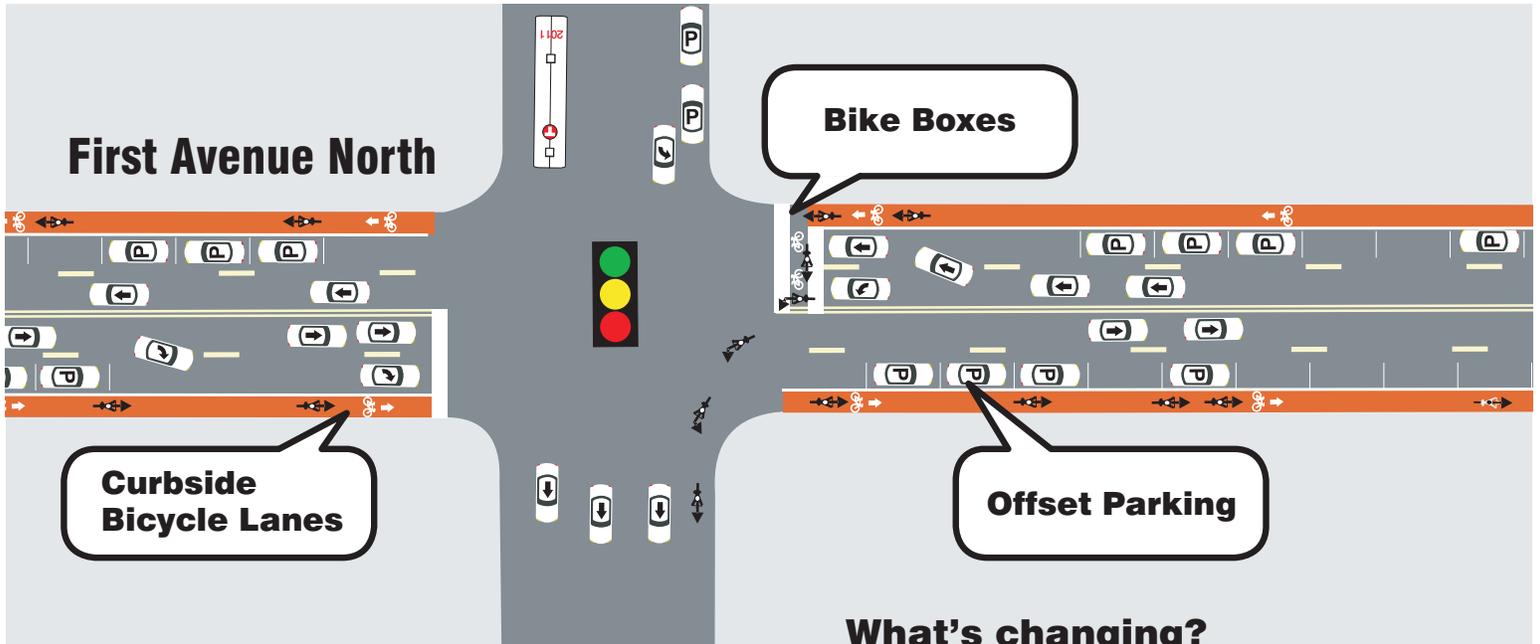


## First Avenue North



**Curbside  
Bicycle Lanes**

**Bike Boxes**

**Offset Parking**

# Hennepin *and* First avenues downtown are changing



*What bicyclists & drivers  
need to know*

## What's changing?

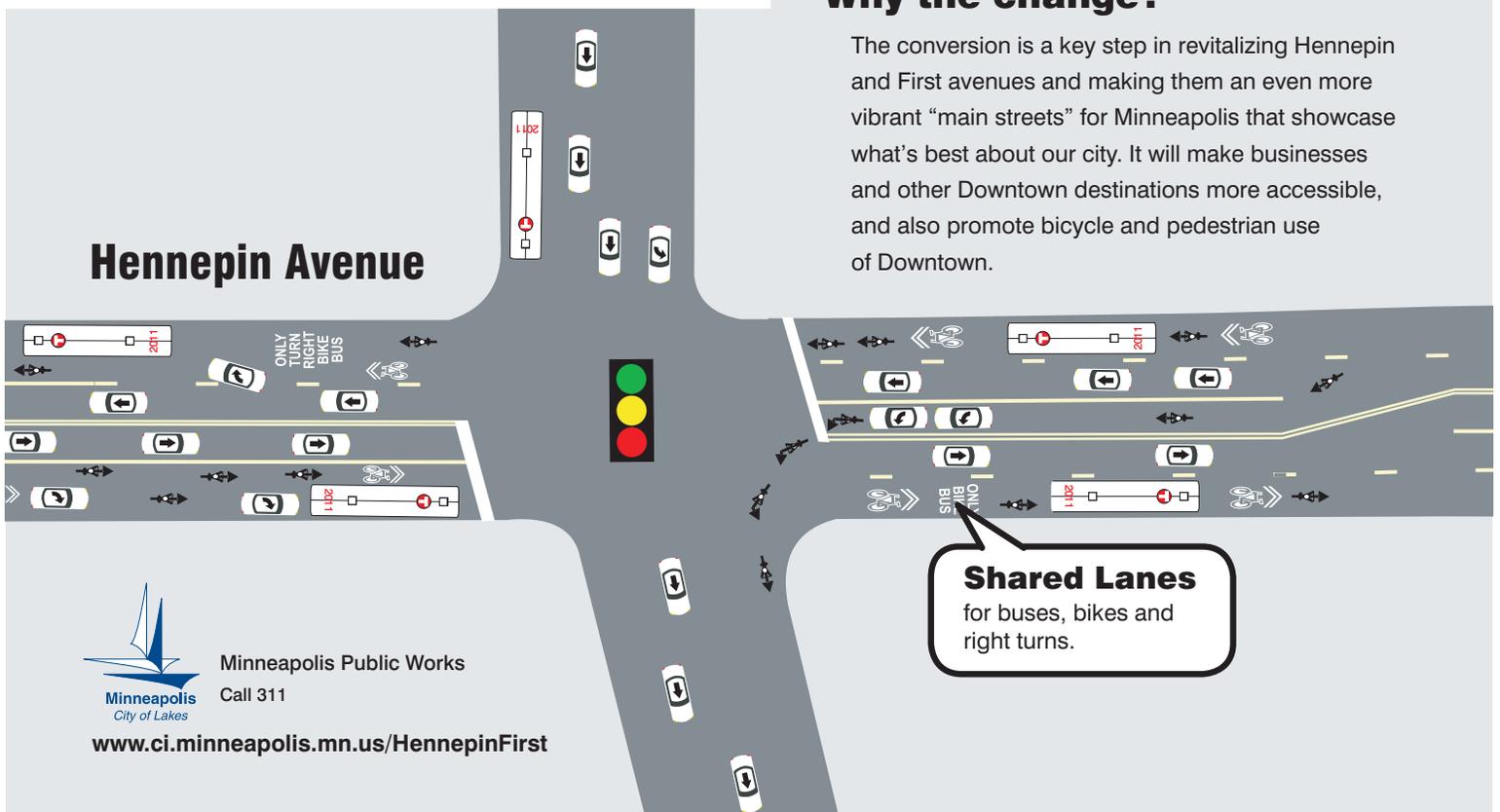
Hennepin and First avenues in downtown Minneapolis are changing from one-way to two-way streets. With this conversion comes three other big changes:

- Bicycle lanes are being added along First Avenue N that will be located between the curb and parallel parking spots.
- Bike boxes are being placed at some intersections along First & Hennepin avenues, making it easier for bicyclists to make left turns.
- A lane shared by bicycles, buses, and right-turning vehicles is going in along Hennepin Avenue.

