

Idaho Driver Education and Training

Strategies for Sharing the Road with Other Users



Sharing the Road Introduction

- **Idaho law requires motorists to operate their vehicles in a careful and prudent manner without endangering the life, limb, property or other rights of people entitled to use the highways**
 - **Drivers must share the road with: motorcyclists, bicyclists, horses, pedestrians, livestock, larger vehicles, funeral processions, panhandlers**
- **A driver's view to the front and sides of the vehicle cannot be blocked by anything loaded in or on the vehicle. This allows them to not only see other cars, but other users entitled to use the roadways as well.**

Sharing the Road Introduction

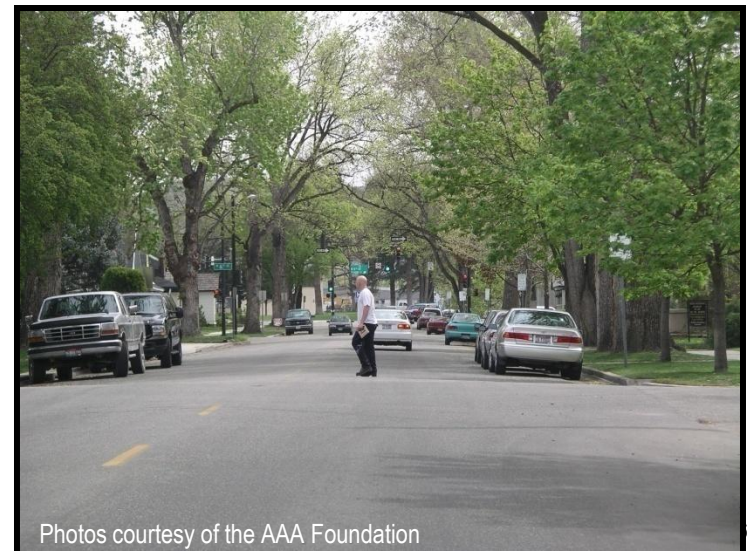
- Drivers must be aware of who is sharing the road with them.
- Can you make a list of all things other than a car that are entitled to use the public roadway?



PEDESTRIANS



- In Idaho, pedestrian crashes account for a decent amount of all fatal crashes
- Pedestrian safety is a serious issue
- In any collision, the pedestrian loses (unless they are Ironman or other cool superheroes), regardless of who had the right of way
- **Pedestrians walk or jog against the flow of traffic (if there is no sidewalk).**

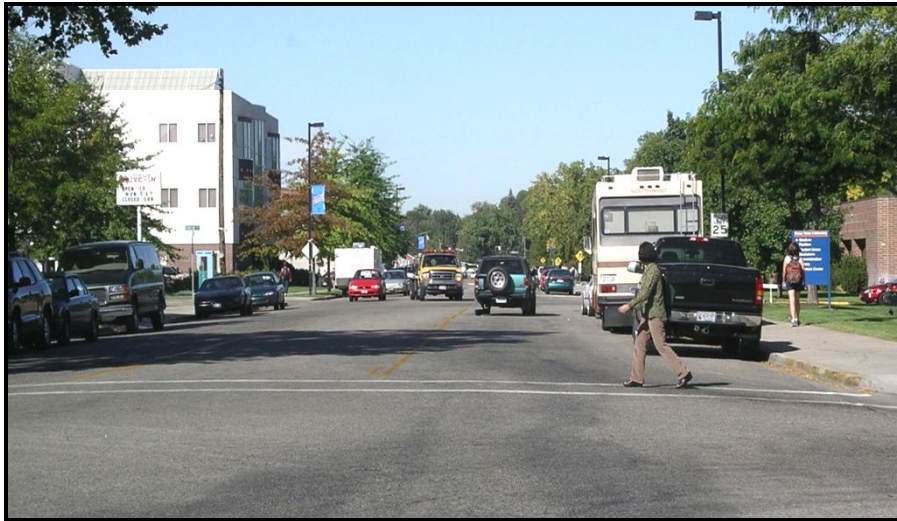


Photos courtesy of the AAA Foundation

PEDESTRIANS



The most common pedestrian action when they are hit



- Crossing at an intersection or crosswalk

PEDESTRIANS



- Left-turning vehicles are more often involved in pedestrian accidents than right-turning vehicles, partly because drivers do not search thoroughly, and are not able to see pedestrians to the left as well.
- Sometimes left or right turning traffic may get a green light at the same time it signals a pedestrian to cross. Be careful.



