

JUN 27 2008

# TRANSPORTATION

## MOTION

Traffic curb lanes on signed/shared bikeways are often too narrow to be safely shared side-by-side by cyclists and passing motorists. On these routes, cyclists wishing to stay out of the way of drivers often ride too close to parked cars and risk being struck by a suddenly opened car door. To avoid this, experienced cyclists ride further to the left and position themselves closer to the center of narrow lanes. Although this is permitted by the California Vehicle Code, it often irritates motorists who are not aware that this is permitted.

In order to address this situation, many cities have experimented with a "shared lane marking," also known as "sharrows," as a potential solution. These pavement markings do not connote a separated bicycle lane, but instead directs the bicyclist to travel outside the car door zone and encourage safe co-existence. Several years ago, San Francisco conducted a study of shared lane pavement markings and found that stencil markings significantly improved both motorists' and cyclists' positions in the roadway and reduced sidewalk and wrong-way riding. San Francisco has now painted 1,250 "sharrows." Additionally, in 2005, Caltrans officially approved sharrows as an official traffic control device for the state of California.

To encourage more bicycle riding in the City of Los Angeles, a pilot "sharrows" program should be launched to gauge the reaction and experience of both bicycle riders and vehicle drivers. The following two corridors are appropriate for the implementation of shared lane pavement markings, primarily because they would connect existing bike infrastructure:

Corridor 1. Vermont Avenue, between Hollywood Boulevard and 4th Street.

Corridor 2. Fountain Avenue, between the 101 Freeway and Hoover Street.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Department of Transportation to develop a "Shared Lane Pavement Markings," also known as "sharrows," pilot program on Vermont Avenue between Hollywood Boulevard and 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Fountain Avenue between the 101 Freeway and Hoover Street.

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