**Shared Lane Markings (Sharrows), Bicycles May Use Full Lane signs and Bike Lanes**

**Markings and Signs**

The City of Morgantown is placing Shared Lane Markings (sharrows) and Bicycles May Use Full Lane signs on local roadways whose lanes are too narrow for bicyclists and motorists to travel safely side-by-side within the lane. They

1. Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in a shared lane with on-street parallel parking in order to reduce the chance of a bicyclist's impacting the open door of a parked vehicle,
2. Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in lanes that are too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane,
3. Alert road users to the lateral location that bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way,
4. Encourage safe passing of bicyclists by motorists, and
5. Reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.

Markings and signs are placed especially in advance of blind curves and blind hillcrests that prevent motorists from seeing cyclists ahead and on climbs where cyclists must travel slower than the speed limit.



**Bike Lanes**

A bike lane is a portion of the roadway designated for preferential use by bicyclists. The City is installing bike lanes on streets that are critical connectors for bicyclists, where traffic volume is high and where motor vehicle speeds are much higher than bicycle speeds. Bike lanes are particularly useful as “climbing lanes”.

Whereas bicyclists may use the full travel lane on shared lanes that include most Morgantown streets, bike lanes segregate bicyclists from motor vehicles. Bicyclists may leave a bike lane to pass other bicyclists, make left turns or right turns, avoid cracks, holes, debris or other objects, or to pass busses or other vehicles stopped in the bike lane.

**Bicyclist Rights and Duties**

Bicyclists have the same rights to use the roads as motorists and have the same duties. WV code 17C-11-2 and Morgantown ordinance 373.02 state, “Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this Traffic Code, except as to special regulations in this article and except as to those provisions of this Traffic Code which by their nature can have no application.”

**Passing Bicyclists**

Change lanes to pass a bicyclist just as you would to pass any other slow moving vehicle. WV code 17-C-3 states, “The driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle traveling in the same direction shall pass to the left of the bicycle at a distance of not less than three feet at a careful and reduced speed, and may not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken bicycle.”

**Federally Approved**

The City is installing Shared Lane Markings, Bicycles May Use Full Lane signs and Bike Lanes in accordance with the Federal Highway Safety Administration Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the FHWA Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities.

**Grant Funded**

In 2016, the City received a ???-dollar grant for markings and signs. The City is installing the sharrows, signs and bike lanes on newly paved streets. While funding for city street paving is covered by the service fee, a federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant administered by the state is providing funding for the sharrows, signs and bike lanes.

**Complete Streets**

The City of Morgantown as well as Monongalia County and even the State of West Virginia have official Complete Streets policies. A Complete Street safely serves the mobility needs of all users including children, elderly, disabled, pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

**Local Organization**

Morgantown is governed by City Council. The City employs a City Manager that runs the City. He employs and manages staff in departments such as Engineering and Public Works that manage the City streets using City staff and contractors.

City Council established the Morgantown Municipal Bicycle Board in 2006 to advise the City on making the City a bicycle friendly community. The Bicycle Board initiated the Sharrow project in 2007.

**Scope**

The markings, signs and bike lanes are currently being installed on City maintained streets. Many Morgantown streets are controlled by the WVDOH. The Morgantown Bicycle Plan includes installing markings, signs and bike lanes on State maintained streets but an agreement with WVDOH to install them is still in process.