Class 3 - Small Streets

• Small City Streets are typically slower moving traffic. Usually have enough lane width to ride to the right or low traffic.

• Lane Positioning

• Changing Lanes

• Drill: Scanning (Looking Behind)
Lane Positioning Rule

• Basic Principle of “Slower traffic to the right” still applies, but we amplify it for understanding

• **Wide Lane rule**
  - Ride 3-5 feet to the right of traffic.
  - Not within range of parked car doors or other hazards.
  - Not against the right curb if not in the range of vision of motorists entering the roadway. (insert drawing)

• **Narrow Lane Rule**
  - “Narrow:” When there is no room for both car and you in the same lane.
  - Ride in the middle of the lane or in the right-hand tire path.
  - Ride a consistent path - don’t swerve in and out.
Changing Lanes

• **Basic Principle:** Yield when changing lanes.
  - Drivers who want to move laterally must yield to traffic in the new lane.
  - Move only after looking to see that no traffic is coming.
  - Important to apply this to bicycle traffic as well as cars.

• **Look, then Signal, then Move.**
  - Look even if you use a mirror. It communicates *intent*!
  - Act carefully, smoothly, and deliberately.

• **Transition from Wide Lane to Narrow**
  - Treat as a lane change - perform a yield.
  - Narrow to Wide transition is trivial
    • But what should you do if you’re in a group?
Some Lane Notes

- A road can be narrower than it looks
  - Parked Cars
  - Regular hazards (example - planters on Willow)
  - Continuous junk

- Ride a consistent path - don’t swerve in and out.
  - Every time you make a sudden change in your path, you should treat it as a lane change

- You’re in a lane already (and it’s different from the one the cars are in)
  - Your lane just isn’t marked.
  - When you want the traffic lane, execute a lane change.

- Attitude and Response
  - Be assertive but polite. I sometimes give a friendly wave when I’m done taking the lane.
  - Can’t make all the people happy all the time.
Drill: Looking Behind

• Like one-handed riding, it’s important to your Safety to be able to do this comfortably.

• Reasons
  - Making a turn
  - Changing Lanes
  - Riding in a group and changing position

• Method
  - Check in front of you that you don’t run into something.
  - Start with short glimpse. Turn back and straighten bike if required.
  - Practice on both sides.
  - Work up to being able to view what’s there.
  - Once you have this down, you’ll use it enough to maintain proficiency

• Tips
  - Drop one hand
  - Mirrors aren’t bad, but you should still look before maneuvering.
    • Shows you what IS there, but doesn’t guarantee it’s clear.
    • Looking also indicates intention to motorists and other cyclists.