



City of Cincinnati

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Cincinnati Installs New Pavement Markings to Increase Cyclist Safety

Cutting-edge "sharrow" lane a first in the area

Today, the City of Cincinnati became the first municipality in the region to install "sharrows" on its streets. The sharrow (shared lane arrow) is a pavement marking installed within travel lanes reminding motorists that they should expect to see and share the road with cyclists. In addition, sharrows help cyclists position themselves within the lane so as to avoid being hit by a suddenly opened car door. Although it is the motorist's responsibility to check before opening their door, riding too close to parked cars is still a common mistake that can lead to serious injury.

The Department of Transportation & Engineering began installing sharrows on portions of Clifton Avenue today. Segments of Ludlow Avenue and Madison Road will also receive sharrows next month. The locations were chosen based on the results of a month-long citywide survey of cyclists. The markings, which include a bicycle symbol with double arrows at the top, will be placed every few hundred feet on the pavement.

The City has been unable to install striped bike lanes on these streets because of the high demand for on-street parking, and the inability to either eliminate a travel lane, or narrow the existing travel lanes. The sharrow markings have been successfully used in other cities across the country, and will be evaluated here in Cincinnati over the next twelve months.

"We want to do everything we can to encourage bicycling as a viable means of transportation in Cincinnati. That means making our streets as safe as we can for cyclists of all skill levels, said Michael Moore, Interim Director of Transportation & Engineering. "Additionally, better accommodating bicycles helps the city become greener."

In the presence of sharrows, cyclists should ride through the center of the marking when safe to do so. Motorists should expect to see cyclists on the street, and remember to give adequate space when passing. A list of Frequently Asked Questions is available on the Department's website at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/sharrows.

WHEN: Today, June 1, 2009 at 10 – 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Clifton Ave, across from Bruegger's between Ludlow and MLK.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: City workers will install sharrow paving markings, first-time bicyclists of the sharrow lanes.

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