

## Class 3 - Small Streets

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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.