

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Pacific City Council passed Ordinance No. 1729 that created laws regarding bicycles and bicycle lanes on City streets. The construction of sidewalks on 3rd Avenue SE and 3rd Avenue SW also established designated bicycle lanes on the north and south bound lanes.

This flyer is intended to inform residents living along the route information as to what the passage of Ordinance No. 1729 means.

Bike Lane FAQs

Q. Where are the bike lanes along 3rd Avenue?

The designated lane along the south side of 3rd Avenue is in the street and along the curb line on the north side of 3rd Avenue.

Q. What's a bike lane?

A bike lane is a five- to six-foot wide striped lane, marked with a large white bicycle on the pavement, and restricted to bicycle travel. On most streets, bike lanes appear left of parked cars. On streets without parking, bike lanes appear along the curb.

Q. Do bicyclists have to ride in the bike lane?

No. bicyclists can use the adjacent travel lanes if they are moving at the speed of traffic. Bicyclists can also use adjacent lanes to pass another vehicle or prepare for a turn.

Q. In a bike lane, people on bikes don't have to think about cars, right?

Wrong. When the bike lane stripe turns into a dotted line, it means motorists can cross the lane to make turns. Bike riders should hold their position in the lane, but be ready to slow down for motorists who don't yield. Also, by law, the person exiting the vehicle must wait before opening a door into traffic. Failure to do so results in significant numbers of injuries every year. Motorists: Please help eliminate these avoidable events by looking for bicyclist in the bike lane first. Cyclists: please ride at least three feet from parked cars.

Q. Why have bike lanes?

Bike lanes make the average person feel safer about biking on city streets. Bike lanes also cut down on weaving, making streets safer for everyone.

Q: May a car or truck park in a bike lane?

No. Currently, City ordinance does not allow vehicles to park in a bike lane. However, commercial and governmental vehicles can stop/stand in a bike lane with flashing lights on.

Q: Will the bike lane affect the traffic patterns or the speed limit on 3rd Avenue?

Not necessarily. The intent of the bike lane is to create order and allow alternate forms of transit to share the road and minimize accidents and injuries.

Q: May I drive in a bike lane?

No. Bike lanes are designated lanes for bicycles only. Motorists may cross a bike lane when turning. Always check for bicyclists and signal before crossing a bike lane.

Q: May I ride my bike on a side walk?

No. According to city ordinance, it is illegal to ride your bike on the sidewalk with the exception of police and emergency personnel. Bicyclists may ride their bikes on multi-use paths that have been designated for use by pedestrians and cyclists.

Q: Do I need to have lights on my bike?

State law requires that bicycles have a front light and rear reflector when riding at night.

Q: How should I pass another bicyclist on a bike lane?

The same traffic rules apply as in a motor vehicle. Check behind and to the left for vehicles. Use hand signals to indicate your intentions. You may warn the other cyclist by using a bell or horn or calling out.

Q: What is the correct way to pass a bicyclist on a shared road?

Keep in mind that bicycles are vehicles too; the same rules apply. Bicyclists have the right to occupy the full lane. When passing a bicyclist, motorists should treat the bicyclist as another motor vehicle on the road, and remember to share the road.

Q: What do I do when a bike lane ends?

Continue to follow your intended route with caution for other vehicles. Ride as far to the right hand side of the street as possible. Bicycles have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles and must obey all traffic laws and signals. It is recommended that bicyclists plan their route utilizing various available bicycle facilities. (See regional bicycle facilities map for information about bike lanes and routes).

Q: What is a bicyclist doing in the left turn lane?

Similar to other vehicles, bicyclists use the left turn lane to make a left turn. Bicyclists too must signal their intentions prior to turning.

Q: What do I do at a four-way stop?

Both bicyclists and motorists must follow standard traffic laws and stop. The first vehicle, bicycle or automobile, to arrive at intersection on your right has the right-of way.