

CBRM's first bike lanes are being installed on George Street in Sydney during the summer of 2012. This brochure has been prepared to answer questions that are frequently asked about bike lanes by both bicyclists and motorists.

What is a bike lane?

A bike lane is a portion of the roadway that is designated for the use of bicyclists.

What does a bike lane look like?

It is a striped lane painted on the pavement that is a minimum of 1.5m wide. Repeated within the lane are large white bicycles and diamonds.

Why Bike lanes?

Bike lanes make most people feel safer about cycling on city streets. Bike lanes help create order, cutting down on weaving, and making streets safer for bikes and cars.

For more information:

Planning & Development, 563-5072
Engineering & Public Works, 563-0830
C.B. Regional Police Traffic Safety Unit,
563-5103

<http://www.cbrm.ns.ca/active-transportation.html>

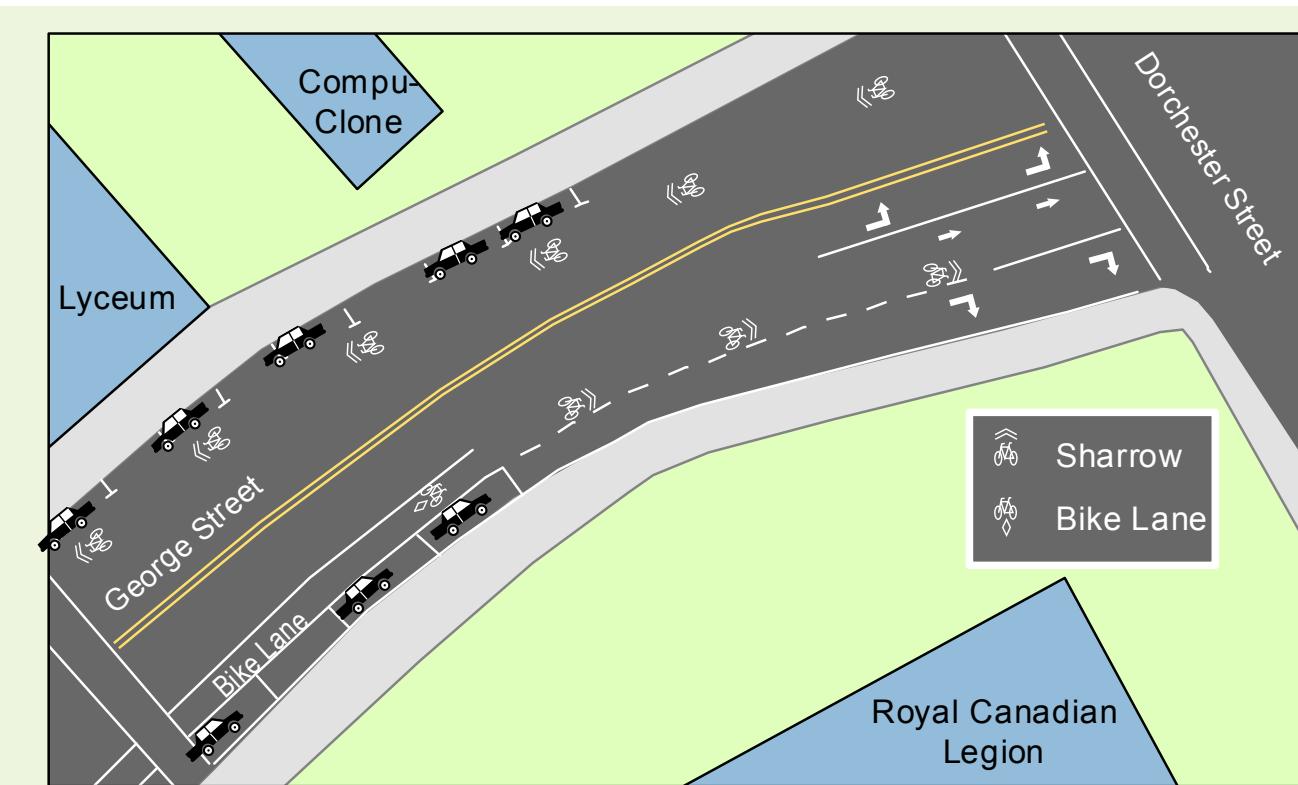


Figure 3

Will parking on George Street be affected?

