lane Marking http://mdotcf.state.mi.us/public/tands/Details_Web/mmutcdpart9_2011.pdf
- MDOT Traffic and Safety Notes
 - Notes Manual 306A Procedure for Installing Shared Lane Marking http://mdotcf.state.mi.us/public/tands/Details_Web/mdot_note306a.pdf

DETAILS

- MDOT Pavement Marking Standards
 - PAVE-961-B Shared Lane (Sharrow) Marking http://mdotcf.state.mi.us/public/tands/Details_Web/mdot_pave-961-b.pdf

