

A photograph of three cyclists riding on a paved path, overlaid with a green tint. The lead cyclist is a man in a helmet and jacket, followed by two children also wearing helmets. The background shows trees and a house.

RVA BIKEWAYS

A user guide for people on bikes and in cars

A note from the Bike Walk RVA team:

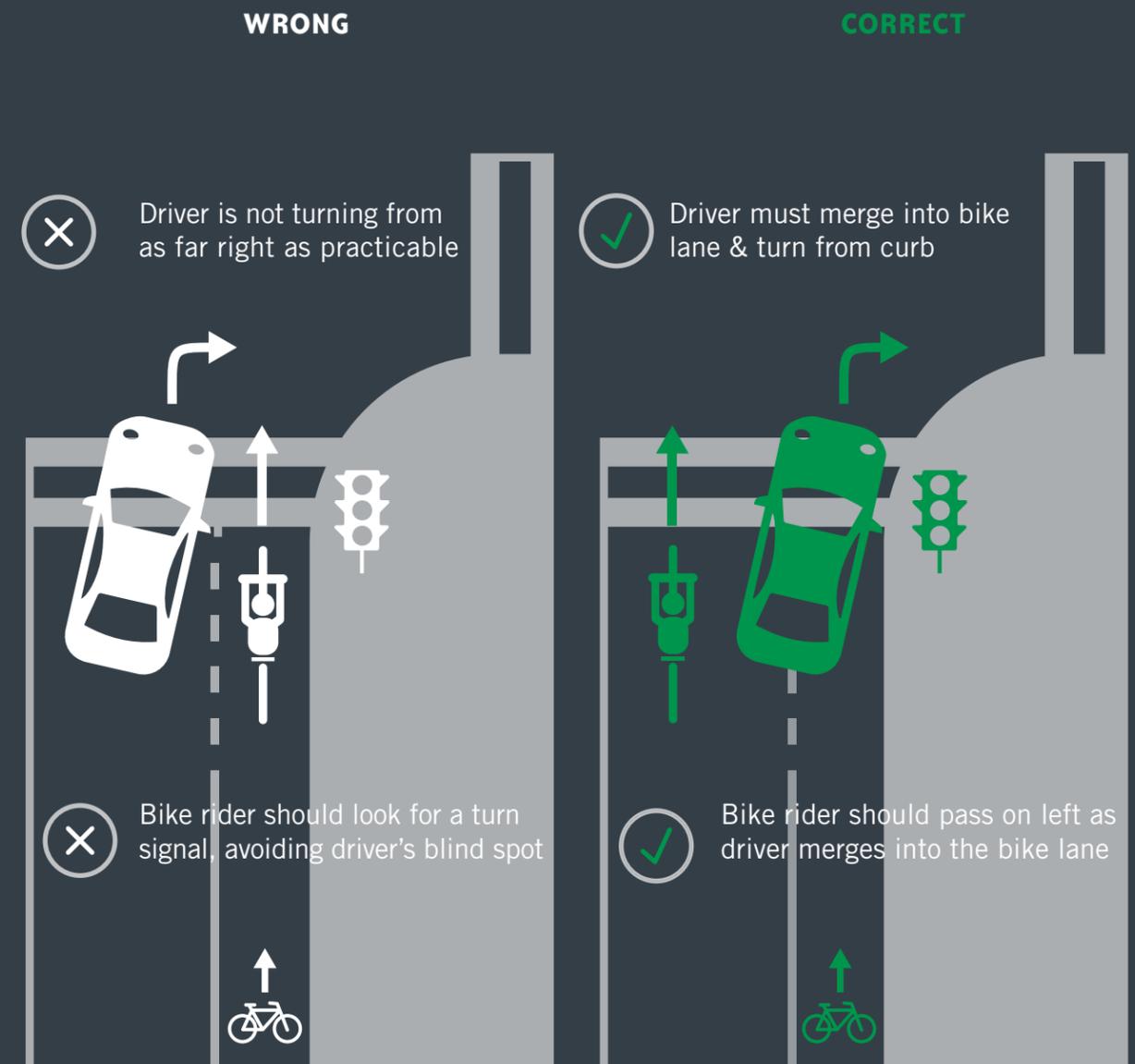
Greater Richmond is seeing a lot more bikeways popping up on and along our roadways. Some of these bikeways are brand new to the region, while some have been here for years. Bike Walk RVA (a program of Sports Backers) has identified a need to help educate Richmond region residents on what these changes mean – both for people who ride bicycles and for people who drive cars.

The purpose of this guide is to illustrate exactly what the various bikeway types are that we currently have on the ground, as well as some that we may be seeing in the near future. It names and describes the facility type, as well as provides a short explanation on the preferred and legal behavior for people who need to travel on or around these bikeways.