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation

In this traffic scene, who has the right of way?

Good Habits as a Driver Sharing with Pedestrians



- Know pedestrians have the right of way.
 - In marked or unmarked crosswalks at intersections
- What is a marked vs unmarked crosswalk?
- Expect pedestrians anytime, anywhere
- Know that pedestrians can be very hard to see, especially in bad weather or at night.



Stop for pedestrians crossing the street, even if they are not in a marked crosswalk

Good Habits as a Driver Sharing with Pedestrians



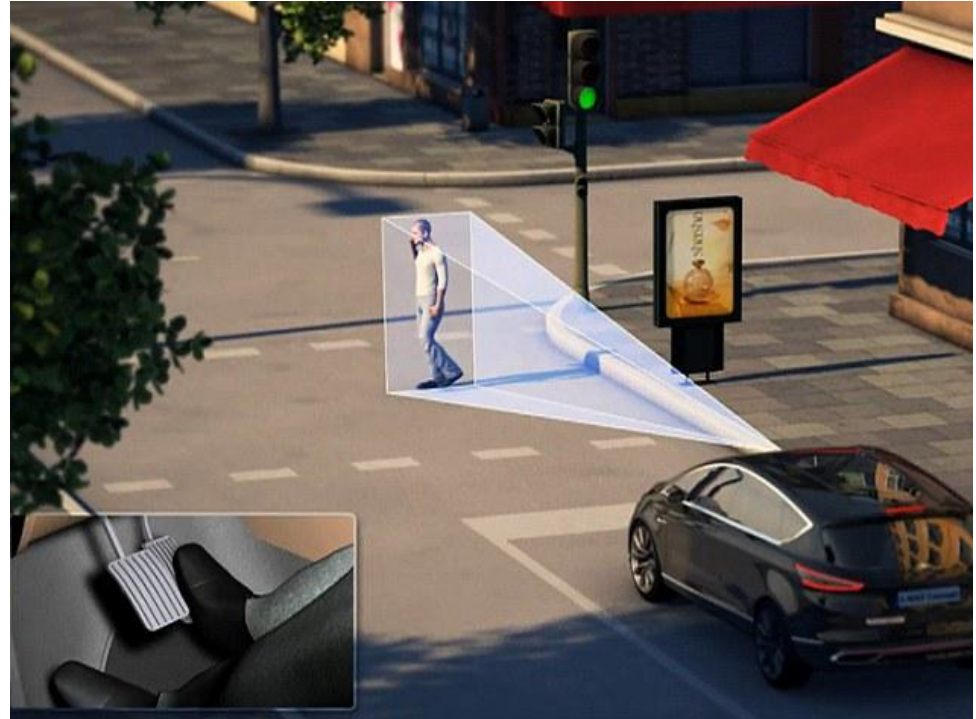
- Stop well back so that drivers in the other lanes can also see the pedestrian in time to stop
- Be aware that cars stopped in the street may be stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross, do not pass if there is any doubt.
- This happens a lot in front of PHS and ISU on the one-way streets.
- What streets are these?



