

# SHARING THE ROAD: SAME ROADS, SAME RULES, SAME RIGHTS



**Bicycles**

Bicycles are considered vehicles on the road. Obey all traffic laws, traffic signs and signals.

Ride in the same direction as traffic, and signal all turns. Stay as far to the right as safely possible. When approaching an intersection, position yourself so that you are visible. Stay out of drivers' blind spots (area around a car a driver cannot see others through either the side or rear-view mirrors).

Scan ahead for obstacles in the roadway and learn to avoid them without swerving into traffic. Watch out for opening car doors; ride an arm's length away from parked cars on the street.

Be visible. Wear brightly colored or reflective clothing. If you choose to bike at night, use a white front light and red rear light or reflector, as required by law in all states.

Wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet every ride.

Learn more about how to ride on the road safely; visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) at [www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles](http://www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles).



**Motor Vehicles**

Watch for bicyclists in traffic; they have a right under the law to ride on the roadway unless posted otherwise.

Be cautious and patient around bicyclists. While bicyclists should ride as far right in the lane as safely possible, they may have to move further into the lane to avoid debris, car doors, to make turns, to be more visible, or because of narrow traffic lanes.

Avoid honking your horn, unless it's critical. Horns startle bicyclists and can cause them to swerve into traffic or crash.

Look for bicyclists along the roadway, especially at intersections. Slow down and allow **at least three feet** between you and the bicyclist when passing.

Look for bicyclists before opening your car door, backing out of a parking space, before making a turn or when coming out of driveway or alley.

Learn more about sharing the road with bicyclists; visit the League of American Bicyclists at [www.bikeleague.org/action/sharetheroad.php](http://www.bikeleague.org/action/sharetheroad.php), <http://exchange.aaa.com/safety/bicycle-safety/> or do a search for "share the road" + your local bicycle coalition.