

# Bicycle Lanes



[www.toronto.ca/cycling](http://www.toronto.ca/cycling)

## What effects do bike lanes have on collisions?

First, bike lanes help calm traffic by cutting down on weaving. Second, they create a buffer zone at the edge of the traffic lane, which makes it easier for motorists to see pedestrians about to enter the street-and gives motorists more time to react. That means fewer crashes, especially those involving kids.

## What is the biggest issue for cyclists using bike lanes?

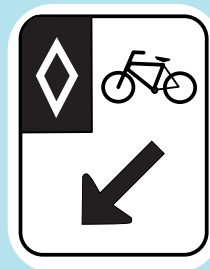
Motorists park and drive in them. They probably do not realize that they are endangering cyclists by forcing the bikers to suddenly merge into moving car traffic.

## Why don't motorists know how to deal with bike lanes?

Bike lanes are a relatively new program and drivers haven't been trained how to handle them. As bike lanes become more common, motorists will become familiar with how to use them. Please do not drive or park in bike lanes.

## What about the enforcement of bike lanes?

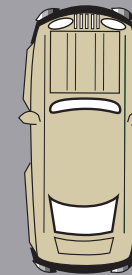
Motorists who violate bike lanes can be fined \$40 and have their cars towed for \$100. Call parking enforcement at 416-808-6600 to have cars tagged/towed.



## Helpful Numbers:

Access Toronto 416-338-0338  
Reporting road problems 416-599-9090  
Parking Enforcement 416-808-6600  
General cycling information 416-392-7592

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**B**icycle lanes are designated space on the roadway exclusively for the use of cyclists. Motor vehicles are not allowed to drive, park or stand in the bike lane, but right-turning cars and trucks can enter the lane at intersections to complete their turn. Currently there are 90 kilometres of bike lanes in Toronto.

Prior to implementation, each individual bike lane project still requires Council approval. This process involves preparing a detailed design, reviewing any potential impacts on traffic and parking and of course consultation with the Ward Councillors and the community.

A key element of the Toronto Bicycle Plan is the completion of the bikeway network. The proposed network will comprise approximately 1,000 kilometres of bikeways, consisting of 495 kilometres of bike lanes.

On City streets where parking spaces are at a premium, parking in the bicycle lane becomes very tempting to some motorists.

Parking in the bike lane creates an obstacle for cyclists who have to merge into the adjacent, often busy, traffic lane. Additional parking enforcement resources and more stringent enforcement practices, such as the towing of vehicles and fines, are required to keep the bicycle lanes free of parked and stopped vehicles.



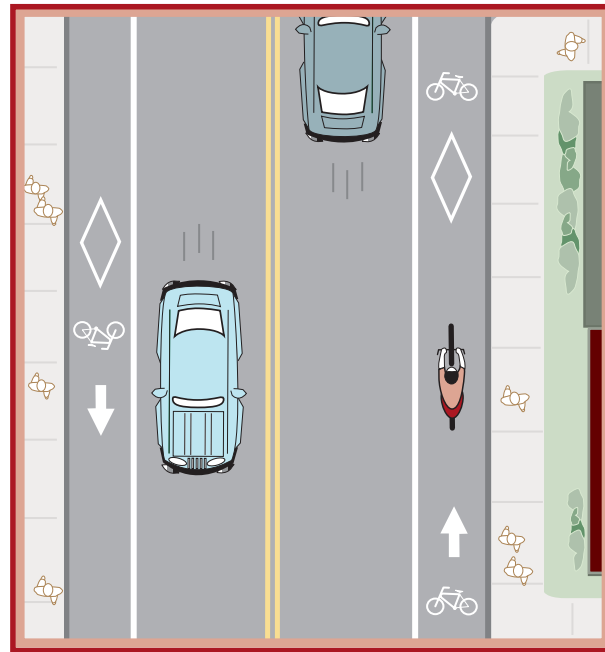
# Riding in a Bike Lane

**A** well-designed bike lane should encourage you to ride in the correct position on the road when you are travelling more slowly than the cars. Don't be lulled into riding in the danger zone close to parked cars on right side of right-turning cars; you often need to ride along a bike lane's left edge. Cyclists are free to move left, out of the bike lane, before an intersection if you are going straight or turning left.

Remember that motorists will cross the bike lane to park and pull in and out of driveways. Pass on the left whenever possible.

When passing on the right, only do so very slowly and where a car could not possibly turn right. You may be in a motorist's blind spot, a car door could open, or a pedestrian could be jaywalking between the cars. Never pass a long truck or bus on the right.

