



Safety Spotlight FAQs

Bicycle Facilities



Bicycle facilities are shared responsibilities designed to organize movement, improve predictability, and reduce conflicts between bicyclists and motorists. Understanding how each facility works helps all users move safely and clearly together.

Q: What is a bicycle lane, and who should use it?

A: A striped portion of the roadway marked with bicycle symbols for bicyclist use only.

 Use the bike lane when traveling slower than traffic unless avoiding hazards, preparing for a turn, or when conditions require leaving the lane. Travel in the same direction as traffic.

 Do not drive or park in the bicycle lane. You may cross it when turning or entering a driveway, but you must yield to bicyclists traveling within the lane before turning.

Q: What is a buffered bicycle lane?

A: A bicycle lane including a painted 1 to 2 feet buffer space marked with diagonal striping to increase separation between bicyclists and vehicles.

 Ride within the marked bicycle lane portion. Use caution when entering or exiting the lane.

 Do not drive, stop, or park in either the bicycle lane or the buffer. The buffer is not an additional travel lane.

Q: What is a protected bicycle lane?

A: A bicycle lane separated from vehicle traffic by physical elements such as curbs, delineators, raised separators, or on-street parking.

 Remain within the protected space and follow traffic control devices at intersections.

 Do not enter the protected lane except at designated crossings.

Q: What is a sharrow?

A: A bicycle symbol with double chevrons placed in a travel lane to indicate that bicyclists may use the full lane.

 Position yourself near the marking to improve visibility and reduce door opening risk from parked vehicles.

 Expect bicyclists in the travel lane. Do not attempt to pass within the same narrow lane. Provide at least three feet of clearance when overtaking.

Q: Why do bicycle lane lines change from solid to dashed near intersections?

A: The change from a solid to a dashed bicycle lane line near an intersection indicates a merging area where motor vehicles may

legally cross the bicycle lane to prepare for a right turn. The solid line upstream indicates that vehicles should not enter the bicycle lane except where legally permitted.

 When approaching an intersection with dashed lane markings, anticipate that vehicles may merge into the bicycle lane to turn right. Be alert for turn signals and vehicle movement. Do not pass a right-turning vehicle on the right.

 When the bicycle lane line becomes dashed, you may merge into the bicycle lane when safe and permitted to prepare for your right turn. Before merging, check mirrors and blind spots, signal your intent, and yield to bicyclists traveling straight. Complete the turn from the curb line. Do not turn across a bicycle lane from the through lane.

Q: What do green pavement markings mean?

A: Portions of bicycle lanes are painted green to highlight areas where bicycle and motor vehicle paths cross or overlap, such as near right-turn lanes, driveways, or merge areas. The green color increases visibility and alerts all users to the need for extra caution in that location. Green pavement does not change right-of-way rules. It reinforces awareness and clarifies where interactions between bicyclists and motorists are expected.

 Continue through the green area predictably and obey traffic control devices. Be alert for vehicles preparing to turn or merge across your path.

 The green section signals a potential conflict zone. Check mirrors and blind spots, signal your intent, and yield to bicyclists when turning across the marked area. Do not block or stop within the green zone unless required by traffic control.

Q: What is a shared-use path, and how does it operate?

A: A facility physically separated from the roadway and shared by bicyclists and pedestrians.

 Yield to pedestrians, travel at a prudent speed, keep right, and pass on the left only after giving an audible signal.

 Motor vehicles are generally prohibited except for authorized access.

Bicycle traffic laws are primarily found in Chapter 316, Florida Statutes, including §316.2065.