



Complete Streets



Safety Tips for Sharing the Road

For Bicyclists:

On the Road

- The same laws that apply to motorists apply to cyclists.
- Obey all traffic control devices.
- Use hand signals to indicate stops and turns to other users.

Always Wear a Properly Fitting Helmet

- Wear a helmet, no matter how short the trip.

Ride on the Right

- Always ride in the same direction as traffic. This is key to your safety.
- Use the furthest lane to the right that heads to your destination and ride as far to the right in it as is practical.

Don't Pass on the Right

- Motorists may not look or see a cyclist passing on the right. When stopping in traffic it is more courteous and safer to hold your place in traffic.

As a Bicyclist

- You have the right to share the road. You also have a responsibility to obey the law.

Choose The Best Way To Turn Left

There are two ways to make a left turn:

- Like an auto: signal, move into the left lane and complete the turn.
- Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far crosswalk and walk your bike across the intersection.

Ride Predictably

- Ride in a straight line.
- Don't swerve in the road or between parked cars.
- Check for traffic before entering streets or intersections.
- Anticipate hazards and adjust your position accordingly.

Be Visible

- Wear brightly colored clothing that provides contrast.
- Use a white front light and a red rear light in low light conditions.
- Use a reflector, reflective tape and reflective clothing anytime.
- Announce yourself by making eye contact with motorists.

For Motorists:

- Allow three feet of passing space between the right side of your vehicle and a bicyclist just as you would with a slow-moving vehicle.
- Do not pass bicyclists if you will be making a right turn immediately afterward. Always assume bicyclists are traveling through the intersection.
- Before opening your car door, look for bicyclists who may be approaching.
- Do NOT pass bicyclists if oncoming traffic is near. Wait as you would with any slow moving vehicle.
- Reduce your speed when passing bicyclists, especially if the roadway is narrow.

Disclaimer

This safety information is a compilation from multiple sources and the RTC disclaims any responsibility for injury or damages based on negligence due to the accuracy of the information. The RTC recommends you familiarize yourself with a route, its condition, existing traffic, your bike and all other conditions that may affect your safety. Please obey all laws and bike carefully.

Improved Safety and Multimodal Access

Several local streets are more welcoming to bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists following a makeover. Using a tool known as a complete street, sections of California, Arlington and Holcomb avenues and Mill Street now sport one lane in each direction, a center turn lane and bike lanes. California Avenue's complete street section is from Mayberry Drive to South Virginia Street. A busy section west of Booth Street to Newlands Circle remains as four lanes with the addition of a treatment called a shared use lane to improve safety for all modes while allowing bicyclists and motorists to share the lane.

Arlington Avenue's complete street area is from Skyline Drive to First Street. The Holcomb Avenue segment is between South Virginia and Mill streets. On Mill Street, the new look is from Lake Street to Wells Avenue.

Complete streets is a concept that designs roads for users of all ages, modes and mobilities. Complete streets have the potential to improve safety, economic development and the quality of life for neighborhoods in the region.

The complete street provides opportunities to increase on-street parking which benefits motorists and businesses. The safety and improved flow are especially beneficial on roads like California and Arlington with lots of driveways and side streets. Moving the people making turns out of the traffic stream improves flow and reduces rear end collisions.

For more information, call RTC Engineering 348-0171 or visit rtcwashoe.com.

FAQ's

What is a Complete Street?

Complete Streets are streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations.

How can a road with fewer lanes carry the same amount of traffic?

In a three-lane configuration there is always one lane for driving and one lane for turning. That helps make driving safer with fewer crashes and frustrations. With these improvements, a three-lane road can handle the same amount of traffic as a four-lane road.

How does a complete street make walking safer?

Pedestrians have to cross only three lanes of traffic, not four. There are fewer blind spots when there is only one lane in each direction. There is less sight blockage by cars. Vehicle speeds are lower on a three-lane road.

How does a complete streets make biking safer?

Bicyclists and pedestrians can better share the road and can be seen more easily.

Complete Streets Benefits

- Reduced vehicle speeds
- Reduced vehicle crash potential
- Improved sight distance
- Improved pedestrian facilities
- Improved bicycle facilities
- More on-street parking
- Active transportation infrastructure and improve health
- Supports livability and quality of life
- Supports walking and biking for safe routes for schools

What is a Shared Lane Marking?

A shared lane is identified with a new type of pavement marking that directs bicycles and vehicles in the same lane. The new shared lane markings are known as "sharrows." Green pavement will be used to emphasize the bikeway portion, an arrow and bicycle symbol also appears on the pavement.

Are bicycles supposed to move to the right?

Not always. According to the Nevada Revised Statutes, bicyclists operating on roadways at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable. Exceptions are when bicyclists have a designated lane, can travel at a speed equal to nearby traffic, are preparing for a left turn or avoiding unsafe conditions such as parked cars, or when doing so would not be safe. If it would be unsafe for both a vehicle and bicyclist to travel in the same lane together because existing lanes are too narrow, a bicyclist may use the full lane.

If I see these markings in a lane, is the lane only for bikes?

No. The marking is used for shared lanes; lanes that are used by bicyclists and motorists. Shared lanes are different than bike lanes which are set aside for bicyclists and are marked by a solid white line and a different symbol.

Why use green pavement?

Green pavement makes it easy to see and provides extra emphasis going from a bike lane to a shared use lane.



Sharrows Symbol



New Traffic Sign

