

DRIVERS, BIKERS, AND PEDESTRIANS TAKE NOTE CHANGES ARE COMING TO LINCOLN AVENUE!

This summer, changes are being made to Lincoln Avenue downtown to help increase bicycle and pedestrian safety. Here's what you can expect to see.

SHARROWS

“Share” + “arrow”



Sharrows are street markings that remind drivers and bicyclists to “share the road.” Sharrows reduce wrong-way riding, bring bicyclists outside the door zone of parked cars and increase the visibility of bicyclists by treating them as part of the normal flow of traffic. Sharrows will be painted directly on the street every 150-200 feet.

SIGNS



By state statute, bikes are prohibited from riding on the sidewalk in the downtown business district. Bikes ridden on sidewalks cause conflicts with pedestrians and can surprise drivers at intersections. These signs along Lincoln Avenue will remind bicyclists of their responsibility, making our downtown sidewalks safer for everyone.

ANSWERS TO SOME COMMON QUESTIONS

How should I drive and bike on a street marked with sharrows?

Sharrows emphasize that the lane is shared between vehicles and bikes. Sharrows don't change the law. Whether or not sharrows are present, bicyclists always have the right to use the full travel lane when the street is too narrow for them to safely ride to the right of traffic or if it is dangerous for them to ride to the right for some other reason. The sharrows just remind drivers that they are sharing the lane with bicyclists.

As a driver you treat the lane just as you would any other lane with a slower moving vehicle. Give the slower moving vehicle adequate space, move out and pass them only if safe, then once passed, move back into the travel lane.

As a cyclist, use the sharrows to place yourself in the travel lane and maintain a constant position. Avoid weaving in and out of the parking lane.

I'm a cyclist and am afraid of riding in the street and getting hit from behind!

It is estimated that 10% of all car-bike collisions involve a car overtaking a bike. Much more common are collisions that involve turning motions at intersections. By riding in the street, you are more visible to other users of the road and are thus less likely to be involved in such an accident.

Who can I contact for more information about this project?

This idea was developed and brought to the attention of the city by Pedal Fergus Falls, a citizen-led bicycle and pedestrian advocacy group. We are always looking for feedback and new ideas. Visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/PedalFF or at www.pedalff.org.

