

GREEN IS FOR BIKES!

Understanding the GREEN bike lanes in Concord

The City of Concord continues to embrace a bold vision of a community where bicycling, walking, and driving serve the transportation needs of residents and visitors.

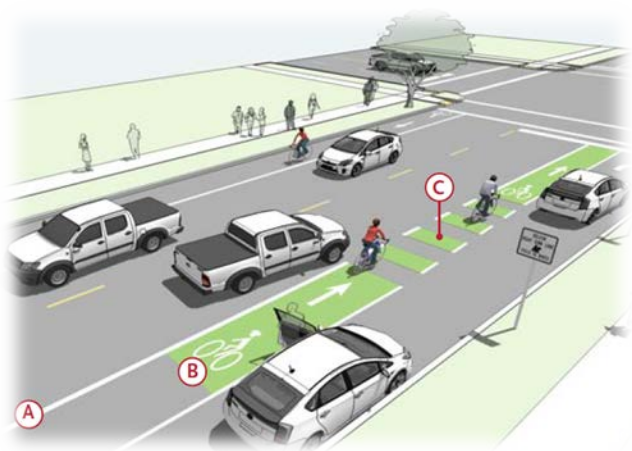
The latest safety features of the Downtown Concord Bicycle Lane Improvements Projects are the newly-installed GREEN BIKE LANES and GREEN BIKE BOXES in the downtown area. These features are intended to safely connect the downtown area to BART and other transit.

So, how do you navigate these new GREEN bike facilities?

GREEN BIKE LANES

Existing bicycle lanes now have green-colored pavement **(B)** within the white bicycle lane **(A)** to indicate “bicycle use only”. The bright, green color is meant to increase the visibility of cyclists using bike lanes.

Dashed, green-colored pavement **(C)** indicates where vehicles are allowed to cautiously use the bicycle lane to make a right turn. Bicycles have priority in these dashed, green-colored areas. Vehicles and cyclists should travel with added caution through the dashed areas.



GREEN BIKE BOXES

A bike box **(A)** connected to a white bicycle lane **(C)** is a designated, green-colored area at a signalized intersection at the head of the traffic lane.

There are three locations: Grant Street @ Willow Pass Road, Grant Street @ Concord Boulevard and Grant Street @ Clayton Road.

The bike box is designed to provide a cyclist with a safe and visible space in front of waiting traffic during the red signal phase of the traffic light.

These brightly-colored, green boxes are equipped to trigger the traffic lights by the weight of a bicycle.

By being inside the bike box, cyclists are allowed to clear the intersection ahead of traffic once the light turns green.

Vehicles are required to wait behind the white stop line **(B)** at the rear of the bike box and are not allowed to make a right turn during a red light.



GREEN Bike Lanes FAQs

1. Are cars allowed to drive on or over green bike lanes or bike boxes?

Cars cannot use the green bike lane as a travel lane; the green lanes designate safe areas for cyclists. The white traffic paint bordering the bike lane is the enforceable traffic marking. Vehicles are required to wait behind the white stop line at the rear of the bike box and are not allowed to make a right turn during a red light.

2. What do the dashed green lanes mean?

The dashed green lanes are areas where cars and bikes are intended to cross paths. Typically this occurs where the bike lane goes straight and there is a dedicated right turn or dedicated merge lane for vehicles. The green bike lanes are intended to draw the attention of both cyclists and drivers to the potential conflict area.

3. How do I make a right turn in a car when there is a green bike lane?

Once the white line that accompanies the green bike lane becomes dashed, using your turn signal, identify your intent. When safe to do so, move over toward the curb on top of the green bike lane. This will alert bicyclists to your intent and keep them from passing on the right. Bicyclists should queue in line with vehicles. If a bicyclist is stopped and intends to go straight at the intersection, the vehicle should wait a safe distance behind the bicyclist.

4. What are green bike lanes made out of?

The City is utilizing thermoplastic, which is often used for traffic markings in high travel areas. Thermoplastic is a durable, functional and cost-effective type of plastic made from polymer resins that becomes a homogenized liquid when heated and hard when cooled. The City did evaluate a painted surface, and determined that paint is not as durable as other surfaces.

5. Why green? And why so bright?

Green is the accepted standard color for bicycle lanes because it provides for minimal confusion with other colors. For example, red means no parking and blue signifies accessible parking. The bright green color clearly calls attention to the area and encourages drivers to use extra caution. Green lanes also help organize traffic on the road, and encourage bicyclists to position themselves more accurately as they travel across intersections.

6. Will more bike lanes start appearing?

Additional green bike lanes may be installed in strategic locations, for which the City of Concord's [Bicycle, Pedestrian and Safe Routes to Transit Plan](#) will serve as a blueprint to help develop a transportation network that meets the needs of all users — pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit patrons, as well as motorists — fulfilling the City's commitment to Complete Streets.

The City will continue to evaluate the green markings for effectiveness, public reaction, and maintainability.