

What are Sharrows?

Sharrows, shorthand for Shared Lane Markings, are State-approved markings, forty-inch-wide, white bicycle images with two forward pointing arrows painted on some streets.

Where are Sharrows?

- Sharrows are painted on streets primarily where a travel lane is too narrow for side-by-side sharing – too narrow for motorists to safely drive next to bicyclists within the same lane.
- Sharrows are now in Encinitas, Leucadia, Solana Beach, and Oceanside in North County, as well as the San Diego communities of Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Normal Heights, and downtown San Diego. As need arises, Sharrows will be used in more places.



Why are there Sharrows?

- Sharrows recommend where it is generally safest for bicyclists to ride, positioned toward the middle of a lane. This position reminds bicyclists to ride far enough away from parked vehicles to avoid being struck by suddenly opened car doors. Sharrows also guide bicyclists toward the center of the lane to discourage unsafe passing within the same lane.
- Sharrows serve to alert motorists that bicyclists may be using the full travel lane. To pass a bicyclist who is using the full lane or a lane with sharrows, a motorist should wait for a safe opportunity to move entirely into an adjacent lane.
- Additionally, “Bicycles May Use Full Lane” signs remind all of us that people have the right to use the full travel lane, using a bicycle or a vehicle.



What is a Bike Lane?

A Bike Lane is a part of a roadway marked by a solid painted white line and frequent bicycle symbols and arrows. Bike Lanes are accompanied by “Bike Lane” signs.

Where are Bike Lanes? Bike Lanes are usually to the right of general travel lanes, but sometimes between the rightmost straight-through-only lane and a right-turn-only lane.



How should we use Bike Lanes?

- Vehicles may not normally be driven or parked in Bike Lanes. When allowed, motorists are to yield to bicyclists before entering onto or making a turn across a Bike Lane.
- Bicyclists must normally use a Bike Lane when traveling slower than other traffic, but may leave the Bike Lane to avoid hazards such as to get away from the right hook zone, when approaching an intersection with a road, alley or driveway, or to prepare for a left turn.
- Bike Lanes are dashed or terminated before intersections so that bicyclists and motorists are reminded to merge into the appropriate lanes and lane positions for their respective destinations.
- Bicyclists must yield to overtaking traffic in the next lane before leaving the Bike Lane.



Please contact San Diego County Bicycle Coalition for information about bicycling and bicycle riding courses: sdbikecoalition.org or 858.487.6063.

