

# Common Questions

**Q. Motorists pay for the roads with gas taxes and vehicle registration fees, so why should we pay to put in things like bike lanes?**

**A.** The vast majority of bicyclists own cars and homes. Therefore they pay the same gas taxes, registration fees, and property taxes as most other roadway users.



**Q. Will taking away car lanes to add bike lanes increase traffic congestion?**

**A.** With the existing four/five lane roadway, Emerald and Americana have more traffic capacity than is needed.

Typically, a three-lane facility (two travel lanes with a center turn lane) provides capacity for about 20,000 vehicles per day. Currently, traffic volumes range from 11,000-13,000 cars per day while future traffic volumes are expected to remain below 20,000.

Intersection analysis confirms that traffic operations will also be acceptable in the future.

**Q. Why put in bike lanes for bicyclists when they can ride on the sidewalk?**

**A.** Although it's legal for cyclists to ride on the sidewalk, it's not considered a good practice. Sidewalk riding is a factor in many crashes between bicyclists and motorists in Ada County at driveways and intersections. Pedestrians are also at risk.

