B.C. Community ROAD SAFETY TOOLKIT

Module 1: Protecting people walking and cycling

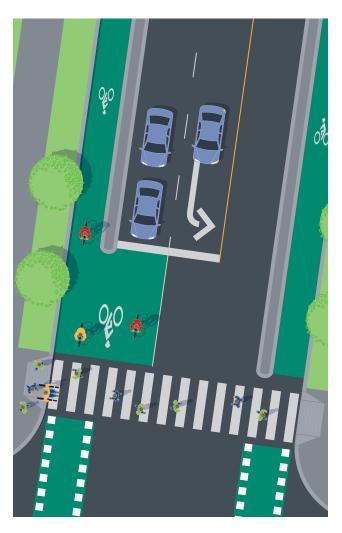
Coloured Bicycle Lanes

Description

In North America, green or blue pavement colouring has been used to define bicycle lane treatments, bicycle boxes (page 19), or locations where bicycle lanes cross intersections. Changes in colour or vivid paint patterns can also be used to draw more attention to specific locations where cyclist movements interact with motor vehicle traffic, for example in front of driveways or where drivers need to move into a dedicated right-turn lane. White stencils and pavement arrow markings help to reinforce the proper use of these facilities.

How it Works

Coloured bicycle lanes increase the visibility of the lane to drivers, highlight the presence of cyclists and reinforce the right-of-way for cyclists. Coloured bicycle lanes have also been shown to increase the number of cyclists who follow the delineated paths.



Studies have shown that:

 Coloured bicycle lane treatments can improve the number of drivers yielding to cyclists by 12 to 20%.

Best results occur when:

- Coloured bicycle lanes are used in conjunction with high-friction, skid-resistant pavement materials; and
- They are used on relatively calm, lower-speed roads. Where speeds and vehicle volumes are high, cycling facilities should be completely separated from adjacent motor vehicle traffic through the installation of protected and connected bicycle lanes (page 12).