

Share the Road with Bicyclists

same roads – same rights – same rules

Bicyclists

Obey the Law, Signs and Signals:

- Bicyclists have all the rights and duties of motorists
- Use hand signals before turning or changing lanes
- Obey all traffic control devices

Always Wear a Properly Fitted Helmet:

- Wearing a helmet is the law under age 17
- Teach by example: don't ride without your helmet

Never Ride Against Traffic:

- Always ride in the same direction as traffic
- Ride as near to the right as practicable
- Move left to: turn left, avoid road hazards, pass slower vehicles and when traveling at the same speed as traffic

Be Predictable:

- Ride at least three feet from car doors or the curb
- Ride in a straight line and anticipate hazards
- Use hand signals before turning or changing lanes
- Scan the road ahead, especially at crosswalks, intersections, driveways and parking lots/spaces
- Take the lane if conditions make passing unsafe
- Stay off sidewalks (walk your bike if necessary)

Be Visible:

- Use a white front light and red rear light in low light
- Wear brightly colored clothes
- Use reflectors and reflective tape/clothing anytime
- Make eye contact with motorists, but be prepared if they do not see you



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Motorists

Drive Cautiously:

- Reduce speed when approaching bicyclists
- Anticipate hazards bicyclists face and allow space
- Don't tailgate, especially in slick conditions (bicycles stop much faster than cars)

Yield to Bicyclists:

- Bicycles are considered vehicles
- Give the appropriate right of way to bicyclists (e.g., when turning left, yield to oncoming bicyclists)
- Allow extra time for bicyclists to traverse intersections

Be Considerate:

- Scan the road for bicyclists in traffic and at intersections
- Don't honk your horn in close proximity to bicyclists (it startles them and may cause an accident)
- Look for bicyclists before opening your car door

Pass with Care:

- When passing, leave four feet between you and a bicyclist as they need space to avoid hazards
- Wait for safe road and traffic conditions before you pass (bicyclists may take the lane if conditions are unsafe)
- Do not pass a bicyclist if you intend to turn immediately

Watch for Children:

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

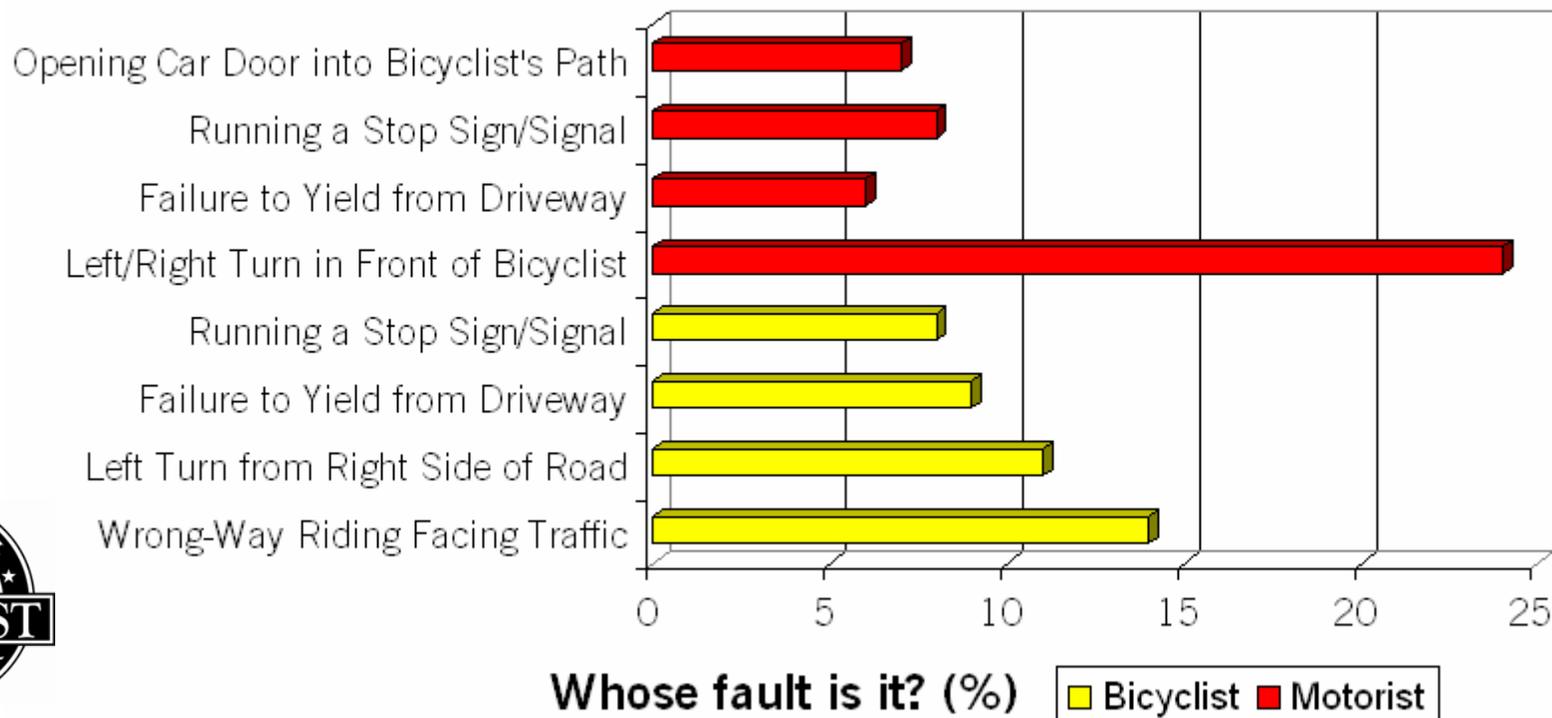
Did you know?

Bicyclists are “granted all the rights and subject to all of the duties of the motor vehicle driver.”¹

Most car/bike collisions involving child cyclists are caused by the child.²

Most car/bike collisions involving adult cyclists are caused by the motorist.²

Car/Bike Collisions



“Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.” John Forester³

Source: 1) State of New Jersey Department of Transportation, 39:4-14.1, www.state.nj.us/transportation/commuter/bike/regulations.shtm
2) League of American Bicyclists, www.bikeleague.org
3) Cycling advocate and cycling transportation engineer; www.johnforester.com