Good Habits as a Driver Sharing with Pedestrians



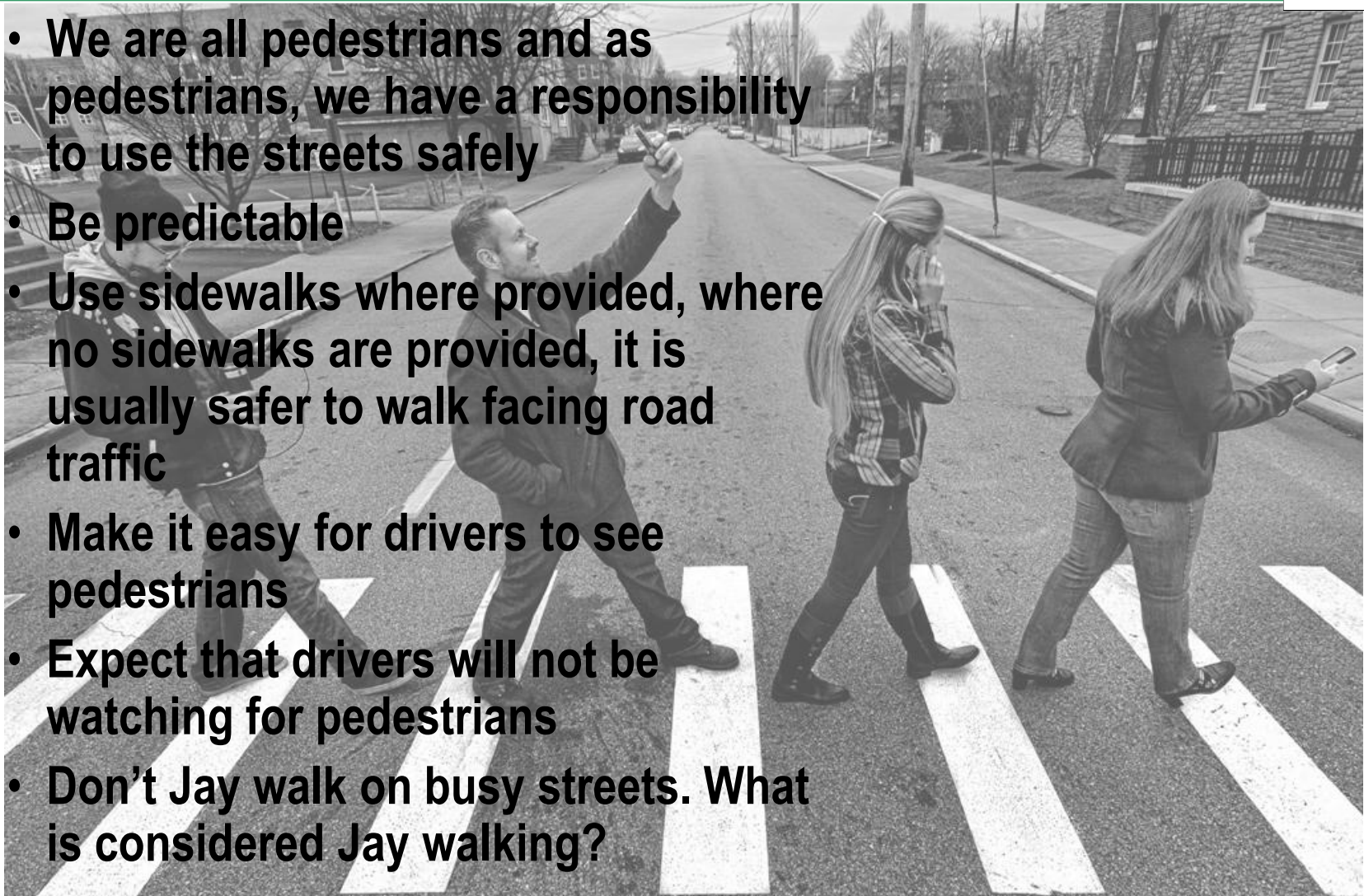
- Stop for anyone crossing the street on foot
- Watch for walkers, joggers, and runners
- Avoid using the horn
- Watch for seniors or people in wheelchairs at intersections
- Stop for a pedestrian with a white cane or guide dog