When you are finished with this guide, please pass it on to a friend or neighbor who might also benefit from it. Thank you!

RIGHT TURNS AND BIKE LANES

According to the Code of Virginia § 46.2-846





SHARED LANE MARKING (AKA SHARROW)



What is it?

A marking to indicate a shared travel lane for people riding bikes and driving vehicles that also provides directional guidance.



How should people riding bikes use them?

Ride over top of the sharrow for best lane positioning and visibility, and remember to stay clear of the “door zone.”



What can people driving vehicles expect?

Expect to see people riding bikes sharing the lane with you! Make sure to wait for a safe place to pass with plenty of space (Virginia law requires at least three feet).



BIKE-WALK STREET/NEIGHBORHOOD BYWAY (AKA BIKE BOULEVARD)



What is it?

A neighborhood street optimized for the convenience and comfort of people walking and riding bicycles. Bike-walk streets are built to slow vehicle speeds and to discourage cut-through vehicle traffic from outside the neighborhood.



How should people riding bikes use them?

Enjoy the relaxed feel of this quiet and shared street. You won't have to stop every block or mix with lots of vehicle traffic.

People walking can also enjoy easy street crossings.



What can people driving vehicles expect?

You'll be able to access every block of this street by vehicle, but you might not be able to drive from end to end. There will be lots of slow speed road users, so proceed cautiously and choose another route if your destination isn't on this street.



STANDARD BIKE LANE



What is it?

A dedicated lane for people riding bikes separated from motor vehicle traffic.



How should people riding bikes use them?

Ride in comfort several feet from moving vehicles. Watch out for motor vehicles turning right and opening doors. You can ride outside of the bike lane when turning or if bike lane is blocked.



What can people driving vehicles expect?

You are required to merge into the bike lane to make a right turn and are required to treat the merge just like any other lane, yielding to any bike traffic in the lane. Follow these rules when moving across the bike lane to access on-street parking as well. Never drive or park in a bike lane.



GREEN PAINT IN BIKE LANE



What is it?

Paint that highlights conflict areas where people driving vehicles might need to merge through the bike lane to turn, alerting them that people riding bikes may be there.



How should people riding bikes use them?

Proceed like you would in a normal bike lane, but be aware that people driving vehicles, who should yield to you, might need to cross over the bike lane.



What can people driving vehicles expect?

There might be a person riding a bike there! People driving vehicles should yield to people riding bikes when crossing the bike lane.



CONTRA-FLOW BIKE LANE



What is it?

A bike lane on a one-way street that proceeds in the opposite direction of vehicle traffic.



How should people riding bikes use them?

Ride like any standard bike lane, but enjoy the convenience of a more direct path to your destination. Be aware when turning or proceeding through intersections, as vehicles may not expect or register your presence as quickly.



What can people driving vehicles expect?

You'll see people riding bikes coming your way. It's okay! Just stick to your lane.



BUFFERED BIKE LANE



PROTECTED BIKE LANE (AKA CYCLE TRACK)



What is it?

A bike lane with additional space between people riding bikes and motor vehicle traffic identified by a wide, painted area.



How should people riding bikes use them?

Ride like any standard bike lane, but enjoy more space and comfort by being separated from moving vehicles.



What can people driving vehicles expect?

You'll be farther away from people riding in the bike lane, but nothing else changes. Don't drive on the painted buffer or in the bike lane, as it is dangerous and illegal.



What is it?

Protected bike lanes are buffered bike lanes that also have a physical barrier such as posts, curbs, or parked vehicles between the bike lane and vehicle travel lane.



How should people riding bikes use them?

Enjoy like any bike lane, but be aware of activity on the other side of the barrier, especially vehicle traffic at intersections. Drivers may not see you at intersections and turn across your path. Protected bike lanes are designed to facilitate good sightlines at intersections.



What can people driving vehicles expect?

These lanes are often seen on higher speed, higher volume roads. Make sure to turn with caution, watching for people riding bikes.



PAVED SHARED-USE PATH



What is it?

A separated shared-use path for people riding bikes, walking, roller-skating, and many other non-motorized ways of traveling. Most people will feel comfortable walking or biking on these paths.



How should people riding bikes use them?

Stay to the right and yield to people walking. Pass cautiously. Be alert for vehicles that may cross the path at driveways and intersections.



What can people driving vehicles expect?

Motor vehicle traffic is prohibited from these paths. Cross them cautiously and be alert for riders and walkers at crossings, intersections, and areas where people are gathering.

A PROGRAM OF SPORTS BACKERS



Bike Walk RVA was created by Sports Backers to advocate for comfortable and connected places to bike and walk for people of all ages and abilities in greater Richmond. Biking and walking for everyday transportation should be accessible to everyone.

THANK YOU!



This project was funded by the Virginia Highway Safety Office.

sportsbackers.org/program/bikewalkrva