



Buffered bike lanes

Buffered bike lanes use a painted (striped) buffer area to separate the vehicle travel or parking lane from the bike lane. This buffer, usually 2 to 3 feet wide, can provide sufficient separation to improve cyclists' comfort and safety on heavily traveled arterial corridors. Where there is sufficient space within the curb-to-curb area, buffered bike lanes provide a more affordable solution than a shared-use path or a cycle track. They also have the advantage of not presenting any barrier to emergency, delivery, or other irregular traffic. Bike lane buffer areas can be painted between the bike lane and the on-street parallel parking, instead of – or in addition to – the area between the bike lane and the vehicular travel lane, to separate the bike lane from the door zone.

Images (clockwise from main image):

Buffered Bike Lane in Chicago, IL.
Source: Active Transportation Alliance.

Additional examples:
Sources: National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Bike Design Guide; Paul Krueger; Dan Moser.