Good Habits as a Pedestrian

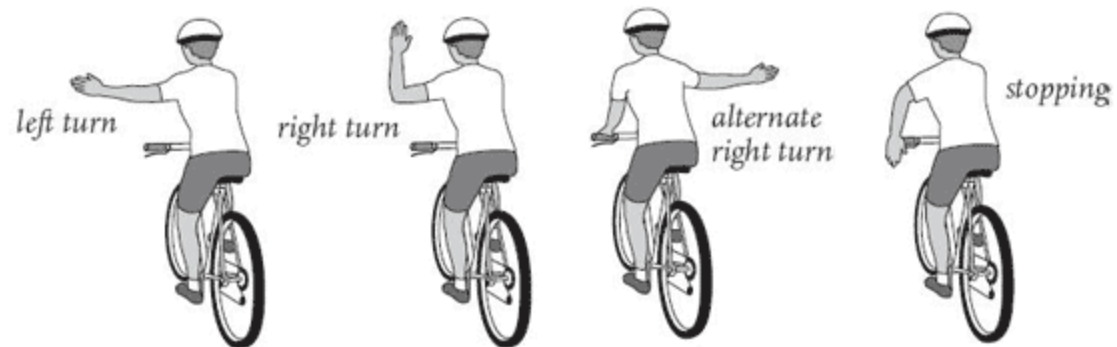


- We are all pedestrians and as pedestrians, we have a responsibility to use the streets safely
- Be predictable
- Use sidewalks where provided, where no sidewalks are provided, it is usually safer to walk facing road traffic
- Make it easy for drivers to see pedestrians
- Expect that drivers will not be watching for pedestrians
- Don't Jay walk on busy streets. What is considered Jay walking?



Sharing the Road With Cyclists

- Two-and three-wheeled modes of transportation are more difficult to see in the traffic mix
- Like car drivers, these users have certain rights and always have the same responsibility for operating their choice of transportation with care and safety



Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- Bicycles are operated by riders of all ages who are responsible for knowing the rules of the road.
- Cyclist have all the same rights and privileges as motorists do.



Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- Many riders are young and may not know or understand the rules of the road
- Children will ride their bicycles on sidewalks and in the road.
- Cyclists are not required to stop at stop signs, just yield.



Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- Bicycles can be used for recreation or as a mode of transportation to school or work.
- Many jurisdictions have bicycle lanes for the exclusive use of bicyclists
- Even though required by law, bicycles may not have a headlight or reflectors, seeing them at night can be difficult



Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- On most roadways, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other roadway users
- Can ride in center of lane if they can keep traffic flow
- Drivers must yield the right of way to a bicyclist just as they would to another vehicle
- Bicyclists are required to travel in the same direction as vehicles



Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- **After parking and before opening vehicle doors, first check for bicyclists**



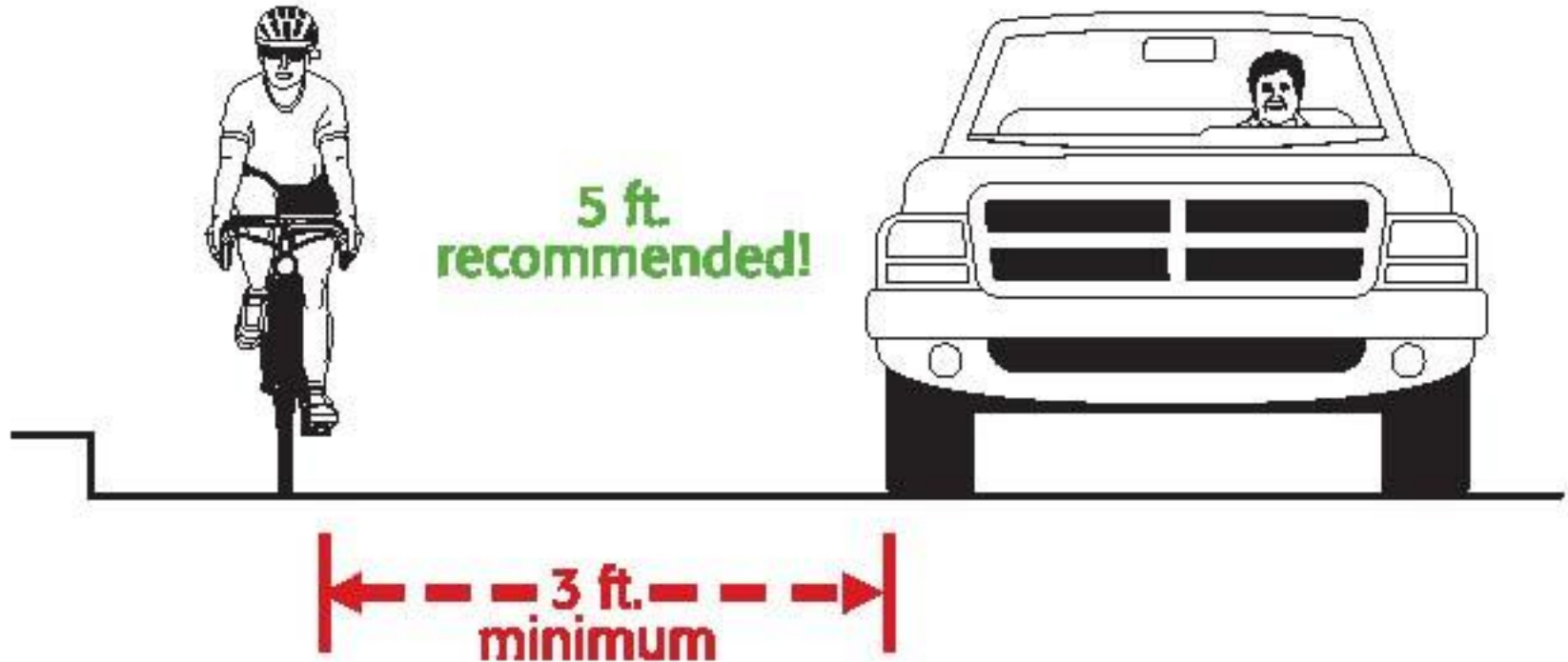
Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



