

SHARED LANE MARKING FAQ

City of Akron Bicycle Plan



What is the purpose of this marking?

This new "Shared Lane Marking" (a.k.a. "Sharrow") is intended to inform cyclists and motorists that they both are to share the travel lane. It has been shown to be helpful in creating safer conditions for both cyclists and motorists.

1. It reinforces that both cyclists and motorists follow the rules of the road.
2. On narrow lanes, it keeps the cyclist from driving too close to the curb (where they are not as visible) and helps the motorist from passing too close.
3. Where there is on-street parking, it keeps the cyclist out of the "door zone" of parked cars.
4. It reduces wrong way riding by cyclists.

If I see this marking in a lane, is the lane only for bikes?

No. This marking is used for shared lanes; lanes that are used by bicyclists and motorists. Shared lanes are different than exclusive bike lanes which are set aside for bicyclists only and are marked by a solid white line with a bike and arrow symbol.

As a cyclist, if I don't see this marking, can I still use the travel lane?

Yes. All lanes are bicycle lanes. Cyclists can ride on any street except for those with signs explicitly prohibiting cyclists, such as the expressway routes.

As a cyclist, what should I do in the presence of sharrows?

The sharrows are placed outside of parked car's "door zone", and on narrow lanes in the center of the lane. We expect cyclists to drive through the center of the sharrow, while still paying attention to potential door openings and surrounding traffic.

As a motorist, what should I do in the presence of sharrows?

Slow down and drive carefully. When the travel lane is too narrow or busy for safe side-by-side travel by motorists and cyclists the rules of the road require motorists to slow down and wait to pass safely, or until cyclist turns off the roadway. The amount of time saved by gunning past a cyclist is often very minimal and is never worth the possibility of injuring someone!

Almost all streets in Akron are shared by cyclists and motorists and don't have sharrows.

Why mark only some streets?

Most Akron streets carry low volumes of traffic with relatively slow speeds and special markings aren't needed. We are placing sharrows only on streets where traffic is relatively heavy and speeds are a little higher. We are developing a complete bicycle route network over the next several years which will include shared lanes, exclusive bike lanes, and signage-only routes.

BRING YOUR BIKE TO SCHOOL!

10 Tips for Bicycle Safety

1. Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
2. Always lock your bicycle to a bike rack while on The University of Akron campus.
3. Do not lock your bike to signs, posts or handrails while on campus.
4. If riding at night, make sure you are visible to others. Wear reflective bright clothing and a headlamp and tail light that is visible up to 500 feet.
5. Always be aware of your surroundings and of any other traffic at all times.
6. Remember that pedestrians have the right of way both on campus and throughout the State of Ohio.
7. Always ride in the same direction as traffic both on campus and throughout the State of Ohio.
8. Bicycles are obligated to obey all traffic control devices, including: flag persons, signs, pavement markings, and signal lights.
9. Remember that the Roo Express has bike racks with room for two bicycles on each shuttle bus.
10. Never operate a bicycle that does not have working brakes.
Contact the Campus Bike Shop at 330-972-2305 if you feel you need repairs.

Please visit the Office of Parking Services website for more cycling information:

www.uakron.edu/parking