NO. The commercial section of George will lose only two parking stalls near Townsend. George St. south of Dorchester is an unusually wide street and can easily hold a parking lane, a bike lane and two travel lanes in each direction.

Where are the bike lanes?

The bike lanes will be installed on George St. from Townsend St. to Desbarres St. The lanes will be on both sides of the street to the left of the parking lane. Bike lanes on George Street will be used with sharrows.

When will the bike lanes be installed?

The section between Desbarres St. and Dorchester St. will be installed by the middle of June. The lines will be painted at night and residents will receive notices asking them not to park on the street that one night. The section between Dorchester St. and Townsend St. will be installed on the new pavement to be laid later this summer after the waterline is replaced.

Bicycle Lanes



<http://www.cbrm.ns.ca/active-transportation.html>

What should drivers know?

- Vehicles (except emergency vehicles and Public Works vehicles) **cannot** drive or stop in bike lanes
- Vehicles can drive across a bike lane to access a driveway and to enter or exit the parking lane
- Vehicles can cross the broken lines of the bike lanes to access a turning lane
- Drivers should check the bike lane before opening the door
- Bicyclists may leave the bike lane to position themselves for turns at intersections
- In all circumstances when passing a bicyclist, drivers need to leave one metre between the bike and the vehicle
- Be sure to check the bike lane for bicyclists before entering and exiting a parking spot

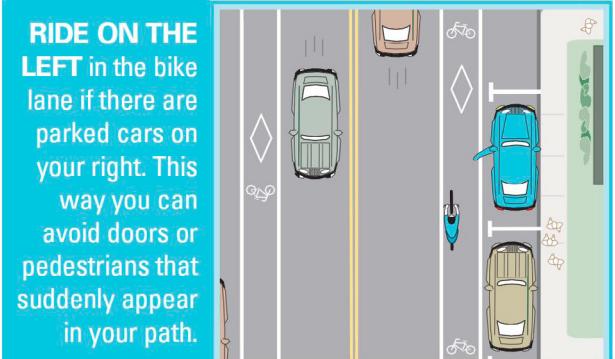
What should bicyclists know?

- Ride in a straight line and leave at least one metre between you and the parked cars (See Figure 1)
- When bike lanes have broken lines look for vehicles crossing the lane
- Use hand signals when leaving or entering a bike lane
- At intersections with sharrows follow the sharrow to drive straight through. To make a turn leave the bike lane by signalling and shoulder checking then take up a position in the appropriate lane if you are turning left or right
- At intersections where the bike lane continues, drive straight through the intersection in the bike lane. Signal and shoulder check to take up the appropriate position to make a turn. Choose the left turning lane, or the right turning lane
- At busy intersections or in heavy traffic the bicyclists can use a box turn to turn left. To make a box turn the cyclist drives straight through the intersection and stops. The bicyclist can either walk the bike across the crosswalk or take the appropriate lane position and drive straight through
- Always overtake vehicles on the left. If you are in a bike lane, and vehicles to your left are stopped or moving very slowly, you may pass BY those vehicles.
- Never assume that you will not have a collision in a bike lane, always drive defensively. Check for road hazards, other vehicles, pedestrians just as you would on any street

What should a bicyclist do if a car is parked in the bike lane? (See Figure 2)

First check behind you to make sure you can safely move out into car traffic lane. Signal and shoulder check behind you again. When there is room to pass, overtake the car by at least one metre to avoid a collision with an open door. Once you pass the car, shoulder check, signal and move back into the bike lane.

Figure 1



Are there fines for parking or driving in a bike lane?

The fine for a first offence is \$687.41.

