

Shared Lane Markings (Sharrows)



What are shared lane markings?

Shared lane markings (SLM) also referred to as *sharrows* are pavement markings that are installed to direct bicyclists and motorists how to safely share narrow travel lanes.

Why are shared lane markings used?

SLM are intended to direct bicyclists in terms of positioning, provide guidance to motorists with an awareness of bicyclists on the road, and reduce the chance of bicyclists striking abruptly opened automobile doors on a shared roadway with on-street parking.

Where are shared lane markings used?

Sharrows are typically used along corridors where the travel lane is too narrow for safe side-by-side travel between motorists and cyclists.

What is the difference between shared lane markings and a bike lane?

Sharrows are on-street markings that reinforce the existing rules of the road and encourage everyone to *share* the road. Bike lanes provide a four to five foot wide dedicated lane for bicyclists.

What do sharrows mean for motorists and cyclists?

Motorists



- Expect to see bicyclists on the street
- Remember to leave at least three feet when passing a cyclist
- Follow the rules of the road

Bicyclists



- Use sharrows to help guide where to ride in the lane
- Avoid riding too close to parked cars
- Follow the rules of the road



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Motorists



As a **MOTORIST**, what should I do when I see a sharrow?

Slow down and drive carefully. Sharrows are typically located in areas where the travel lane is too narrow for safe side-by-side travel between motorists and cyclists. Drivers should proceed with caution by:

- Keeping a safe following distance until the travel lane widens to allow for the required minimum passing distance of three feet or until the cyclist leaves the roadway.
- Cross over the double yellow centerline as necessary when passing a cyclist to allow for the required minimum passing distance of three feet. Before doing this, drivers must ensure that oncoming traffic is clear.

Keep in mind that the cyclists have the legal right to use the full lane when:

- Avoiding any potential conflict including narrow travel lanes
- Overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction
- Preparing for a left turn

Bicyclists



As a **CYCLIST**, what should I do when I see a sharrow?

Be aware of surrounding road conditions and other travelers. Sharrows are typically located in areas where the travel lane is too narrow for safe side-by-side travel between motorists and cyclists. Cyclists should proceed with caution by:

- Positioning themselves, generally, in the lane where sharrows are located, barring roadway conditions.
- Riding **NO MORE** than two abreast, if traveling at normal traffic speed, when it does not impede traffic.

What does the “Bicycles May Use Full Lane” sign mean?

This sign is typically used where bicyclists are present and travel lanes are too narrow for bicyclists and motor vehicles to travel side-by-side. The intent of the sign is to inform road users that bicyclists might occupy the travel lane. The sign does not intend to encourage cyclists to impede the flow of traffic or ride more than two abreast.



Keep in mind that cyclists are required to:

- Obey all traffic control devices (i.e. stop signs, traffic signals, etc.)
- Control speed to avoid collisions
- Yield to pedestrians



For more information contact:
Denise Chaplick, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator
City of Jacksonville, Division of Planning and Development Services
dchaplick@coj.net

