Bicycle Facility Frequently Asked Questions and Fun Facts

Sharrows:

What is a sharrow?

Shared lane pavement markings or sharrows are bicycle symbols that are placed in the roadway lane to indicate that motorists should expect to see and share the lane with bicycles. Unlike bicycle lanes, they do not designate a particular part of the roadways for the exclusive use of bicycles.

A sharrow in the Greenlake neighborhood

How do I drive my motor vehicle in a lane with a sharrow?

Expect to see bicyclist in the street. Remember to give bicyclists three feet of space when passing and follow the rules of the road as if there were no sharrows.

How do I bike in a lane with a sharrow?

Bicyclists should use the sharrow to guide where you ride within the lane. Sharrows are carefully placed so that you are not riding too close to parked cars.

Green Lanes:

What is a green bike lane?

Green bike lanes highlight conflict areas where bicycles and cars cross paths.

A green bike lane approaching the intersection of Dexter Ave and Denny Way

What do I do when I see a green bike lane at an intersection?

When you see a green bicycle lane pay extra attention all around. Bicyclists and motorists should follow the rules of the road as if there were a bicycle lane with no green coloring, so turning motorists should yield to bicyclists traveling within the bike lane. They are intended to

reinforce good behavior for all road users.

Bike Dots:

What is a bike dot?

Bicycle dots are placed on bike routes on residential streets. They show you where to turn to stay on the bike route. Signs tell you where the route is going and how far away you are. Signs and dots help guide bicyclists along city streets and trails to destinations such as neighborhood shopping areas, parks and transit centers.

A bike dot in the Maple Leaf neighborhood

How do I use a bike dot?

If you see a dot you are on a signed bike route. Follow the dots to stay on the route.

Why are signs and bike dots used together?

Dots and signs provide different information. Dots are used to reduce sign clutter particularly on neighborhood streets. Dots tell you where to turn where signs provide directional, distance and destination information. Signs are placed at intersections where two bicycle routes intersect or where you should turn to get to a destination that is just off the route.

Fun bicycle facts

- There are more bicyclists in the U.S. than skiers, golfers and tennis players combined.
- It's easier to talk to your neighbors when you're on a bike.
- Bikes are skinny: they take up less than 5% of the space that a car does on the street or in a parking space.
- A bike is 30 times less expensive to buy and maintain than a car.
- Europeans who walk, bike and use transit lose 8-9 lb of fat per person per year.

- Think you're fast? The world record for top speed reached on a bicycle is 152 mph.
- A well-maintained bicycle may not depreciate at all.
- 94% of Seattle bicyclists wear helmets when they bike.
- It's more dangerous not to ride a bike: the health benefits of biking outweigh the risk of collision.
- Number of times cyclists put their bikes on Metro buses every year: 300,000+
- Number of times cyclists forgot to take their bicycles off the bus: 353
- Calories burned by a 180-pound cyclist pedaling 14 miles in an hour: 540
- Calories burned by a 130-pound cyclist pedaling 14 miles in an hour: 402
- Riding a bicycle means less noise on neighborhood streets.
- Time to drive from University District to Pike Place Market in light traffic: 15 minutes
  Driving time during rush hour: 35 minutes
  Cycling time, moderate pace: 30 minutes
- Time to park car: 5 - 25 minutes
  Time to park and lock bike: 1 minute
- Number of bikes which can be parked in one car parking space in a paved lot: 6 – 20
- Number of miles cycled yearly by average bike commuter: 1,992