**Remember not to hesitate to leave the bike lane when necessary for your safety.**



## Why bike lanes?

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

## What should you do when the bike lane ends?

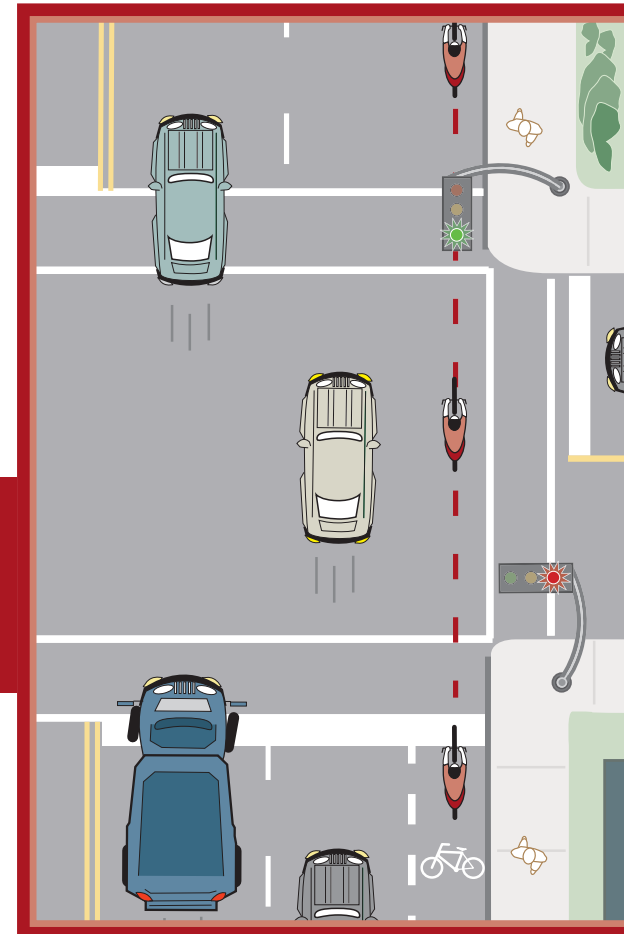
- Try to move in the straightest line possible to where you'll ride on the other side of the intersection.
- Do not veer into the right-turn lane. If you stay away from the curb, motorists can see you better.

## What is a bike lane?

It is a 1.5- to 2m-wide striped lane, marked with a large white bicycle and diamond on the pavement and restricted to bicycle travel. On some streets, bike lanes appear along the left side of parked cars. On streets without parking, bike lanes run along the curb.

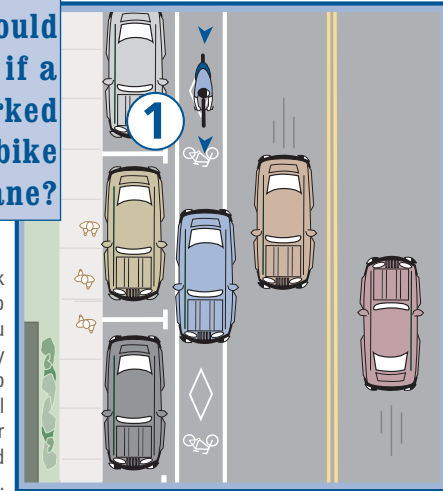
## On a street with a bike lane, do bicycle riders have to ride in the bike lane?

No. Bike riders can use the adjacent travel lanes if they're moving at the speed of traffic. Bike riders also use adjacent lanes to pass another vehicle or prepare for a turn. Always travel in the same direction as traffic, with the exception of contra-flow bike lanes.

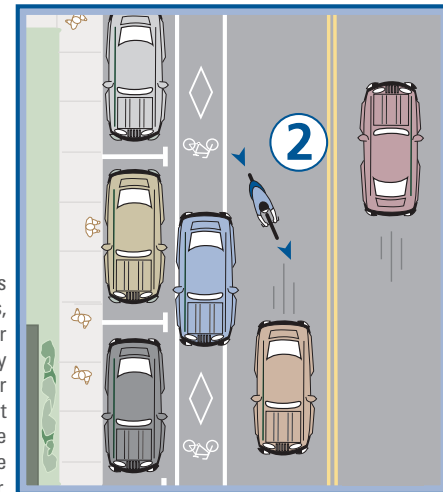


## What should you do if a car is parked in the bike lane?

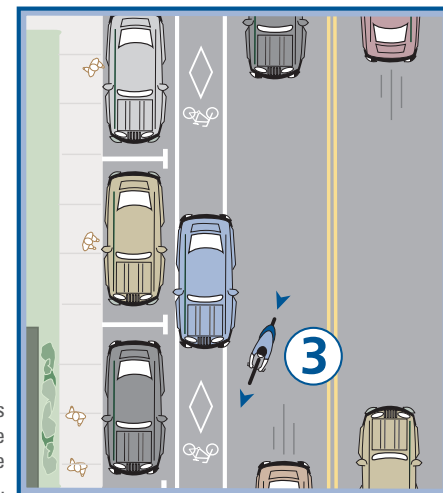
First, check behind you to make sure you can safely move out into traffic. Signal and shoulder check behind you again.



When there is room to pass, pass far enough away from the car that you cannot be hit by the opening of the car door.



Once you pass the car, move back into the bike lane.



**RIDE ON THE LEFT** in the bike lane if there are parked cars on your right. This way you can avoid doors or pedestrians that suddenly appear in your path.

