Separated Bike Lanes

What is a separated bike lane?

A separated bike lane is a lane on a road located next to the kerb and separated from vehicles by a wide buffer. It is dedicated for the sole use of people riding bicycles.

The intent of separated bike lanes is to provide a safer and more enjoyable experience for people riding bicycles.

How should I travel around separated bike lanes?

Riding a bike

A bike rider must not pass or overtake on the left of any vehicle that is indicating to turn left and turning. A bike rider may pass or overtake a vehicle on the left when the vehicle is indicating to turn left but is stationary.

Slower riders should keep to the left of a separated bike lane to allow faster riders to pass.

In some instances, points where other road users are likely to cross the bike lane are coloured green to alert all road users to the potential for interaction.

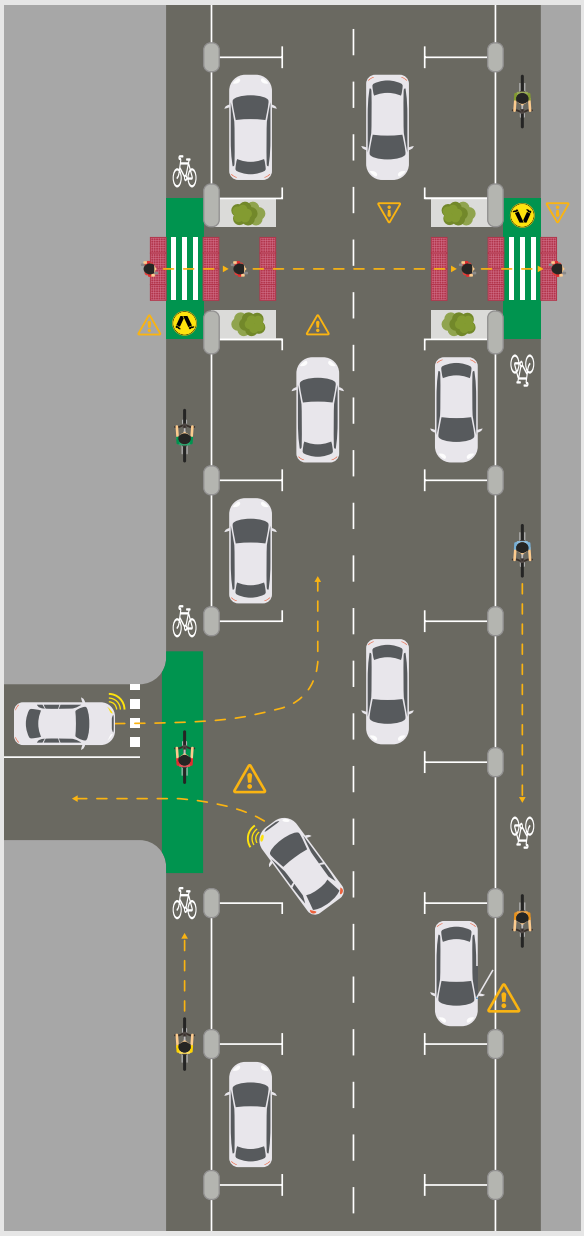
Remember, when riding a bike you need to give way to people crossing the road at zebra crossings or walking across the road that you are entering.

Walking

Separated bike lanes can have subtle variations in design, so it's a good idea to identify your path across the road before you start to cross. Make use of dedicated pedestrian infrastructure where it is available.

As with any walking movement, look first before setting foot off of the footpath. Look right for bike riders before crossing the bikeway to reach the island or refuge, then look right and left for traffic before crossing the road to the other island or refuge. Then, look again for bike riders before crossing to the footpath.

Keep in mind that people riding bicycles can, in some environments, travel at speeds similar to the surrounding traffic. At intersections, people driving and riding bicycles must give way to people walking across the road that they are entering.



Driving

When turning left across a bike lane (whether separated or not), drivers must first give way to any bike rider travelling in the bike lane. Drivers must not overtake and then turn left across a bike rider's path without due care and consideration to the movement and safety of the rider.

When turning right at an intersection, you should give way to all oncoming road users irrespective of their mode of transport or the lane that they are travelling in.

At intersections, people driving and riding bicycles must give way to people walking across the road that they are entering.

When turning out of a side street and into a road with a bike lane (whether separated or not), wait at the give-way line and give way to approaching bike riders and other road users before turning.

Parking

You should always park in the designated parking spaces.

Please ensure car occupants use their mirrors and that any kerb side doors are opened with care. As with any other circumstance, assist children exiting from vehicles alongside separated bike lanes.

Whether they are walking, riding a bike or driving, all road users are people with differing levels of physical protection. All of us are obligated to use the roads according to the relevant laws and to conduct ourselves in a safe and responsible manner. And, no matter how you're getting around, it's always a good thing to acknowledge your fellow road users and to be courteous to one another – it all adds up to increased awareness and a safer environment for everyone.

For more information on bike riding, road rules and safety visit www.sa.gov.au/cycling
To plan your bike journey, use the Cycle Instead Journey Planner at www.cycleinstead.com.au

Government of South Australia
Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure