

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.