



Sharrows: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What are sharrows?

“Sharrows” are shared lane pavement markings indicating a travel lane shared by motorists and bicyclists. The sharrows symbol consists of carrot top arrows and a bicycle mark. Sharrows is a combination of the words “shared lane” and “arrows.”

In a shared lane, bicyclists should position themselves appropriately away from parked cars and roadway hazards, and travel in the same direction as traffic.

2. Road markings have shown up in the middle of campus roadways at UH Mānoa. Can I still drive there?

Yes. They are shared lane pavement markings, also known as “sharrows.” Motorists may drive on the roadway, but please follow these guidelines:

- Obey speed limits, traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- Yield to pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders, etc. when making turns.
- Slow down and pass with care if bicyclists are present.
- Do not use your horn in close proximity to bicyclists.
- Check for bicyclists and other traffic before opening car doors.
- Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians at night.

3. Why are these markings on the street? What is their purpose?

Sharrows have been placed on campus roadways to create safer conditions and greater awareness for bicycling by:

- Providing travel space outside of parked car “door zones.” In the absence designated bicycle lanes on our campus roadways, cyclists often ride too closely to parked cars. If someone were to open a car door as a cyclist is passing, the cyclist could get “doored” and possibly seriously injured — especially if there is passing automobile traffic.
- Providing a clear indicator showing bicyclists the correct position and direction to travel.
- Showing road users where bicyclists are likely to travel on the road.
- Encouraging safer passing of bicyclists by motorists. If the lane is too narrow for passing, be patient and wait until it is clear and safe to pass.

4. Why not just stripe bicycle lanes?

Sharrows are being used because we currently do not have enough room on our campus roadways for dedicated bicycle lanes.

5. As a cyclist, what should I do in the presence of sharrows?

The sharrows have been placed outside of the parked car's "door zone." Many of our campus roadways are too narrow for safe side-by-side travel by a motorist and a cyclist. Therefore, as a cyclist, please follow the below guidelines:

- Follow the same laws that apply to motorists.
- Obey speed limits, traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Ride with the flow of traffic – never against it.
- Always wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet.
- Use recognized campus bicycle routes.
- Ride predictably, assertively, and be alert.
- Use hand signals before turning or stopping.
- Be visible. If riding at night, use lights, reflectors and bright clothing.
- Yield to motor vehicles, even when you have the right of way.

6. As a motorist, what should I do in the presence of sharrows?

Slow down and drive carefully. Many of our campus roadways are too narrow for safe side-by-side travel by motorists and cyclists. Therefore, as a motorist, please slow down and either wait for the cyclist to turn off the roadway, or wait until you can safely pass the bicyclist. Be patient and share the road.

7. What do you hope to accomplish with the sharrows?

The university strives to create safer traveling conditions for users on and around campus roadways. We hope to do this by creating greater awareness and moving cyclists away from parked cars than they would normally ride in the absence of sharrows, and having greater separation between passing motorists and cyclists than would normally exist. We also hope to educate motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and other users on how to safely share our roadways.