

What's a Bicycle Boulevard?

As defined in the City of Palo Alto's [Comprehensive Plan 2030](#) adopted by City Council on November 13, 2017, a bicycle boulevard is "a low volume through-street where bicycles have priority over automobiles, conflicts between bicycles and automobiles are minimized, and bicycle travel time is reduced by the removal of stop signs and other impediments to bicycle travel." [Palo Alto's Bicycle Network, defined in the 2012 Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan](#) is made of several types of bicycle facilities, including bike lanes, multi-use paths, bike routes, and bicycle boulevards.

How do I drive safely on a bike boulevard?

- Expect people on bikes to be in the travel lane.
- Obey the posted speed limits.
- Pass people on bikes only when it is safe. California law requires three feet of space between you and the bicycle.
- Do not pass a person on a bike if:
 - you are going through narrow areas
 - you would have to cross a double yellow line
 - there is not enough space to pass
 - there is oncoming traffic
- Do not honk at cyclists unless you are warning of imminent danger.



How do I bike safely on a bike boulevard?

- Ride in a straight line in the travel lane so that you are highly visible and out of the "[door zone](#)." The large "Bike Blvd" stencils indicate where you should be positioned in the lane.
- Do not ride on the sidewalk or so far to the curb that you have to swerve back into the travel lane when you encounter a parked car or a curb extension.
- Obey all stop signs and signal your turns.



What about the roundabouts?

- Before approaching the roundabout, **cyclists in a bike lane** should carefully signal and merge into the car lane, making sure to look over their left shoulder for cars. Yield to traffic already in the roundabout. Enter the circle by bearing right and ride in the center of the lane. Do not let cars try to pass or share the lane with you in the roundabout. Young children or cyclists uncomfortable merging into the car lane can use the bike exit ramps leading to the sidewalk, then dismount from their bike, and proceed as a pedestrian.
- Before approaching the roundabout, **Drivers** should not share the approach with a bike. Slow down in advance of the approach and expect bicycles in the bike lane to merge into the car lane before entering the roundabout approach. Yield to oncoming traffic, then proceed right and travel around the circle pictured above. Drive single file. Do not share the lane with bikes.
- **Pedestrians** should cross in the designated crosswalks, using the splitter island as a safe space to wait if cars are approaching.

