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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Coming to a Road Near You: Sharrows Newark Installs Sharrows on East Main Street**

**Newark, DE** (May 10, 2013) – City of Newark began installing “sharrows” on East Main Street, starting at Library Avenue and continuing to the intersection of South Main Street at the Deer Park Tavern. The City hopes to have the project completed by Tuesday, May 14, in time for Newark’s celebration of “Bike to Work Day”.

The use of sharrows on East Main Street is a part of the 2011 Newark Transportation Plan approved by City Council. Under the guidance of the Newark Bicycle Committee, sharrows on Main Street were identified as the top priority short-term improvement. In March 2013, Newark began the process of purchasing sharrows with City funds and will complete installation by May 14.

“The addition of the sharrow markings and education about their use is an important next step in transitioning to a more bicycle friendly community,” says City Manager Carol Houck. “Once we knew of the support for the markings by our own bike committee and DelDOT, it was important for Newark to step up and get them in place in time for our annual Bike to Work event.”

Shared lane pavement markings (or “sharrows”) are bicycle symbols that are placed in the roadway lane to help motorists and cyclists safely share and navigate the street. For motorists, sharrows indicate that they should expect to see bicyclists on the street, remember to give bicyclists three feet of space when passing, and follow the rules of the road as if there were no sharrows. For bicyclists, sharrows show where to be in the road (aligned with the middle of the chevron markings), and indicates the appropriate distance from parked cars.

According to an assessment by the Federal Highway Administration in 2010, “*Evaluation of Shared Lane Markings*”, sharrows have been shown to increase the passing space between motor vehicles and bicyclists and reduce improper bicycle behavior, such as riding on the sidewalk or riding the wrong way on a street.

Unlike bicycle lanes, sharrows do not designate a particular part of the roadway for the use of bicyclists. Sharrows are typically installed on streets popular with bicyclists but too narrow for a bicycle lane such as East Main Street.

## What do sharrows mean for bicyclists and motorists?

### Motorists:

- Expect to see bicyclists on the street
- Remember to give bicyclists three feet of space when passing
- Follow the rules of the road as if there were no sharrows

### Bicyclists:

- Use the sharrow to guide where you ride within the lane
- Remember not to ride too close to parked cars
- Follow the rules of the road as if there were no sharrows

## Questions and Answers

Q. If I see these markings in a lane, is the lane only for bikes?

A. No. This marking is used for shared lanes; lanes that are used by bicyclists and motorists. Shared lanes are different than bike lanes which are set aside for bicyclists and are marked by a solid white line and a different symbol.

Q. Bicyclists riding over this marking will take the entire lane. Aren't they supposed to move to the right?

A. Not always, bicyclists are to stay to the right except to pass other bicyclists or vehicles, to prepare to make a left turn, or when necessary to avoid conditions that make it unsafe to continue along the right.

Q. If I don't see these markings, then it's not a shared lane and bicyclists aren't supposed to be there?

A. No, bicyclists can ride on any street except where specified not to.

*(Photo attached: Alden Cleaver installing sharrows symbol on East Main Street)*

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