



San Diego County Bicycle Coalition

Sharrows and Bike Lanes: Your signs to share the road

[San Diego County Bicycle Coalition](#), an organization that advocates for and protects the rights of all people who ride bicycles, reminds cyclists and motorists to follow guidelines for the County's "sharrows" and "bike lanes" – two types of road markings along bicycle routes around San Diego.

Supported by the Bicycle Coalition, **sharrows** are a newer tool in San Diego's bike-friendly community toolbox.

What are sharrows?

- These four-foot wide bicycles with two arrows, or "chevrons" on top are California's statewide universal marking for sharing the road, marking travel lanes that bicyclists and motorists share.



Where are sharrows?

- They're painted on streets in neighborhoods and along thoroughfares designated as bicycle routes in San Diego County where a vehicle lane is too narrow for a dedicated bike lane.
- Sharrows can be found in Encinitas, Leucadia and Oceanside in North County as well as the communities of Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Normal Heights and Downtown in San Diego.

How do we use sharrows?

- Sharrows help bicyclists position themselves away from parked cars, to avoid being struck by suddenly opened car doors and to alert other road users that bicyclists may occupy travel lanes.
- If available, motorists should use the left travel lane to safely pass cyclists that are using a lane with sharrows.
- Additionally, along roadways with sharrows, "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signs reinforce cyclists right to ride in the travel lane.

Also supported by the County Bicycle Coalition are **bike lanes**.

What's a bike lane?

- A bike lane is a road marking of two solid white parallel lines (occasionally with a bicycle and arrows painted inside) dedicated for cyclists.

Where are bike lanes?

- Bike lanes are painted throughout most neighborhoods and communities in San Diego County, on the right side of vehicle travel lanes.

How do we use bike lanes?

- Motorists cannot drive or park in dedicated bike lanes and are required to yield the right of way to cyclists if needing to turn into driveways or alleys.
- Cyclists should use the bike lane for straight through travel whenever it is safe to do so, anticipating upcoming left turns by safely merging out of the bike lane into the left side of the travel lane.

