

Share the Road

The best way to educate motorists on bicyclists' rights to the road is to ride respectfully and have facts on your side.
Here are some resources for cyclists and drivers on sharing the road.

Sharing the Road: Cyclists

On the Road:

- > The same laws that apply to motorists apply to cyclists
- > Obey all traffic control devices
- > Use hand signals to indicate stops and turns other users

Always Wear a Properly Fitting Helmet:

- > Wear a helmet, no matter how short the trip

Ride on the Right:

- > Always ride in the same direction as traffic
- > Use the furthest right lane that heads to your destination
- > Slower moving cyclists and motorists stay to the right

Ride Predictably:

- > Ride in a straight line
- > Don't swerve in the road or between parked cars
- > Check for traffic before entering street or intersection
- > Anticipate hazards and adjust your position accordingly

Be Visible:

- > Wear brightly colored clothing that provides contrast
- > Use a white front light in low light conditions
- > Use a red rear light in low light conditions
- > Use a reflector or reflective tape or clothing anytime
- > Announce yourself by making eye contact with motorists

Sharing the Road: Motorists

Drive Cautiously:

- > Reduce speed when encountering cyclists
- > Don't tailgate, especially in bad weather
- > Recognize hazards cyclists may face and give them space

Yield to Cyclists:

- > Bicycles are considered vehicles
- > Cyclists should be given the appropriate right of way
- > Allow extra time for cyclists to traverse intersections

Be Considerate:

- > Scan for cyclists in traffic and at intersections
- > Do not blast your horn in close proximity to cyclists
- > Look for cyclists when opening doors

Pass with Care:

- > When passing, leave four feet between you and a cyclist
- > Wait for safe road and traffic conditions before you pass
- > Check over your shoulder before moving back

Watch for Children:

- > Children on bicycles are often unpredictable
- > Expect the unexpected and slow down
- > Don't expect children to know traffic laws
- > Because of their size children can be harder to see

Traffic Principles

1. Ride on the right

- Always ride with the flow of traffic
- Do not ride on the sidewalk
- Allow yourself room to maneuver around roadway hazards

2. Yield to traffic in busier lanes

- Roads with higher traffic volumes should be given right-of-way
- Always use signals to indicate your intentions to switch lanes
- Look behind you to indicate your desire to move and to make sure that you can

3. Yield to traffic in destination lane

- Traffic in your destination lane has the right-of-way
- Making eye contact with drivers lets them know that you see them
- Signal and make your lane change early, before you need to

4. Directional Positioning

- Position yourself in the right-most lane that goes in the direction of your destination
- Ride in the right third of the lane
- Avoid being overtaken in narrow-lane situations by riding in the right third of the lane

5. Speed Positioning

- Position yourself relative to the speed of other traffic
- Left-most lane is for fastest moving traffic, right-most for slower traffic
- Yield to faster moving vehicles by staying to the right in the lane