

sharing
the road

CYCLISTS

Riding a bicycle on the road means sharing the road with cars, trucks and motorcycles.

That can be a scary thought, but if you ride smart, you can be safe and enjoy the ride.

Following are a few tips to remember so you share the road with sense.

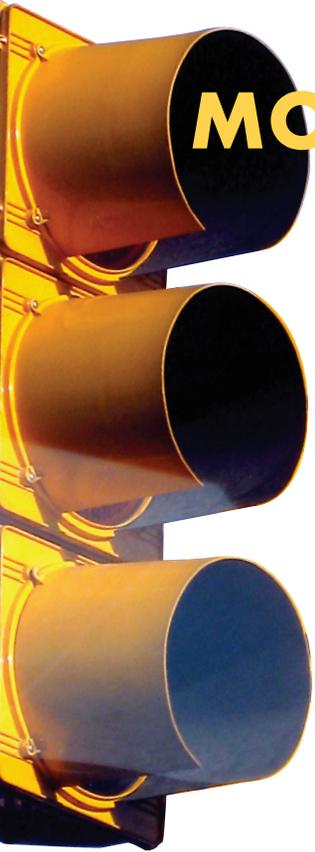
FIRST Remember that when you ride in traffic you are really just another driver, with the same rules and responsibilities as everyone else. That means you must:

- ▲ Obey all traffic laws
- ▲ Stop at stop signs and traffic lights
- ▲ Signal all turns
- ▲ Ride with traffic, in the right side of the lane
- ▲ Always look back, signal and check for traffic before turning or entering the roadway
- ▲ Be aware of what's going on around you

AS A BICYCLIST you are smaller and slower and less protected than other drivers on the road. That means you need to think about things other drivers don't. Here are some dos and don'ts:

- ◆ Do wear a helmet (it could save your life!)
- ◆ Don't surprise other drivers. Ride straight, with no sudden changes in direction
- ◆ Don't hog the road: two cyclists, side-by-side, is the limit. If the lane can be safely shared with a car, ride single-file.

- ◆ Do let motorists pass when it's safe, but hold your lane so you have room to ride.
- ◆ Do allow four feet between you and parked cars so you don't get surprised by an opening door
- ◆ Do let pedestrians go first.
- ◆ Do be prepared: carry water and tools
- ◆ Do allow extra distance for stopping in wet weather.
- ◆ Do use a light and wear reflective clothing when it's dark. Reflective accessories also make you more visible.



MOTORISTS

Roads were originally built for bicycles. And then, for many years, they became automobile-focused – in both design and rules. Now, with more cyclists on the road and more bike lanes being added to streets, it's essential that drivers and cyclist alike understand the **rules of the road.**

FIRST OF ALL, once a person on a bike enters the roadway, she/he has the same rights and responsibilities as drivers of motorized vehicles. They must:

- ▲ Obey all traffic laws
- ▲ Stop at stop signs and traffic lights
- ▲ Signal all turns
- ▲ Ride with traffic, in the right side of the lane
- ▲ Use lights when it's dark

Pass with care. Slow down and give bicycles at least three feet of clearance when passing. If there isn't room, be patient and wait until it's safe to pass.

Don't honk. A car horn can startle a cyclist, causing a wreck.

Treat bicycles like other vehicles. Never cut them off. Yield to them when turning. Always assume bicyclists are traveling straight unless they signal otherwise.

Keep it clean. Glass and other trash create hazards for bicyclists.

Be aware. Watch out for cyclists, treat them with respect and give them the room they need to be safe.

HOWEVER, there are special rules cyclists must follow – and drivers must accommodate.

- ◆ **Two abreast.** Bicyclists may ride two-abreast, even in traffic.
- ◆ **Room to ride.** Bicyclists are not required to ride on the shoulder or to surrender the lane to vehicles. When riding with traffic, they are expected to ride as far to the right as practical when the lane can be shared safely with other vehicles.
- ◆ **Extra room.** Bicyclists may move away from the right side of the road when passing another vehicle going in the same direction or when avoiding a hazard such as a pothole, debris, animals or other vehicles.
- ◆ **Left lane.** Bicyclists may use the left lane or move to the left side of a single lane when preparing to make a left turn – just like a car.

Bicycles are a mode of transportation that benefits us all – whether we ride them or not.

They are pollution-free and add no wear or tear to our roadways – and that means cleaner communities and lower roadway maintenance costs for Hoosier taxpayers. And that makes sharing the road not just sensible, but also worthwhile.

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