

Riding on Bike Routes



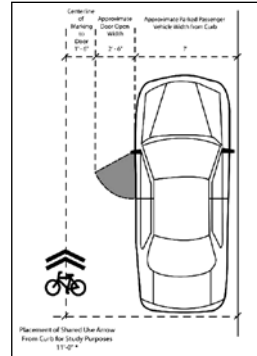
A cyclist shares the right lane on Market with cars

Class III Bicycle Routes (routes without striped bike lanes) necessitate bicycling in or near the flow of motor vehicle traffic. Sometimes it means sharing the same lane space as motor vehicles. On these streets it is important for bicyclists to remember to stay out of the “Door Zone.”

In order to better inform both drivers and cyclists how to more safely share these traffic lanes, the City of San Francisco is pioneering a new pavement marking.

The **NEW SHARED LANE PAVEMENT MARKINGS** are intended to show where cyclists should ride on the street to avoid a suddenly-opened door of a parked car, and alert motorists to the presence of bicyclists in the traffic lane. They will also be used in situations where it may not be obvious where cyclists should be riding, such as approaches to intersections with multiple turn lanes.

After a several year effort, the MTA Bicycle Program got approval from the state of California to use this new pavement marking on bicycle routes.



Shared Lane Marking and “Door Zone”

More than 2,500 of these markings will eventually designate shared lane space on Class III bicycle routes throughout the city. On some streets, cyclists riding over the

In Shared Lanes...

BIKES RIDE HERE

Find out more at
www.bicycle.sfgov.org

This ad ran on Muni buses during 2005 to introduce the new Shared Lane Markings

marking will take the entire lane. According to the California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 21202, cyclists are to stay on the right except to pass other cyclists or vehicles, to prepare to make a left turn, or when necessary to avoid conditions that make it unsafe to continue along the right. Riding a path to the left of the door zone, or other roadside obstacles, even if it means taking the entire lane, is permitted by the CVC.



Sometimes the Shared Lane Marking is used to instruct cyclists which lane to use, such as this double right turn lane on Howard Street. Cyclists traveling straight need to ride in the center of the lane marked with Shared Lane Markings to avoid conflicts with turning vehicles.



A cyclist rides safely past an open car door on Polk Street.

If you see the Shared Lane Markings on the street, motorists have the right to be there, too. Shared lanes are different than bike lanes, which are set aside for cyclists and are marked by a solid white line and a different symbol. Cyclists are allowed on every street regardless of whether there is a marking or sign for them, unless specifically stated otherwise.