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Peninsula readers' letters: Aug. 14

From Daily News Group readers

Posted: 08/13/2012

Bicycle boulevards

Dear Editor:

In her Aug. 11 letter, "Sharing Roads," Palo Alto resident Janice Hough makes an excellent suggestion -- that signage be added to Alma Street to indicate the presence of a bicycle boulevard nearby. Such signs would help bicyclists who prefer to ride on bicycle boulevards find them.

The Palo Alto Bicycle Advisory Committee has complained for years that the city lacks good signage for recommended bicycle routes.

In addition, "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" signs and Shared Lane Markings ("sharrows") should also be added to Alma and other high-traffic streets such as Embarcadero Road, Middlefield Road and El Camino Real to advise both bicyclists and motorists that, according to Section 21202 of the California Vehicle Code -- bicycles must ride in the center of the lane on streets without shoulders or bike lanes where the vehicle lane is too narrow to be safely shared by both vehicles and bicycles at the same time.

With such signs and pavement markings, motorists would be more aware of the possible presence of bicycles in the center of the vehicle lane, which is becoming ever more common due to higher rates of bicycling and improving bicyclist safety education.

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