



Sharrows

Coming Fall 2013 to Merced!

Q: What are the new pavement markings in Merced – the bicycle with two arrows?

A: The Shared Lane Markings, also known as “sharrows” show bicyclists where to safely ride to avoid being hit by car doors being opened by motorists. This type of “door zone” collision is common and many inexperienced bicyclists ride too close to parked cars.

Q: The sharrow is in the middle of the lane – aren’t bicyclists supposed to move to the right?

A: Not always. According to [California Vehicle Code \(CVC-21202\)](#), 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 or 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: Is this a new law in California?

A: No; the use of sharrows is meant to *reinforce existing law*. Sharrows do not create any new laws or rights-of-ways for bicyclists.

Q: What do I do when I see a sharrow?

A: Be aware of bicyclists sharing the lane with motorists. The bicyclist should be centered over the sharrow symbol, and going in the same direction as the arrow. Always allow three (3) feet when passing a bicyclist.



Q: Will these be on every street in Merced?

A: No; sharrows are only used on streets designated as part of the City’s Bike Plan and on streets with safe speed limits.

Please remember – sharrows are meant to promote safety. Always watch out for bicyclists and pedestrians in the roadway!