## Why the change?

The conversion is a key step in revitalizing Hennepin and First avenues and making them an even more vibrant "main streets" for Minneapolis that showcase what's best about our city. It will make businesses and other Downtown destinations more accessible, and also promote bicycle and pedestrian use of Downtown.

## Hennepin Avenue



**Shared Lanes**

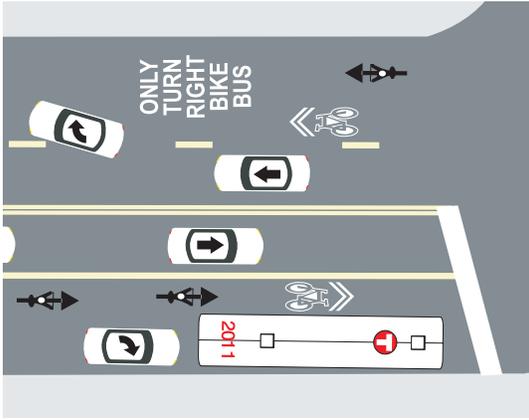
for buses, bikes and  
right turns.



Minneapolis Public Works  
Call 311

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/HennepinFirst](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/HennepinFirst)

## Shared Lane



Shared lanes on Hennepin Avenue are lanes that bicycles, buses, and right-turning vehicles need to share. They are marked with a “sharrow” (see image on right). While bicyclists are encouraged to use the shared lane, they may still use other lanes for moving, passing, and turning.



