

# Fresh New Bike Lanes on Wightman and Beacon in Squirrel Hill

Posted May 07, 2009 by erok under **BikePGH in the News**

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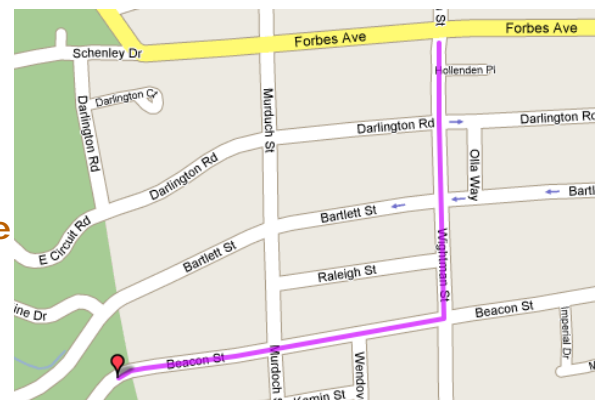
**One lane?? Two lanes?? Bike Lane!!**



## Squirell Hill cyclists rejoice!

The 2009 construction season has begun with the addition of 1.2 more miles of bike lanes to the city-wide bicycle network that's in the works. The City striped Wightman St and Beacon St in the cyclist dense Squirell Hill neighborhood. Both of these streets were notorious for having wide, ambiguous lanes where drivers would sometimes treat it as one lane, sometimes as two, creating confusion for everybody. Bike Pittsburgh recognized this confusion on the popular cycling route, and worked with the City and the **Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator**, Steve Patchan, to add some order to the streets, giving Pittsburgh our second **"Road Diet."** The lanes also have a buffer on the right-side, adding protection from the dreaded "door-zone."

Leading into Schenley Park, Beacon and Wightman are part of the City's initiative to connect the parks via clearly marked and safe bike routes. Beginning long ago with Beechwood Blvd, last year **East Liberty Blvd became the next puzzle piece of the initiative** with the addition of bike lanes to help residents access Highland and Frick Parks more



easily. In addition to ELB, expect future bicycle-friendly treatments on Highland Ave and Forbes Ave.

Cyclists are definitely known as a bunch that likes to use 311 to complain about things.

**Take a moment to call or email the 311 line** to THANK the City for these safety improvements and for taking our concerns seriously. We need this momentum to continue!

**For Drivers:** Bike lanes are restricted use lanes for bicycles only. It is *not legal to drive or park in a bike lane*, even if there are no bicycles present. A police officer can and will ticket you. BikePGH and the City recognize that the appearance of bike lanes is new to Pittsburgh drivers. Be on the lookout for an education campaign this summer that we're developing with the City.

A resident already sent us a message stating that the "new bike lanes in squirrel hill are fantastic. I drive on Wightman and Beacon every day to/from work. Those are dangerous roads for pedestrians and bikes – if a car stops to let someone cross, others behind zip around to pass blind. I've seen a number of close calls. Plus it drives bikes to sidewalk, illegal crossings, etc. which makes it worse. Keeping bikes out of car traffic and preventing blind passing – a win/win."

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**Not a member of Bike Pittsburgh?** Join today! We need you to add your voice! Bike Pittsburgh works to protect cyclist's rights and promote the vision of making Pittsburgh a safer and more enjoyable place to live and to ride. For more info, check out: [www.bike-pgh.org/membership](http://www.bike-pgh.org/membership)

## 6 people have joined in on "Fresh New Bike Lanes on Wightman and Beacon in Squirrel Hill"

abrenner says:

( **May 08, 2009 at 7:40 am** )

Hooray! Looks like paint, not plastic, so are these lanes going to have the same problem as **the Liberty Ave lanes**? ( and now I can't wait for lanes on Forbes between Dallas and Braddock...)

scott says:

( **May 09, 2009 at 12:35 pm** )

They probably will unfortunately. To get the contractors to use thermoplastic it needs to go through a longer process but the city wanted these striped

ASAP. We'll be keeping a close eye on the lanes. If they wear away they'll be restriped using thermo.

**erok** says:

( **May 15, 2009 at 12:45 pm** )

here's a small article in the PG

"Bike-only lanes added in Squirrel Hill"

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09135/970305-53.stm>

**The Bike Pittsburgh Blog Archives » JCC in Squirrel Hill has a sweet new bike rack** says:

( **May 27, 2009 at 4:05 pm** )

[...] Forbes Ave. Squirrel Hill has seen some cycling improvements lately, with the new bike lanes on Wightman and Beacon Streets and new shoulder (and future bike lane) on Forbes Ave to Braddock [...]

**The Bike Pittsburgh Blog Archives » Thanks... and most importantly tell your elected officials!** says:

( **Jul 16, 2009 at 10:21 am** )

[...] weekends ago I was talking to some friends about all the new bike lanes in Pittsburgh and the launch of Car Free Fridays. It was great to see the genuine enthusiasm and excitement [...]

Lyle says:

( **Jul 24, 2009 at 6:53 am** )

"Keeping bikes out of car traffic... a win"

Hm.