

**For Immediate Release**

June 18, 2010

## **City of Columbus and ODOT To Install 188 Bicycle Sharrows On North High Street**

The City of Columbus and Ohio Department of Transportation will begin to install 188 bicycle sharrow pavement markings on North High Street between Nationwide Boulevard and Morse Road beginning Monday, June 21. The sharrows, combined with 54 Share The Road signs installed along the same stretch of High Street in the fall of 2009, are part of the City's Share The Road campaign reminding cyclists and motorists that they, by law, must share the road legally and safely.

**“Our investment in signage, bike racks and other infrastructure is making Columbus streets safer for cyclists and motorists to share the road,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “We want to make Columbus the best bike city in the nation because it is good for our environment and improves our quality of life.”**

Share The Road is built around the four E's: Education; Encouragement, Engineering; and Enforcement. It's the latest step in the City's Bicentennial Bikeways Plan that calls for an additional 31 miles of off-street trails and 58 miles of on-street bike lanes and routes. The city currently has 87 miles of bike routes and trails.

**“These sharrows serve as clear, visible reminders that both bicyclists and motorists have the same right to the road,” said Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee. “Thanks to our partnership with ODOT, Columbus is working to make our streets as safe as possible for everyone.”**

The sharrows are funded through a \$200,000 ODOT highway safety program grant. Like the previously installed Share the Road signs provided by ODOT, this project will help improve safety on High Street, which has one of the highest bicycle crash rates in the city.

**“When we have all of the modes of transportation working safely together, we create a sense of place where people want to live and businesses want to grow,” said ODOT Director Jolene M. Molitoris, who noted that ODOT has invested more than \$118 million in bicycle-specific transportation projects since 2002. “Biking is a critical component of a thriving, healthy, and complete multi-modal transportation system.”**

Sharrow installation, except for the portion of High Street between Lane and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues, will be completed by June 29, weather permitting. Sharrows between Lane and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues will be installed after completion of a resurfacing project schedule for this August on that stretch of High Street.

More information about Share the Road is online at [www.sharetheroadcolumbus.org](http://www.sharetheroadcolumbus.org)

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- ◆ The 188 bicycle sharrow pavement markings and 54 Share The Road signs on North High Street between Nationwide Boulevard and Morse Road are part of the City's Share The Road campaign
  - The sharrows and Share The Road signs remind cyclists and motorists that they, by law, must share the road legally and safely
  
- ◆ Both the bicycle sharrows and Share The Road signs are funded through the Ohio Department of Transportation highway safety program. The signs were provided by ODOT and installed by the City in 2009; the sharrows are being funded through a \$200,000 grant.
  
- ◆ Most of the sharrow installation will be done on High Street between Nationwide Boulevard and Morse Road June 21 – 29, weather permitting
  - Sharrows will be installed on High Street between Lane Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue later this summer following completion of a resurfacing project on that stretch of High Street
  
- ◆ The City of Columbus in 2010 is investing approximately \$10 million in bikeways projects, including:
  - Department of Public Service projects
    - Design of future on-street bikeways projects; the list of projects is yet to be finalized
    - Construction of on-street bikeways projects including bike lanes and shared signed routes
  - Recreation and Parks: 11 projects, more than nine miles of new trails and bikeway improvements:
    - The final 3 miles of trail will be built, completing a 22 mile long Alum Creek Trail greenway between Westerville and Three Creeks Metro Park
    - Two new projects that will add two miles of trail, between the city's near west side and downtown, extending the Scioto Trail
    - Four short neighborhood connectors that will link neighborhoods with the regional trail system
    - A new trail underpass will be built from Miranova, connecting the Scioto Trail with the Scioto Mile park improvements.
    - New cycling improvements to Goodale Street between Olentangy River Road and Michigan Avenue, including access to Harrison West and the Olentangy Trail.
    - Design work on a new downtown pedestrian/bicycle bridge connecting the Arena District, North Bank Park and the west Scioto Trail system