

Sharing the Roadway

Safety Rules for Cyclists

- A bicyclist should always obey all traffic laws, signs, and signals.
- Never ride against the flow of traffic.
- Stop at all stop signs and stop (red) lights.
- On a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes, a cyclist may ride near the left curb or edge of the roadway.
- Persons riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway.
- A person riding a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat.
- No bicycle shall be used to carry more than one person at one time, or the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- No person riding a bicycle shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle on a roadway.
- No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.
- Bicyclists may ride on shoulders.
- Bicyclists may signal a right-hand turn using either the left arm pointing up or the right arm pointing horizontally.
- Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.
- Every bicycle in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp in front and a red reflector on the rear.
- Hearing-impaired bicycle riders may display a safety flag.
- Bicyclists should wear an approved bicycle helmet.
- When riding on pedestrian facilities, reduce speed and exercise caution.
- Do not weave in and out of parked cars.
- Move off the street to stop, park, or make repairs to your bicycle.
- A bicyclist should select a route according to the person's own bicycling skills and experience.
- Bicycles should be equipped with a mirror.



Sharing the Roadway

Bicycles

Each year thousands of bicyclists ride the public roadways of the State of Ohio. Touring bicyclists frequently make use of the bicycle routes that pass through the state. Other recreational bicyclists ride through neighborhoods and take day trips. While most bicyclists ride for fun, there are many who ride to work or school, to recreation areas, or to the store. As a result, bicyclists in ever increasing numbers are sharing the road with motorists.



The laws regulating bicycling on public roadways defines both the rights and duties of bicyclists as well as the motorists with whom they share the roadway. Bicyclists and motorists basically have the same rights and duties, and the laws governing traffic regulation apply equally to both.

Bicycles are treated as vehicles in Ohio. Motorists must yield the right-of-way to cyclists at intersections when passing and when turning. Avoid making right turns in front of a cyclist traveling on the shoulder and yield to a cyclist preparing to make a left turn. Bicycles are legally entitled to use the road. On roads where the speed limit exceeds 50 mph, bicycles must use the shoulder except where signs prohibit this.

Slow down when approaching a cyclist. Avoid the use of the horn, as loud noises can surprise the bicycle operator, causing an accident. Do not follow closely. Bicycles can stop and maneuver quickly. Be prepared for a cyclist to swerve to avoid a road hazard. Young cyclists may suddenly change direction. When passing a cyclist, wait until it is safe and allow adequate clearance. Return to the proper lane when the bicyclist can be seen clearly in the rearview mirror.

- Do not use horn.
- Do not attempt to share the lane with the cyclist.
- Reduce speed.
- Follow the bicycle and wait for a safe opportunity to pass.

Bicycle Rules that Motorists Should Know

A bicycle is a vehicle and any person riding a bicycle has the same the rights and responsibilities as a driver of a motor vehicle.

Bicyclists are required to ride as far right in the lane as possible only when the lane can be safely shared by a car and a bicycle, side by side. Bicyclists are not restricted to the right lane of traffic. One-way, multi-lane streets are one example of this. Another instance is when the bicyclist is changing lanes to make a left turn. The bicyclist should follow the same path any other vehicle would take traveling in the same direction. Motorists should merge with bicycle traffic when preparing for a right-hand turn. Avoid turning directly across the path of bicycle traffic.

Common Motorists-Bicycle Mistakes

- The most common car-bicycle collision is caused by a motorist turning left in front of oncoming bicycle traffic.
- The second most common collision is a motorist turning right across the path of a bicycle.
- The third most common collision is a motorist pulling away from a stop sign and failing to yield the right-of-way to bicycle cross traffic.

Mopeds

A moped is a bicycle-like device with pedals and a small motor. The motor cannot be rated at more than two horsepower or enable the moped to travel more than 30 MPH. Being powered by an engine requires the moped to have a hand throttle much like those on motorcycles to control the engine speed.

However, even though a moped is a two-wheeled vehicle that can be driven with either a motor or pedal like a bicycle, it is considered a vehicle while operated on a roadway and cannot be ridden on sidewalks or bike paths. Ohio law requires that you have at least a regular driver's license to operate a moped on public streets.

It is illegal for you to operate a motorcycle, motor-scooter, or any other motor-driven cycle on a public street or highway in Ohio unless you have a valid license that specifically authorizes the operation of such vehicles.