Are there fines for driving a bicycle on the sidewalk?

The fine for a first offence is \$141.16. Children are allowed to ride on the sidewalk.

What are Sharrows?

Sharrows are designated shared roadways that are signed and marked with a sharrow road marking, consisting of a double chevron and bicycle painted on the street.

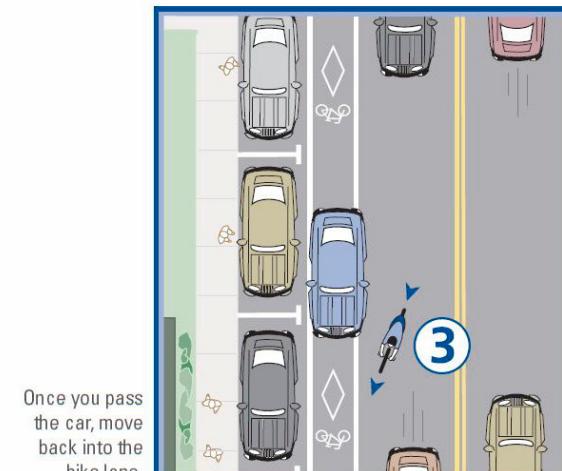
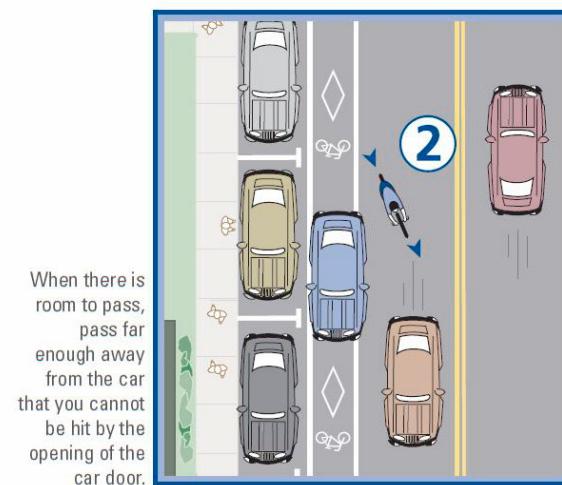
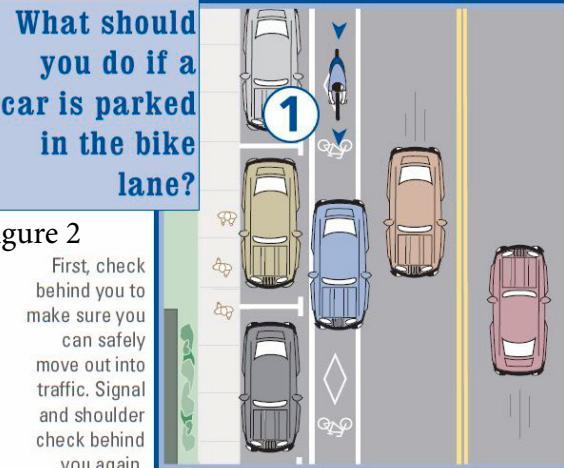
Where will you find sharrows on George St.?

Sharrows will be installed at intersections at that are too narrow to continue the bike lane. (See Figure 3) They will also be found between Desbarres St. and Ortona Dr. where George St. narrows.

How do you drive on a sharrow?

On sections of George St. where there are sharrows, motorists are asked to drive nearer the yellow line. Bicyclists are asked to drive over the sharrow markings.

At intersections where the bike lanes end, motorists are asked to share the lane with bicyclists, and to look for bicyclists signalling and changing lanes to make turns. Bicyclists are asked to shoulder check, signal and shoulder check again before changing your lane position. To make a left turn in heavy traffic bicyclists can also choose to proceed through the intersection in the straight through lane then stop and take a straight through position in the new direction or walk the bike through the crosswalk.



Remember:

- Always follow the rules of the road no matter your mode of transportation.

- Be courteous to all other road users including car and truck drivers, motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians