

SEPARATED BIKE LANE FAQs



- *What's Up With Those Green Markings?*

Something looks really different about the recently installed Klamath Falls bike lane that most motorists and cyclists have not seen or experienced in our community. Bike lanes help cars and motorists co-exist safely. Separated/buffered bike lanes, which is the first type of this bike lane in Klamath Falls, is another level of safety up from a conventional bike lane.

The City of Klamath Falls recently finished installing new pedestrian and bicycling safety features on Oregon Avenue down through 9th Street that extend into the Downtown. We've received many questions about what the "green paint patches" on the street mean and how do motorists and cyclists navigate these new lane marking features. We will begin by explaining the purpose of the separated/buffered bike lane and how to use it, along with the new pedestrian safety crossings.

- *What are the green patches?*

The green patch indicates "Watch out! A bike could cross here." Technically, the green patches are called "conflict points" which are designated areas where bicyclists and motorists may meet during travel, and therefore both should exercise heightened awareness about the possible presence of one another.



Rule: Yield to bicyclist. When turning, motorists need to yield to bicyclists going straight.

Remember bicyclists need to stop at all traffic lights and stop signs.

- *What's the difference between a conventional and separated bike lane?*

Separated bike lanes have striped lines and a barrier between the vehicle travel lane and the bike lane - as you can see, they “buffer” the bike riders from auto traffic.



- *What are those white things? Do they take them away in the wintertime?*

The new separated bike lane has been marked by the telltale sign of those white plastic “thingies.” So what are they? The white plastic bollards, called “flexible delineators” are the quickest, most affordable kind of separated bike lane. The delineators are just that, delineators; an above-ground marking that draws increased attention to the buffer strip. (And yes, we take them down in the wintertime.) In winter months the white separators are removed to allow for snow plowing and the bike lane then provides a storage area for plowed snow storage. These delineators are important as they provide separation between you and moving cars. It’s as simple as that. People feel intimidated by cars moving past them, and to have that separation provides a lot of comfort. Especially if you want to ride with families and kids and you don’t feel safe. Separated bike lanes would enable more of that riding for transportation, with parents taking their kids to school or going out for dinner or things like that.



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