

# FAQ's

## What is a Road Diet?

A road diet reduces the number of lanes from four to two with a center turn lane, bike lanes and parking lanes. Recently Victorian and Wells avenues and Mayberry Drive were reconfigured using this traffic technique.

## 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 road diet 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 in a three-lane road diet.

## How does a road diet make biking safer?

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

## Road Diet Benefits

- Reduced vehicle speeds
- Reduced vehicle crash potential
- Improved sight distance
- Improved pedestrian facilities
- Improved bicycle facilities
- More on-street parking



Sharrow Symbol



New Traffic Sign

## 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?

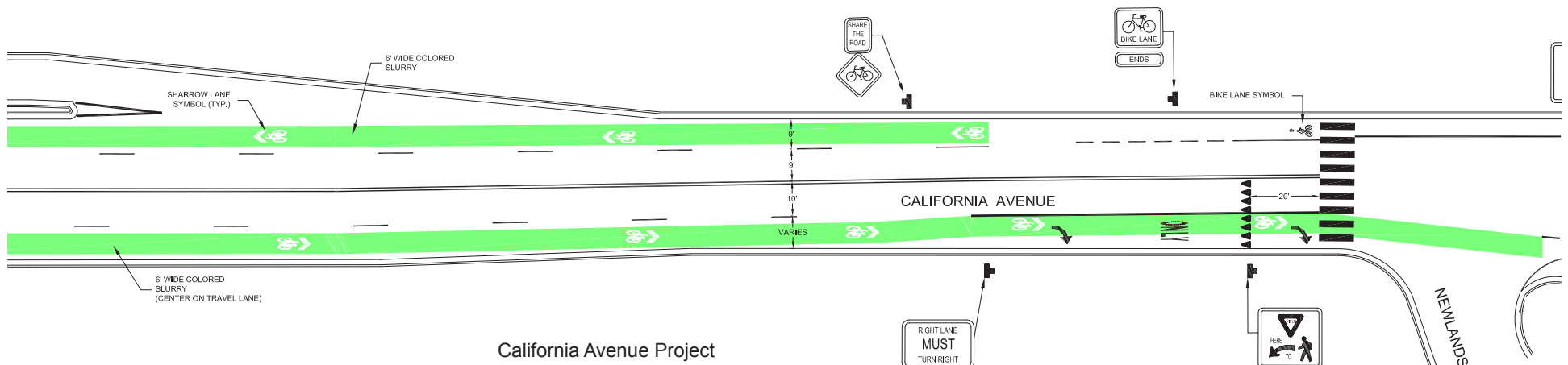
Not always. According to the Nevada Revised Statutes, bicyclists operating on roadways at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable. Exceptions are when bicyclists have a designated lane, can travel at a speed equal to nearby traffic, are 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.



California Avenue Project

## 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.

Effective  
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# Road Diets, Sharrows and Shared Lanes



## A New Look and Improved Safety for California Avenue, Arlington Avenue, Holcomb Avenue and Mill Street

Several local streets are more welcoming to bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists following a makeover. Using a traffic management tool known as a road diet, 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 road diet 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 an innovative treatment called a shared use lane to improve safety for all modes while allowing bicyclists and motorists to share the lane.

Arlington Avenue's road diet 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. Road lane narrowing allows for the addition of bike lanes to several sections of Mill Street between Wells Avenue and Rock Boulevard.

Road diets and shared lanes are ways to create complete streets, a concept that designs roads for users of all ages, modes and mobilities. Complete streets have the potential to improve economic development and the quality of life for neighborhoods in the region.

The road diet 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](http://rtcwashoe.com).

For the Truckee Meadows Bike Map, go to [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com) and click on Public Transportation>RTC SMART TRIPS.

helpful tips on biking safety  
<http://bicyclesafe.com/>