



What is purpose of the new symbols painted on Route 35 and what do they mean?

The symbols are officially called “shared lane pavement markings” but are more commonly called “sharrows,” an acronym combining “sharing the road” and “arrows.” The sharrows are bicycle symbols carefully placed to guide bicyclist to the best location to ride on the road, avoid car doors and alert motorists to the presence of bicyclists.

Do the sharrows designate a formal lane for bikers only?

No. Unlike bicycle lanes, shared lane markings do not designate a particular part of the street for the exclusive use of bicyclists. They are simply a marking used on streets to remind motorists and bicyclists that they share the lane, guide bicyclists' position in the travel lane and indicate the appropriate direction to bike, and encourage motorists to safely pass bicyclists.

Who put up the sharrows and why are they in Bay Head?

The New Jersey Department of Transportation has incorporated bike lanes, sharrows, and other additional related signage during the reconstruction of Route 35 following Hurricane Sandy. The Route 35 repair work is also part of a comprehensive project to provide a 238-mile bike route throughout the state, including through the Jersey shore. All shore communities are participating in this project and have (or will soon have) similar markings and/or signage. The bike route extends through Point Pleasant Beach, Bay Head, and Mantoloking along Route 35 and continues south to Island Beach State Park.

Since Bay Head has two-sided parking along Route 35, there is not adequate space to add a formal bike lane on the highway without eliminating parking spaces. As an alternative, the DOT mandated that sharrows be implemented so that parking could be retained on both sides while still providing improved safety and transit for bicyclists.

Please refer to the diagram on the next page to better understand the relationship between bike lanes, the side-of-road parking areas, and sharrows.

Why are there so many sharrows in Bay Head?

As a safety and design guideline, sharrows are placed at each road intersecting the highway so that any motorist or bicyclist turning onto Route 35, in either direction, is immediately alerted that bikers may be present in the travel lane and that the road must be shared. Since there are so many cross-streets into Route 35 in Bay Head, there are a large number of sharrows.

What do shared lane markings mean for motorists and bicyclists?

For Motorists:

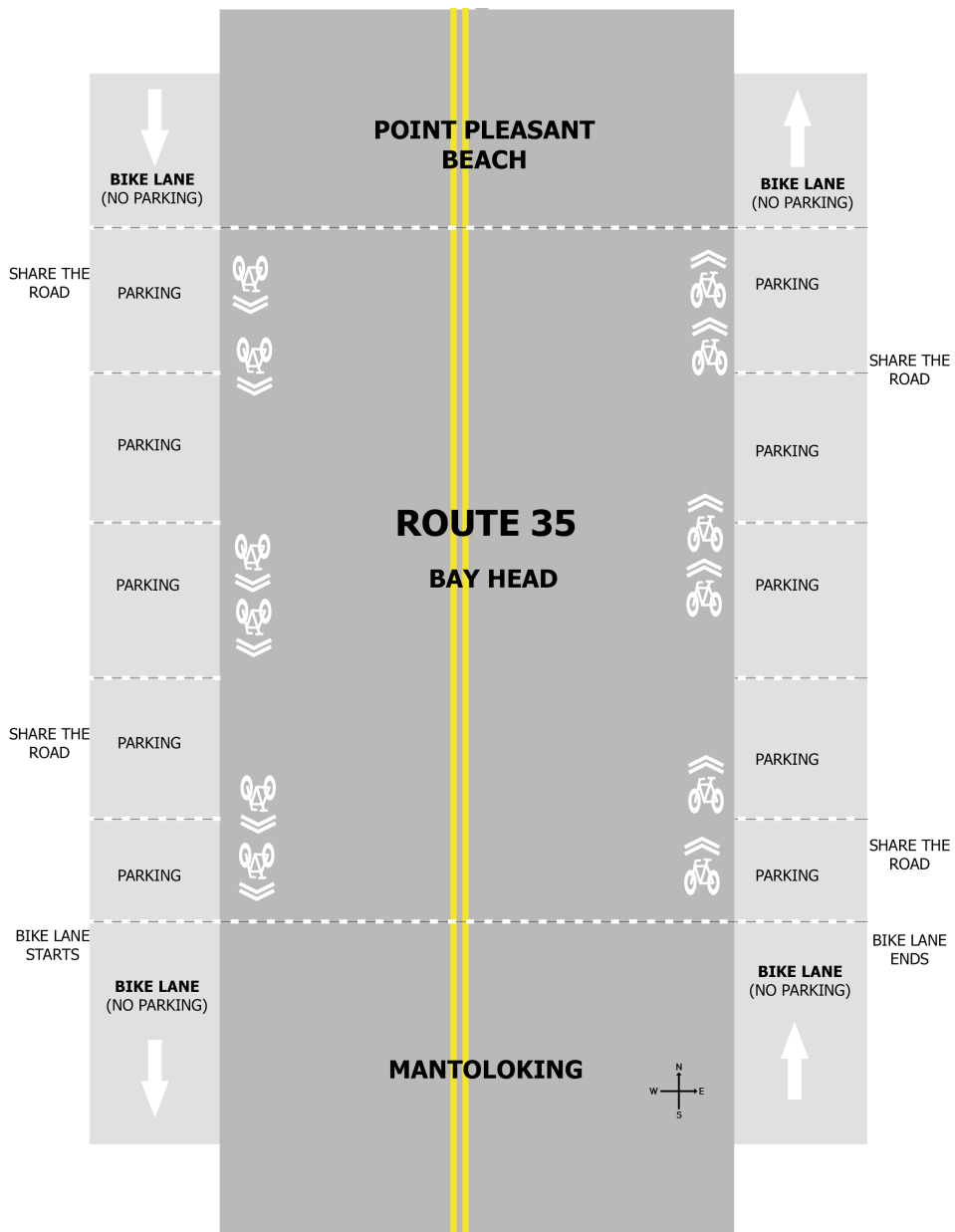
- Expect to see bicyclists on the street in the travel lane
- Remember to give bicyclists three feet of space when passing
- If the lane is too narrow, wait until the lane widens or until it is safe to change lanes before passing

For Bicyclists:

- Use the shared lane marking to guide where you ride within the lane
- Remember not to ride too close to parked cars
- Ride with the flow of traffic

Bicyclists and motorists already have a right to use our streets, and both have a responsibility to follow the rules of the road.

DIAGRAM



DISCLAIMER

This document is published as a public service to provide basic introductory information regarding sharrows and their implementation in Bay Head. We have taken care to ensure the accuracy of the information but make no representation that this information is error-free.