

What is a Sharrow?

Shared-lane pavement markings (or “sharrows”) are bicycle symbols that are placed in the roadway lane indicating that motorists should expect to see and share the lane with bicycles.

See PSA video: youtu.be/a9bpJB8EGjg

What do sharrows mean for bicyclists and motorists?

Bicyclists

Use the sharrow to guide where you ride in the lane. Remember not to ride too close to parked cars. Follow the rules of the road.

Q. If I see these markings in a lane, is the lane only for bicycles?

A. No, these markings are for shared lanes, which are used by bicyclists and motorists. Shared lanes are distinct from bike lanes, which are set aside for bicyclists and marked by a solid white line and a different symbol.

Q. Bicyclists riding over these markings are taking the entire lane. Aren't they supposed to move to the right?

A. Not always. Bicyclists are to stay to the right except to pass other bicyclists or vehicles, to prepare to make a left turn, or when necessary to avoid conditions in which they consider it unsafe to continue on the right.

Motorists

Expect to see bicyclists on the street. If passing bicyclists, give them at least 3 feet of space or move into another lane. Follow the rules of the road.

Q. If I don't see these markings in a lane, aren't bicyclists not supposed to be there?

A. No, bicyclists are permitted to ride on any street, except where it is specifically prohibited.

