Why are Bicycle Lanes Being Installed?

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

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

Driver Reminders

- Don't drive or park in a bicycle lane.

Source: National Association of City Transportation Officials

- Always look for bicyclists before opening your car door.
- Bicycles have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle.
- Bicyclists are not required to use a bicycle lane and may leave a bicycle lane to turn left or to avoid hazards.
- Bicyclists are permitted on all roadways unless specifically prohibited, like limited access highways.
- Drivers must avoid distractions and be aware at all times. Driving the speed limit decreases the chances of a fatality.
- Drivers should pass bicyclists at a safe distance and always yield to them before turning.

Tips for Bicyclists

Bicyclists are reminded to use hand signals to inform others of their intent.

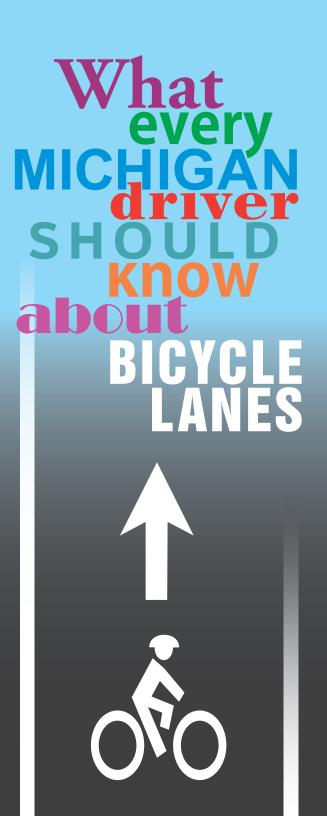### BICYCLE HAND SIGNALS

STOPPING   LEFT TURN   RIGHT TURN

GRAPHIC COURTESY LEAGUE OF MICHIGAN BICYCLISTS

Bicyclists are also encouraged to wear bright colors so they are visible. It is illegal to ride a bicycle without a headlight or a rear reflector when it is dark. Remember to always ride with traffic.

For more bicycling information go to www.michigan.gov/mdot-biking

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 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 *buffered bicycle lane* is a conventional bicycle lane accompanied by a buffer space, separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent motor vehicle lane.

A *separated bicycle lane* (also known as a cycle track or a protected bicycle lane) has many of the design elements of a buffered bicycle lane, but also includes a barrier (planters, parked cars, curb, or vertical posts) between the bicycle lane and the travel lane for cars.

What every MICHIGAN driver SHOULD know about BICYCLE LANES

Some bicycle lanes *use shared lane markings* (sharrows), or *bike boxes* when a bicycle lane ends. While motorists are always required to share the road, when a sharrow is used it alerts drivers that they are likely to encounter bicyclists in the lane. Sharrows also indicate the proper lane position for bicycles to make them more visible to drivers. At an intersection a *bike box* creates a space in front of a travel lane and ahead of stopped motorists for bicyclists to wait for a green signal. The bike box can improve bicyclist visibility and provides them a head start ahead of motorized traffic to reduce conflicts with turning vehicles at these locations.

Green pavement markings are used to bring attention to the transition areas or possible conflict points. All road users should exercise heightened awareness in these locations.
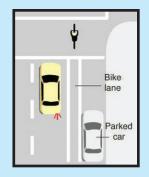
How Should Motorists and Bicyclists Operate when on a Roadway with a Bicycle Lane?

It is illegal to drive or park in a bicycle lane. A driver may cross into a bicycle lane only when turning. This means that drivers are to make turns from the travel lane and not the bicycle lane. It is also illegal to park in a marked bicycle lane, except where permitted by official signs.
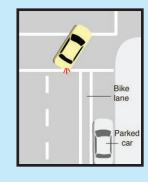
Bicyclists are reminded to follow the rules of the road and obey all traffic control devices, including signals and stop signs.

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 make their right turn.