

# Bike Sharrows — FAQ

## Why is the city putting these symbols on this street?

Shared lane markings (also known as sharrows) are used to indicate a shared lane environment for motorists and bicyclists. This is a shared lane, not a bicycle lane.

By law bicyclists and motor vehicle drivers both have a right to use our streets, and both have a responsibility to follow the rules of the road.



## How should bicyclists use shared lane markings?

Ride over the shared lane marking in the same direction as other traffic. Use the marking as a guide to stay away from the opening door of parked cars and to be more visible at intersections. If you need to change lanes to make a turn or avoid a hazard, look behind for other vehicles, use hand signals and merge safely.



## How should motorists use shared lane markings?

*It is okay to drive over shared lane markings* but slow down, drive safely, and yield to any bicyclists on the road in front of you. If you need to pass a bicyclist, use caution and give at least three feet. When parked, look for bicyclists before opening the door.



## Why sharrows instead of regular bicycle lanes?

We are using sharrows because there is not enough room for bicycle lanes, or traffic volumes and speeds don't necessitate a separate lane. We typically use sharrows to strengthen connections in the bike network by filling a gap in a continuous bike lane, transitioning cyclists across an intersection, or from bike lanes to a shared lane environment such as a mixing zone - turn lane for cars, and through or turn lane for bikes.

## What does this mean for you?

### Bicyclists

- Ride over shared lane markings which should keep you a minimum of 3 to 4 feet from parked cars—what is often called the dooring zone.
- Ride in the same direction as other traffic; unless indicated otherwise by signs or pavement markings.
- Look, signal and merge before turning.

### Motorists

- Slow down, drive safely over shared lane marking if bicyclists are not present.
- Always expect bicyclists on the road and give at least three feet if you need to pass.
- Remember that bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists.

## Where can I get more info about bike sharrows and bike lanes:

Go to [www.ddot.dc.gov/bike](http://www.ddot.dc.gov/bike)