

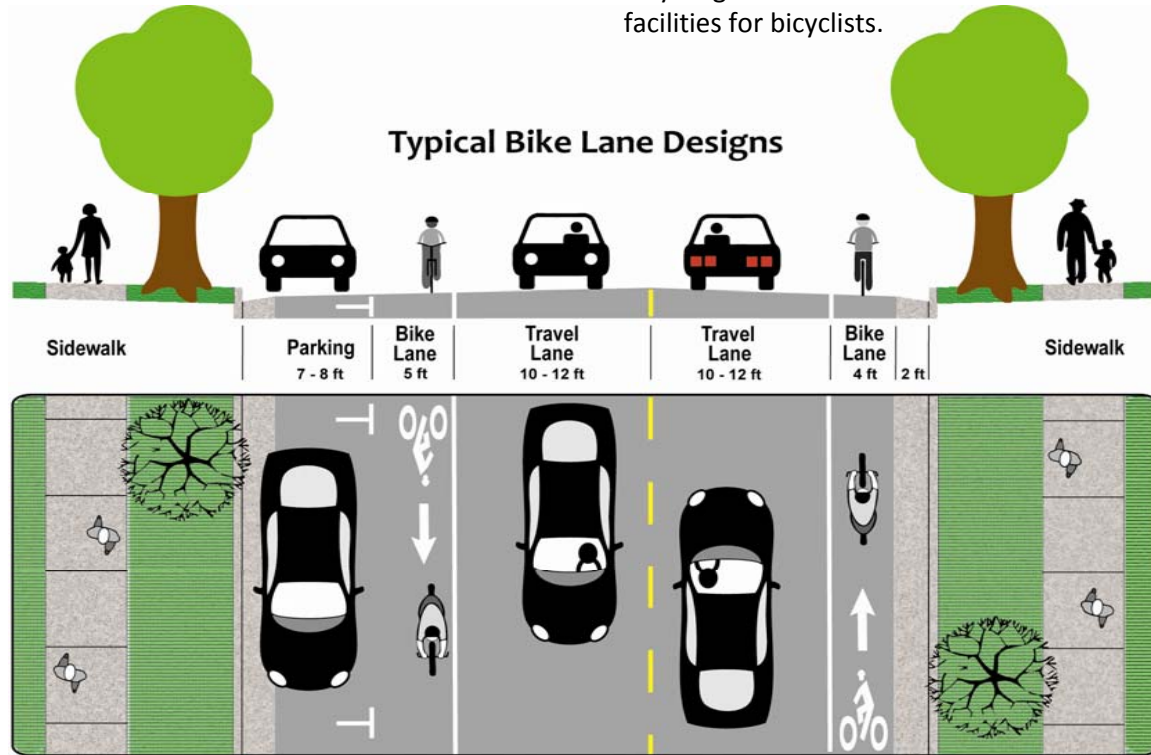
What is a Bike Lane?

A bicycle lane is a portion of a street designated by striping, stencils and signs to provide space for bicyclists to operate on busier streets.

Bicycle lanes can be next to the curb, to the left of parked cars, on the left side of one-way streets, or the left side of a right turn only lane.

Why Bike Lanes?

The city's multi-modal transportation goals include encouraging and providing for a variety of ways to move around the community and to minimize the conflicts between the different users. Providing space for bicyclists on busier streets in the form of bike lanes is an effective way of both minimizing the conflicts between motorists and bicyclists and encouraging bicycling with an interconnected network of facilities for bicyclists.



Can't bicyclists just use other streets and paths?

Local streets are often discontinuous and have many stops, making them less efficient for longer distance trips for bicyclists. Paths are great where they exist, but few destinations are located along paths. Bicyclists can and will use all streets in Madison and we have to design our streets to safely accommodate all users.

Bicyclists' needs for moving through the city and accessing destinations are the same as those of motorists. They need to be able to quickly, efficiently and safely get to and through all parts of the city. Our busier streets are often the only streets that get people through a particular area. Many destinations (stores, offices, etc.) are located on, and are only accessible from, our busier streets.

How to Use Bike Lanes for both Bicyclists and Motorists

For more information contact
City of Madison Traffic Engineering Division
608-266-4761
Traffic@cityofmadison.com
www.cityofmadison.com/bikeMadison



Tips for Bicyclists Using Bike Lanes

When riding in a bike lane next to the curb, ride in the center of the bike lane to avoid debris in and near the gutter and to be more visible to other drivers.

When riding in a bike lane next to parked cars, ride on the left side of the bike lane to be out of the way if someone opens a car door.

Always ride in the bike lane in the same direction as other traffic on the side of the street you are on, unless the bike lane is signed otherwise (for example, contra-flow bike lanes).

You do not have to stay in the bike lane

- If it is blocked for any reason such as a stopped car, leaves, debris, etc. making it unsafe to stay in the bike lane.
- You are making a left turn.
- When a motorist is in the bike lane to make a turn or enter a driveway and you need to pass them.
- To pass another bicyclist.
- To pass a bus stopped in the bike lane to let passengers on or off the bus.
- In the winter bike lanes are often snow or ice covered. The bike lane is also often narrowed by snow banks. It is safer to ride on the section of the street that is clear of snow and ice.

Whenever you leave a bike lane make sure to first check traffic behind you to be sure it is safe, signal, and yield to approaching drivers before changing lanes.

