

Bus lanes - guide for bus drivers

Bus lanes are being introduced to Wellington city to make riding the bus quicker and more convenient. Bus lanes allow buses to move past banked-up traffic to the "front of the queue". They also allow buses to make pick-ups and drop-offs without disrupting other traffic.

Only buses, cyclists, police and emergency vehicles can use the bus lane during peak traffic times. Outside of peak traffic times the bus lane can be used by motorists and for parking.

Bus lanes will start on Monday 10 June 2002.

Where to find bus lanes?

Bus lanes are being introduced on major roads.

You'll find them on:

- Chaytor Street (Karori) between Curtis Street and the Karori Tunnel
 - this lane is city-bound and will operate at all times.
- Adelaide Road (from King Street) to the Basin Reserve
 - city-bound between 7-9am.*
- Kaiwharawhara Road (from Old Porirua Road) to Hutt Road intersection
 - city bound between 7-9am.*

**outside of these hours these bus lanes will revert to normal kerbside use.*

What else do you need to know?

- Cyclists have unrestricted access to the bus lanes. Please watch out for them.
- Cars are only permitted to enter the bus lanes if they are exiting or entering a side street or driveway (up to 50m on approach or departure).
- No stopping is permitted on bus lanes by any vehicle except for buses.

On the road bus drivers need to know

Cyclists are vulnerable road users and they will be sharing the lane with you. So we ask that bus drivers take care when sharing a bus lane with a cyclist.

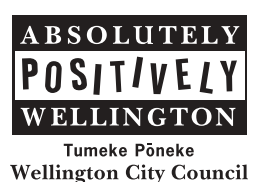
Cyclists have a right to space on the road and the kerbside lane is the safest place for them.

Cyclists sometimes ride away from the kerb, not to annoy drivers but to:

- Avoid drains, potholes and debris
- Be seen as they come to intersections with side roads
- Discourage drivers from squeezing past where the lane is too narrow.

Keep your eyes peeled for cyclists on bus lanes - they may not be as slow as you think - many cyclists move at 30kph or more.

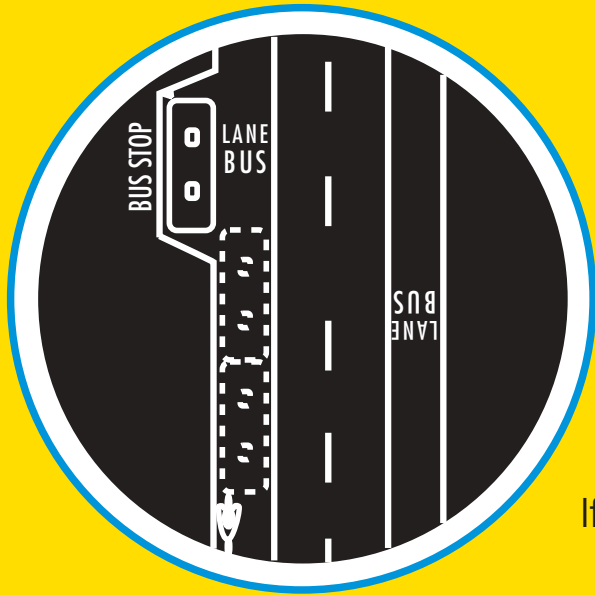
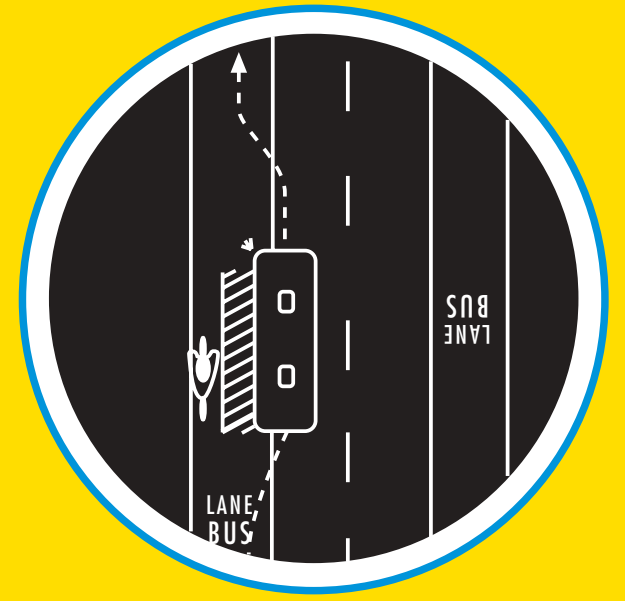
Bus lanes - let's get moving!



1. Passing a cyclist

Pull out of a bus lane to pass a cyclist only if less than one metre can be maintained between your bus and the cyclist.

If the centre lane is blocked by traffic, stay at least four metres behind the cyclist until you can overtake safely.



2. Pulling into bus stops

Don't overtake a cyclist near a bus stop unless your bus will get to the stop well ahead of the cyclist. You should leave sufficient distance to enable the cyclist to move across the lane to pass the bus without making a sudden swerve.

If this is not possible, slow down and let the cyclist ride past the bus stop first.



3. Pulling out of bus stops

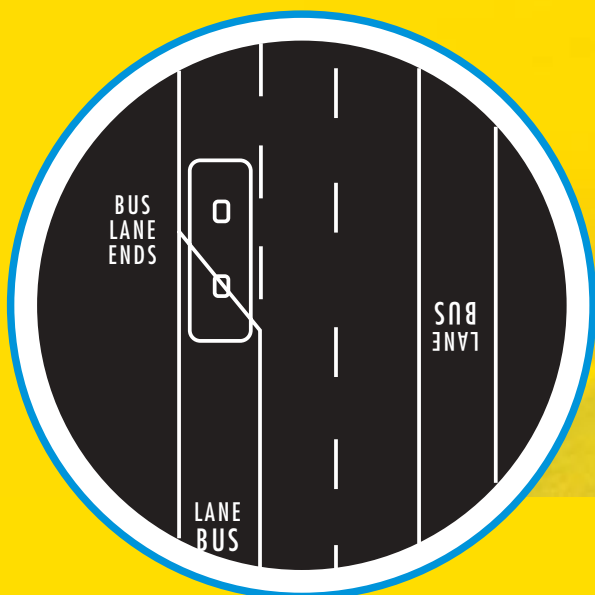
You must indicate your intention to pull out at least three seconds before pulling out (this is law).

Check there are no cyclists overtaking the bus, before pulling out. If you see a cyclist, try and make eye contact so they know you have seen them.



4. Making a left turn

If turning into a side street, take care not to cut in front of cyclists who may be travelling straight ahead at the intersection. The guidelines for approaching bus stops also apply to left hand turns.



5. Merging back into the traffic

Lane continues

Proceed straight ahead. Watch traffic merging from your right.

Lane finishes

Indicate your intention to pull out at least 3 seconds before pulling out. You will need to rely on the courtesy of vehicle drivers to let you back into the traffic queue at peak times.

