

BICYCLE LANE STUDY UNDERWAY 2011-2012

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (REF) is conducting a study on bicycle lane markings; Cambridge and Chicago are two cities serving as sites for the research, being busy urban areas with many cyclists.

The study will be looking at various bike lane widths on streets with and without on-street parking. The study sites in Cambridge are Massachusetts Avenue between Harvard and Porter Square and Prospect Street between Hampshire Street and Broadway.

The study will evaluate the influence of bike lane widths on how motorists and bicyclists travel on the road and the comfort level of both bicyclists and motorists under various conditions. The study will also look at how markings may help diminish the risk of “dooring,” where motorists parking suddenly open car doors into the path of travel of cyclists.

Most of the line markings that are being used are temporary, and city staff will use information from the study to help determine the preferred solution for the long term.

As part of the study, researchers will be surveying motorists and cyclists about their experiences and perceptions. There is no personal data gathered as part of that study and the responses are completely anonymous. If you are stopped while traveling, we would appreciate your responding, but if you do not want to, just say “no, thank you,” and there will be no pressure.

Study results are anticipated to be available by the fall of 2012.

If you have questions about the study, please feel free to contact Cara Seiderman, cseiderman@cambridgema.gov