

What are Sharrows?

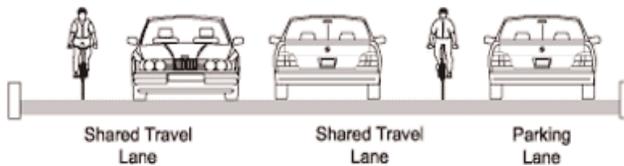
City of Albany Bicycle Master Plan, 2009

Completed in 2009, the City of Albany Bicycle Master Plan's implementation is underway to improve bicycling throughout the City. Most recently, the city has added shared use marking a.k.a. sharrows on Washington Ave, New Scotland Ave, Holland Ave, and Delaware Ave and bike lanes on Clinton Ave.

This fact sheet provides information on shared use markings for bicyclists and motorists.

Q. What are Sharrows?

Sharrows are bicycle symbols placed on the road to guide bicyclists to the best place to ride on the road and to remind drivers to share the road with cyclists. Unlike bicycle lanes, sharrows do not designate a particular part of the street for the exclusive use of bicyclists.



Source: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/sharrows.htm>

Q. Where do you find a sharrows?

There are two places you may find a sharrows:

1. With on-street parking, the sharrows are typically 11 feet off of the curb.
2. Without on-street parking, the sharrows are typically 4 feet off the curb.

Q: Are the rules different in locations with sharrows?

No, bicycle users and motorists must still follow the traffic rules and regulations. The markings simply serve as a reminder of the existing rules.

Bicyclists have the legal right to be on the roads, but they are prohibited on interstate highways and expressways.



Q. Are these markings going to be on every street?

No, these markings will be used primarily on designated streets as the City develops its bike network. The bicycle infrastructure will vary depending on the streets characteristics.

Q. Why use sharrows?

- Assist bicyclists with positioning in a shared lane,
- Assist bicyclists with positioning in lanes that are too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane,
- Alert road users of the use of road by bicyclists,
- Encourage slow and safe passing of bicyclists by motorists, and
- Reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.

Q: What are the benefits of sharrows?

Not all bicyclists behave properly around motor vehicles, and not all motorists behave properly around bicyclists. These markings encourage bicyclists to ride farther away from parked cars, to follow a more predictable path, and to ride with the flow of traffic. For motorists, the markings increased their awareness that bicyclists may be present and lead to more careful passing of bicyclists.

Q. What do sharrows mean for motorists and bicyclists?

Bicyclists

- Use the sharrows to guide where you ride within the lane,
- Remember not to ride too close to parked cars, and
- Follow the rules of the road as if there were no sharrows.

Motorists:

- Expect to see bicyclists on the street,
- Give bicyclists enough space and pass safely
- Follow the rules of the road, and
- Check before opening their door while parking on the street.

For more information on bicycle infrastructure contact the City of Albany Department of Development and Planning at 518-434-2532 or www.albanyustainability.org.