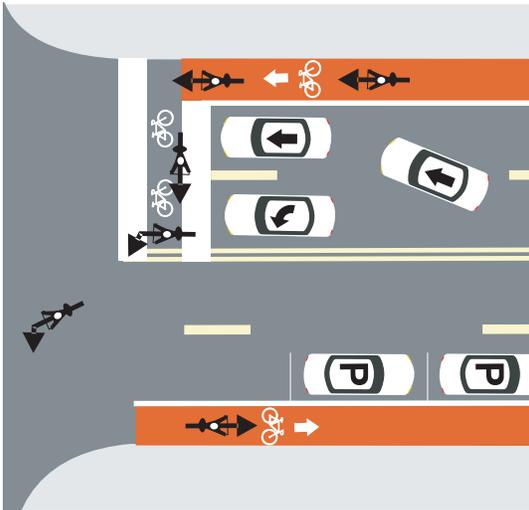
### what DRIVERS need to know

- If you are making a right turn in the combined bus, bicycle, and right-turn lane, expect to see a bicyclist using the entire lane. Be patient and do not pass bicycles unless you can give at least a three-foot clearance (required by Minnesota law).

### what BICYCLISTS need to know

- Other vehicles may occupy the shared lane, so exercise patience and wait if there is not enough space to safely pass a stopped vehicle ahead of you. Use heightened awareness around buses.

## Bike Boxes



At some intersections along Hennepin and First avenues, there will be 10 foot deep bike boxes between crosswalks and the lines drivers need to stop at when the lights are red. Left-turning bicycles can pull ahead of stopped traffic and wait in the bike boxes for the light to turn green. Drivers are not allowed in bike boxes during yellow and red stoplight phases.

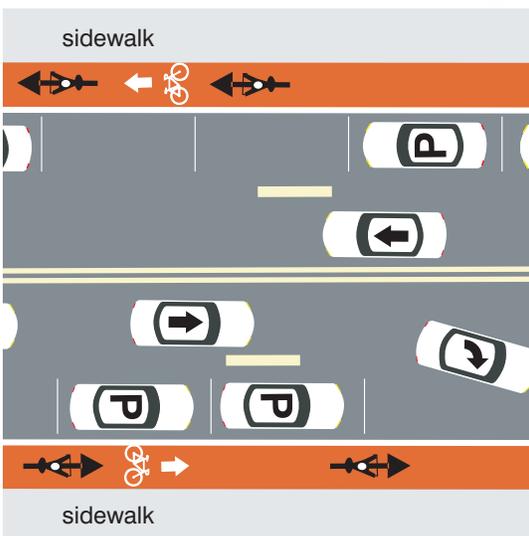
### what DRIVERS need to know

- Do **not** stop in the bike box when lights are yellow or red. Always stop **at** the stop line. When the light turns green, you can enter the bike box only after bicyclists in your lane have made their left turns. Wait behind them until they have safely cleared your lane.

### what BICYCLISTS need to know

- Instead of having to merge across lanes of traffic in advance of a left turn, you can enter a bike box when the traffic signal is yellow or red. Make sure drivers have stopped before you enter the bike box. Move toward the center line and signal your turn. Make your left as soon as the traffic signal turns green and oncoming traffic clears. If the intersection you're approaching has a green light, enter the left lane only after yielding to vehicles and then make your left turn.

## Curbside Bicycle Lane & Offset Parking



Instead of having parallel parking next to the curb along First Avenue, there will be a bike lane between the curb and parked cars. This is a unique way of providing on-street parking that can serve as a driving lane during rush hour and other peak traffic times. During non-peak traffic hours, parked cars will serve as a buffer between drivers and bicyclists.

### what DRIVERS need to know

- Do **not** stop or park along the curb on First Avenue. You can be towed immediately for blocking the bike lane.
- Passengers in your parked vehicle can **only** open their doors if no bicyclists are approaching in the bike lane (this is required by Minnesota law).
- When making right turns at intersections, yield to bicyclists in the bike lane just as you would yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk (also required by Minnesota law).
- Do not park along First Avenue downtown 7 – 9 a.m. and 4 - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights.

### what BICYCLISTS need to know

- Watch for side doors on parked cars opening in your path. Keep a reasonable speed in the curbside bike lanes in case you need to stop quickly.
- Keep your eyes open for right-turning vehicles at intersections. Make sure they are yielding the right-of-way before proceeding through and be prepared to stop if a vehicle turns in front of you.
- When making a left turn where bike boxes are not provided, you may
  - 1) Exit the bike lane at the previous intersection, ride in the general traffic lane, and make your turn as a car would; or
  - 2) Dismount in the bike lane and use the crosswalk.



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