Why Are They Being Installed?

Bicycle lanes are being installed on some roads in Michigan to provide multiple benefits:

- Improve safety for bicyclists.
- Help establish order in the roadway by providing a designated place for bicyclists and motorists, enhancing safety for everyone.
- Further the development of Complete Streets as promoted by state law and State Transportation Commission policy.
- Improve travel behavior and predictability on multilane roadways.

Crash Facts

Bicyclists are involved in less than 1 percent of all traffic crashes. Proportionally, they represent a greater number of fatalities than any other group of roadway users. This is why it is especially important for drivers to pass bicyclists at a safe distance and to always yield to them before making turns.

State Laws

Complete Streets legislation (Public Acts 134 and 135 of 2010) gives new project planning and coordination responsibilities to city, county and state transportation agencies across Michigan. The legislation defines Complete Streets as: *"roadways planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all legal users... whether by car, truck, transit, assistive device, foot or bicycle."*

The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code permits bicycling on all roadways unless explicitly prohibited, such as limited access highways.

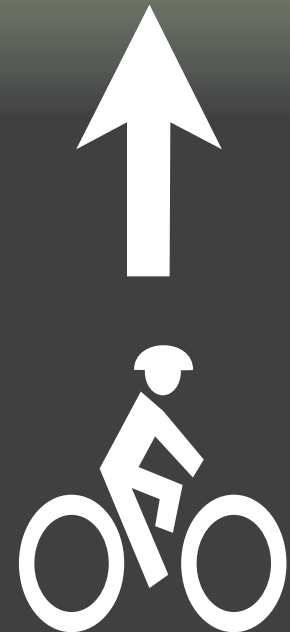**RIGHT TURN**   **LEFT TURN**

SLOW OR STOP

A person riding a bicycle on a roadway has all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle. Bicyclists are reminded to use hand signals to inform motorists of their intentions. Bicyclists may leave the bike lane to turn left or to avoid debris or other hazards.

MDOT
Michigan Department of Transportation

Providing the highest quality integrated transportation services for economic development and improved quality of life.

What every MICHIGAN driver SHOULD know about BICYCLE LANES

What is a Bicycle Lane?

A bicycle lane is a portion of a street adjacent to the travel lane reserved for bicyclists.

Bicycle lanes are typically on the right side of the road and are designated with bicycle pavement markings and arrows that direct cyclists in the direction to travel.

A variant of a conventional bicycle lane is a *buffered bicycle lane*. This type of bicycle lane is accompanied by a designated buffer space, separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent motor vehicle travel lane.

What every MICHIGAN driver SHOULD know about BICYCLE LANES

Some bicycle lanes use *shared lane markings*, or "sharrows," near designated right-turn lanes. These markings and dashed lines are used to help the bicyclist and motorist navigate the "transition" area between bike lane and turn lane. While motorists are always required to share the road, sharrows alert drivers that they are likely to encounter cyclists. Sharrows also indicate the proper lane position for bicyclists to make them more visible to drivers.

Green pavement markings are used to bring attention to the transition areas at designated right-turn lanes. These markings are designed to alert motorists and bicyclists that they are at a potential conflict area. In these areas, all road users should exercise heightened awareness.

How Should Motorists and Bicyclists Operate when on a Roadway with a Bicycle Lane?

A person shall not operate a vehicle on or across a bicycle lane, except to enter or leave adjacent property. This means that drivers are to make turns from the travel lane and not the bicycle lane. The Uniform Traffic Code prohibits parking in a marked bicycle lane, except where permitted by official signs.

Bicyclists are reminded to follow the rules of the road and obey all traffic control devices, including signals and stop signs.

How do Motorists Make Right Turns when a Bicycle Lane is Present?

1) When turning right, a motorist should always yield to bicyclists going straight. Never pass a bicyclist and then "hook" them by making a turn immediately in front of them.

2) Once the bicyclist passes through the intersection, the motorist should then begin their right turn.

3) Only after the bicyclist clears the intersection or driveway should the motorist complete their turn.