

## Sharrows Frequently Asked Questions



**1. I've recently seen bike lane drawings in car lanes (i.e. Bella Vista between Hoover and Roosevelt). Was this a mistake?**

This was not a mistake. These are “shared lane markings” or “sharrows”. Shared lane markings are intended to remind drivers that they should expect to share the lane with cyclists and to remind cyclists that they can ride in mixed traffic where there is no bike lane.

**2. If I see this marking in a car lane, is the lane only for bikes?**

No, this marking is used for lanes that are used by both cyclists and motorists. Shared lanes are different than exclusive bike lanes which are set aside for cyclists only and marked by a solid white line and a different symbol.

**3. As a cyclist, do I ride on the shared lane markings?**

The shared lane marking is a guide for both cyclists and motorists. Where adjacent to a parking lane, the sharrow is a tool to help ride a safe distance away from car doors. As a cyclist, you are required to ride as far to the right as you judge is safe to ride, regardless of where the sharrows are located.

**4. Why haven't I seen shared lane markings before?**

Shared lane markings were approved by the Federal Highway Administration and included in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices in 2009. The use of shared lane markings is relatively new.

**5. Do these markings really have an effect on drivers and cyclists?**

Yes, these markings really do impact behavior. Research shows that shared lane markings increase the passing space between motor vehicles and cyclists and reduce improper cycling behavior.

*If you have additional questions, please contact the Public Works Engineering Division at 303.335.4608*