

Improving Bike Lane Safety

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Challenge:

Our groups challenge is that bike lanes are **unsafe and outdated**.



Why's it a Challenge and Who is it Affecting:

- ★ 60% of trips in Sonoma County are **less than 5 miles** in distance
- ★ With more people riding bikes, we would be making a bigger effort toward **reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**
- ★ We should be working towards making errands more safe and accessible for bikes.
- ★ Susan Gorin, Sonoma County District 1 supervisor, says “The number one reason people give for not using their bicycles is that **they don't feel safe on the roads**”



Existing Condition Data:



- Some roads have **no bike lanes** making it **unsafe** and **difficult** to get through these areas.
- Bike lanes intersect with turn lanes

Solutions from Other Areas:

Safest bike lanes include: **physical separations**, an area exclusively for people on bikes, and they're on/or adjacent to the roadway.



A **buffered bike lane** is just a bike lane with a **bigger space** in between the cyclists and the cars but no rising separation element



A **protected bike lane** is an area that is a **clearly designated** space for just bikers that's surrounded by a **physical barrier** to ensure safety.

Which Solution Works for our Area:

- ★ **Protected bike lanes** would be most effective in our area.
- ★ In a survey most people said they **don't feel safe while biking** and they think lanes should be **more defined and better marked.**
- ★ Most effective way to have safer biking: **Signage, bright colors, pole dividers, and parking dividers.**



Short Term Recommendations:



Painting the roads brighter colors



Some kind of barrier in between the 2 lanes

Long term recommendations:



Dedicate a lane/ put up some kind of metal barriers



Cement barriers

Lessons learned:

- ★ The Bike lanes in our area are extremely **unsafe**.
- ★ You should always watch your surroundings.
- ★ **Protected bike lanes** are more efficient for drivers and cyclists.
- ★ People will want to **ride bikes more** if it's safer.



Sources:

<https://www.peopleforbikes.org/reports/protected-bikes-lanes-101>

<https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/lanes-and-sharrows-and-buffers-oh-my-four-types-bike-lanes-explained/1200740/>

<https://www.sonomanews.com/article/news/slow-and-laborious-highway-12-bike-lanes-ken-mattson-pitches-multi-use-p/?artslide=0>