

What are Sharrows???

Sharrows - Shared Roadway Bicycle Marking



Roads are for many types of users. The obvious automobile, freight trucks, buses, but also cyclist. “CVC 21200. (a) Every person riding a bicycle upon a highway has all the rights and is subject to all the provisions applicable to the driver of a vehicle.” The shared roadway bicycle markings (sharrows) are used to assist bicyclists with positioning on the road and to alert other road users of bicyclist in the roadway.

Bikes May Use Full Lane, Share the Road, & the 3’ Law

The Share the Road sign has created some confusion. To clarify this, Caltrans developed the “Bikes May Use Full Lane” sign. These signs along with sharrows and Share the Road

signs can be installed anywhere that lanes too narrow for a bicyclist and vehicle to share, i.e. less than 14’. To further enhance the safety of bicyclist California passed the 3’ for Bicycle Safety Law. This states that motorist must give 3’ of clearance when passing a bicyclist. Please be courteous to all your fellow road users.



Caltrans states...



Sharrows are used to assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in a shared lane with on-street parallel parking, in order to reduce the chance of a bicyclist’s impacting the open door of a parked vehicle. They assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in lanes that are too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane. Sharrows alert road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way. They encourage safe passing of bicyclists by motorists, and reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.



Figure 9C-9. Shared Lane Marking

