



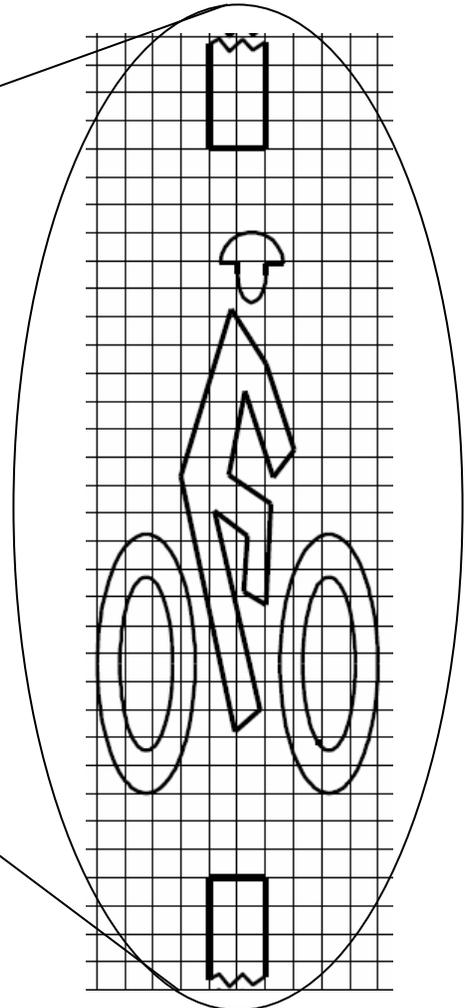
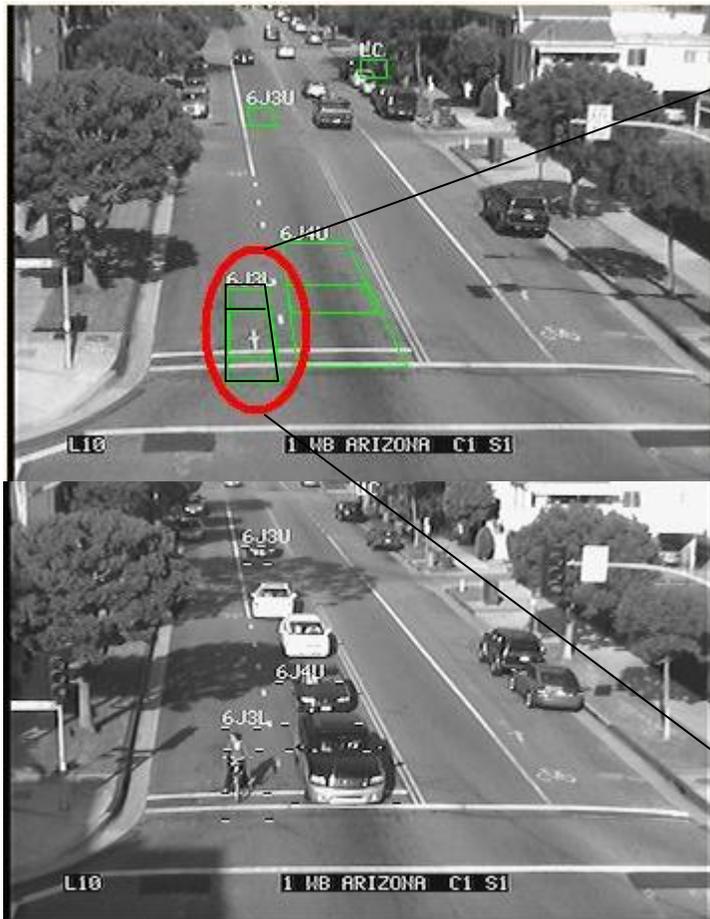
# Bicycle Detection

The City of Santa Monica's recently adopted Land Use and Circulation Element aims to increase the number of people who use bicycles for everyday transportation and ensure that the bicycle network is attractive to cyclist of all ages and experience levels. Bicycle detection is one of the many tools that will be used to help achieve this goal.

The City recently installed video detection systems at several major intersections. These systems use video cameras to detect not only the presence of vehicles but also the presence of cyclists. Just as vehicles get detected by waiting in the proper lane, cyclists now get detected and trigger green lights at an intersection.

To help cyclists know where to position themselves for detection at an intersection, the City will be installing "bike detection markings" at limit lines where a bike lane meets a signalized intersection throughout the City. Be sure to stop behind the limit line to get a green light. The first one is in place at Arizona Avenue westbound at Lincoln Boulevard.

Site: Lincoln Blvd. & Arizona Ave.



Please contact the City of Santa Monica Transportation Management Division with comments and feedback at (310) 458-8291 or [transportation.management@smgov.net](mailto:transportation.management@smgov.net)



# There's a new "sharrow" in town.

The city's recently adopted Land Use and Circulation Element aims to increase the number of people who use bicycles for everyday transportation and ensure that the bicycle network is attractive to cyclist of all ages and experience levels. Sharrows are one of the many tools that will be used to help achieve this goal.

Sharrows are shared lane markings clarifying where cyclists are expected to ride and to remind motorists to expect cyclists on the road.



*Sharrow on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica.*

**Q. I've seen new pavement markings on the streets in Santa Monica. The marking is a bicycle with two arrows above it. What is their purpose?**

A. These are shared lane markings also known as "sharrows." The purpose of the markings is to create improved conditions for bicycling, by clarifying where cyclists are expected to ride and to remind motorists to expect cyclists on the road. In the absence of bicycle lanes, motorists often pass too closely to cyclists and cyclists feel compelled to ride closer to parked cars. If somebody were to open a car door as a cyclist passed the cyclist could get "doored," and possibly get injured.

**Q. Why not just stripe bike lanes?**

A. There isn't enough room on all streets for bike lanes, typically because of a high demand for on-street parking and the inability to narrow or eliminate a travel lane.

**Q. Are sharrows going to be on every street that does not have a bicycle lane?**

A. Generally sharrows will be used on arterial and collector streets in Santa Monica where cyclists need to go and there is not enough room in the existing street space to mark a bicycle lane.

**Q. As a cyclist, what should I do in the presence of these markings?**

A. The markings are placed where cyclists should be riding. Cyclists should ride through the center of the sharrow.

**Q. On some streets bicyclists riding over the sharrows will take the entire lane. Aren't they supposed to move to the right?**

A. Not always. According to the California Vehicle Code, bicyclists operating on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride as close as safely practicable to the right curb or edge of roadway. Exceptions to this are when bicyclists are overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, preparing for a left turn, avoiding unsafe conditions such as parked cars, or when the lane width is too narrow to share with a motor vehicle.

**Q. As a motorist, what should I do in the presence of the sharrows?**

A. Slow down and drive carefully. Because the travel lane is too narrow for safe side-by-side travel by motorists and cyclist, motorists should slow down and patiently follow until there is enough room to safely pass.

**Q. So, if I don't see sharrows, then it's not a shared lane and bicyclists aren't supposed to be there?**

A. No. Bicyclists can ride on any street in Santa Monica except for Interstates, controlled access highways with signs specifically prohibiting bicyclists, and the Third Street Promenade.

**Still have questions?** Contact the City of Santa Monica Transportation Management Division:

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**Phone:** 310-458-8291