

Bicycle-Friendly Driver



Key course takeaways

- As motorists, we have a great responsibility operating a motor vehicle.
- Treat bicyclists as drivers of vehicles who have a right to the road, and who are also more vulnerable.
- Slow down, actively look and communicate.
- Pay special attention at intersections and driveways.
- Understand when and why bicyclists take the lane. Be patient and cautious while passing bicyclists.
- Be aware of physical and environmental factors that can endanger bicyclists.
- Both road users can take action to avoid bicyclist/motorist crashes.
- All road users are people. Drive to protect lives and keep each other safe.

Safely passing a bicyclist

- Treat bicyclists as drivers of vehicles who have a right to the road, and who are also more vulnerable.
- Give bicyclists at least 3 feet, even when they are in a bike lane (where they have the right of way).
- Motorists may cross double yellow line to allow 3 feet. If there is oncoming traffic, slow down and wait to pass until traffic clears.
- Allow extra room for mirrors, extended wheel wells, trailers, etc.
- Avoid honking as it may startle a bicyclist.
- Motor vehicles can create wind blasts that can throw a bicyclist off balance.
- Return to your lane when the bicyclist is in your rearview mirror.

Intersection tips

- Treat bicyclists as drivers of vehicles who have a right to the road, and who are also more vulnerable.
- Check for bicyclists in your blind spots and yield to bicyclists before turning.
- Always use your turn signal when turning and keep off when not turning.
- Make a right turn from close to the curb and utilize mixing zones before turning.
- Refuse unlawful courtesies.
- Watch for oncoming bicyclists in the 'shadow' of or behind a vehicle.
- Take time to accurately judge bicyclists' speed and distance.
- Bike lanes continue through intersections where bicyclists have the right of way.