Tips for Motorists on Streets with Bike Lanes

When driving next to a bike lane, remember that you still need to give bicyclists at least three feet of clearance when passing.

When the bike lane is next to parking, bicyclists may be riding as far to the left in the bike lane as possible. You may have to move into the next lane in order to pass safely, giving the bicyclist the required minimum 3 feet of clearance when passing.

You can drive in or across the bike lane

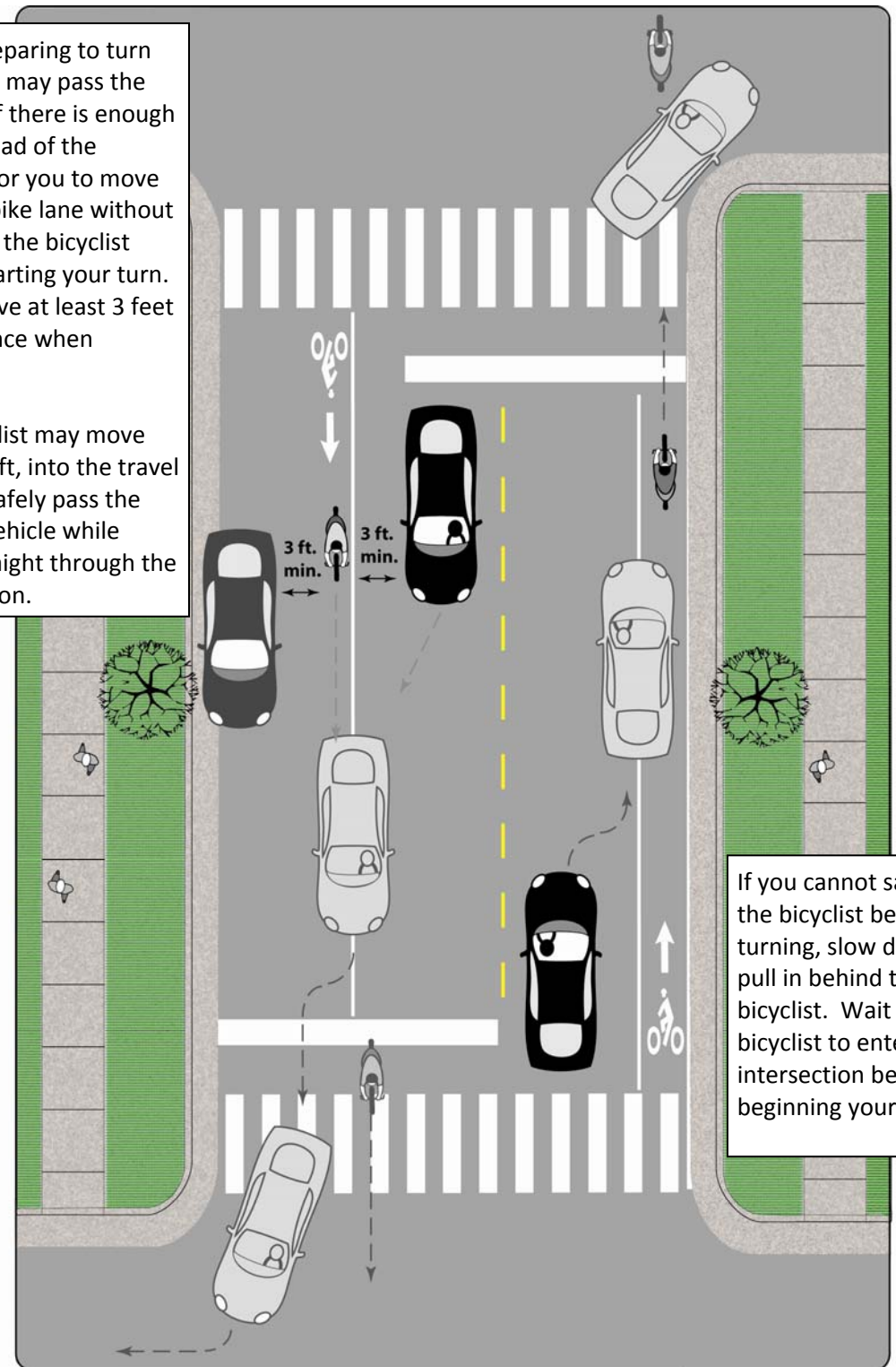
- To enter a driveway,
- To merge into a bike lane before turning at an intersection, or
- To enter or leave a parking space located adjacent to the bicycle lane.
- You must yield to any bicyclists in the bike lane before entering or crossing the bike lane.

Whenever you merge into a bike lane in advance of a turn, to enter a driveway, or to park if there is a parking lane next to the bike lane, look behind you first, signal and yield to any bicyclists approaching in the bike lane.

When parking next to a bike lane, always check for bicyclists approaching from behind you before opening your car door. Also check for approaching bicyclists before backing into or pulling out of a parking space next to a bike lane.

When preparing to turn right, you may pass the bicyclist if there is enough room ahead of the bicyclist for you to move into the bike lane without impeding the bicyclist before starting your turn. Always give at least 3 feet of clearance when passing.

The bicyclist may move further left, into the travel lane, to safely pass the turning vehicle while going straight through the intersection.



If you cannot safely pass the bicyclist before turning, slow down and pull in behind the bicyclist. Wait for the bicyclist to enter the intersection before beginning your turn.