- **Experienced bicyclists can ride 20-25 mph and may be closer than you think**

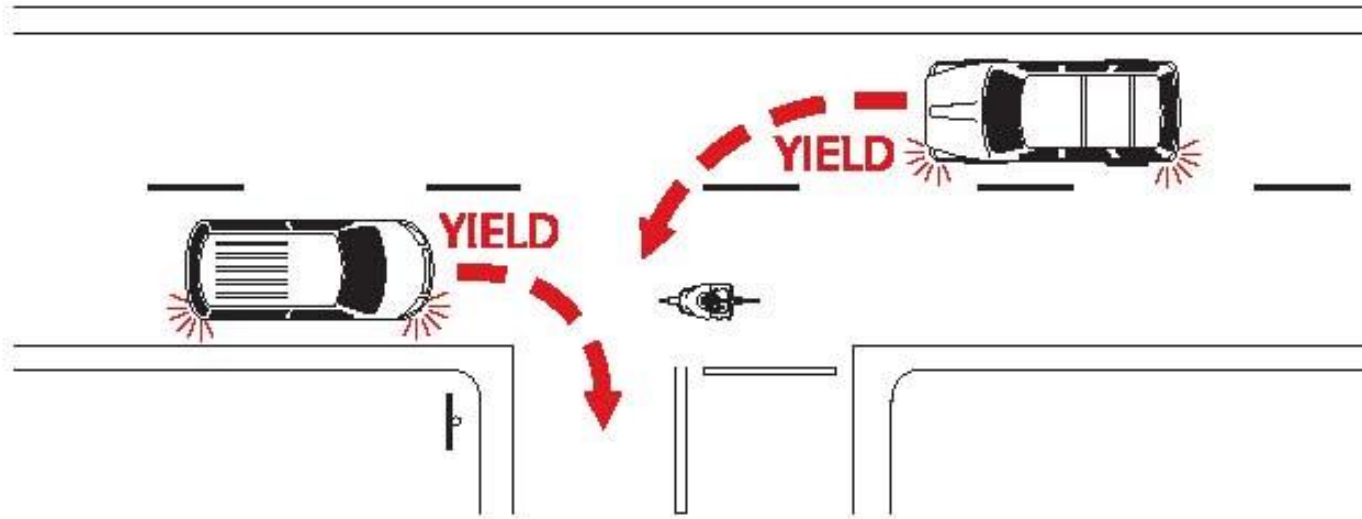


Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



When passing a bicycle rider leave at least three feet of passing space

Sharing the Road with Bicyclists



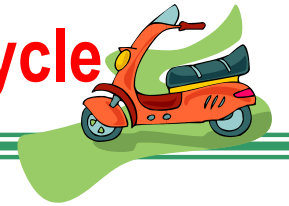
When turning left and a bicyclist is entering the intersection from the opposite direction, wait for the bicyclist to pass before making the turn

Bicyclists Responsibilities



Predict the possible hazards that these irresponsible young bicyclists may not see

Sharing the Road with Scooter and Motorcycle



- Scooters are no longer just small 50cc engine vehicles with a top speed of 25 mph
- Scooters today can have 600cc engines with a top speed of over 100 mph and can cost over \$8,000
- Scooters with a 200cc engine can reach 60 mph
- The tires are smaller than a motorcycle's
- They typically weigh less than a motorcycle
- Scooters are fuel-efficient—getting up to 100 mpg



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation

Sharing the Road with Scooters



- With their step through style, they are considered easier to ride than a motorcycle
- People of all ages ride scooters—from teenagers to grandparents
- Many do not get rider training and may not know how to handle these machines safely
- Use reduced risk driving behaviors when sharing the road with these two-wheeled vehicles



Should scooter riders be required to wear a helmet?

Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- When motorcycles and other vehicles collide, it is usually the other (non-motorcycle) driver who violates the motorcyclist's right of way
- Over two-thirds of fatal motorcycle crashes involve a motorcycle and another vehicle
- Most of the time it is when the vehicle is turning left and doesn't see the motorcycle



Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation

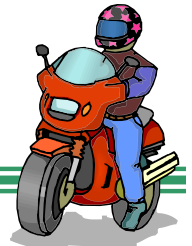
Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- Motorcycles and their riders are smaller in size and are easily hidden and harder to see in the traffic mix
- Motorcyclists tend to change their lane position often to be seen more, avoid potholes or other road hazards.
- Motorcycles can ride staggered as you see in the picture below.



Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



A vehicle corner post can hide a car, motorcyclist or a pedestrian

- **Automobiles have obstructions and blind spots that can obscure or hide a motorcycle and rider—such as door pillars, passengers' heads, and areas not visible in the mirrors**
- **Look twice for motorcycles**

Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- Other conditions affecting the vehicle—such as precipitation, glare, and cargo—can further impair a driver’s view and obscure motorcyclists
- Objects and environmental factors beyond the vehicle, including other vehicles, roadside objects, and light patterns can make it more difficult for drivers to identify motorcyclists in traffic



Drivers are more likely to be involved in a collision with a motorcycle when:

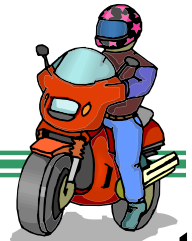


Photo courtesy of the AAA Foundation

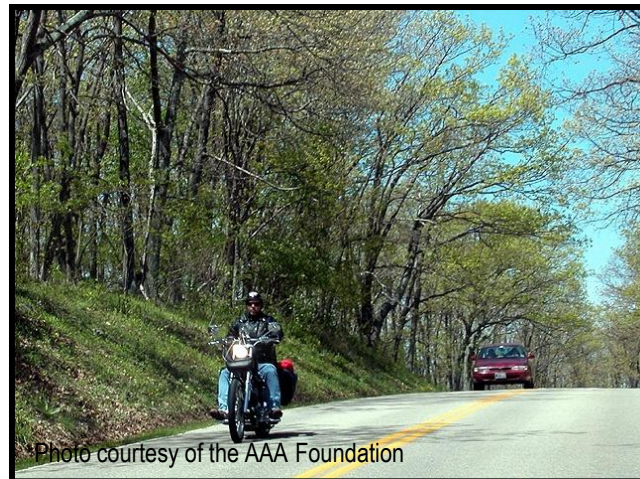
Should motorcyclist be required to wear bright gear?

- Making a left turn
- A motorcyclist is riding in other drivers' blind spots
- There are hazardous road conditions such as potholes, wet leaves, railroad tracks, painted lines when wet
- Other obstructions may force a motorcyclist to take an unexpected action
- Sport utility vehicles, delivery vans, and large trucks have an obstructed line of sight that blocks motorcyclists from the driver's view

Understanding Motorcyclists' Riding Challenges



- Drivers can improve safety by understanding the conditions that can affect where and how motorcyclists ride
- Motorcycles may be forced from their position on the road by strong winds or a rough road surface
- Turn signals are not self-canceling on most motorcycles and the rider may forget to cancel them
- Weather can cause the surface to have less traction and the rider may need to ride in different lane positions to gain best traction



Sharing the Road with Motorcycles



- Remember the motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the privileges of any vehicle on the roadway, give the motorcyclist a full lane of travel
- Look out at intersections when a motorcyclist may be making a left turn, and when a motorcyclist may be changing lanes
- Watch for clues the rider may have forgotten to cancel the turn signal
- Clearly signal intentions
- Never tailgate
- Switch to low beam when approaching
- Give extra following distance when weather and/or road conditions can limit visibility or traction
- Be prepared for the motorcyclist to take an evasive maneuver to avoid road debris or road conditions that are not a problem for other motorists

