MOTORISTS: SHARE THE ROAD

A BICYCLIST MIGHT SURPRISE YOU
The law says that adult bicyclists must ride in the street and obey all of the same rules as car drivers. But NOT ALL BICYCLISTS DO! Use your driving skills to avoid crashes, even when it’s not your fault.

AVOID A SIDE HIT
When you see a bicyclist on a cross street coming to a red light or stop sign, get ready to brake. The bicyclist might cross in front of you.

AVOID A HEAD-ON CRASH
If you see a bicyclist riding the wrong way (against traffic) slow down and pass with lots of room.

YIELD TO BICYCLISTS WHEN PULLING OVER
Before you pull over, put on your turn signal, then look over your shoulder to check for bicyclists. If you see any bicyclists, YIELD. Let them pass before you pull over.

When you stop temporarily, put on your hazard lights so bicyclists know it’s safe to pass.

Before you pull out, use a turn signal. Look over your left shoulder for bicyclists in your blind spot.

SAFELY EXIT YOUR VEHICLE: AVOID A “DOORING”
Before exiting your vehicle check over your shoulder for bicyclists and warn passengers to do the same. Keep your car door closed until the bicyclists pass. They have the right of way.

Learn how YOU can make Wisconsin roads safer for everyone at WisconsinBikeFed.org

Thanks to the Active Transportation Alliance for the source material. Funded by the Wisconsin Bike Fed and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation © 2012 Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin
WHY should you learn to DRIVE next to BICYCLES?
Bicyclists and motorists share all the same rights and responsibilities on the road.

Bicycles are legal vehicles and can be ridden on streets.

Crashes with motor vehicles cause more injuries than any other type of bicycle crash.

As a driver, it is your responsibility to look out for all other road users, including people biking and walking who are more vulnerable.

SHARING THE ROAD WITH BICYCLISTS

1. Bicyclists often must merge with faster moving traffic to avoid hazards and double parked vehicles. When bicyclists merge in front of you, let them in and don’t follow too closely. Don’t honk unless it is a case of extreme danger.

2. If you can, you should change lanes before passing bicyclists. Always slow down and pass them with at least THREE FEET of space. Then wait until you can see them in your mirror before going back into the lane.

3. Avoid a driveout. Before exiting an alley or driveway, stop and look for bicyclists and pedestrians on the sidewalk and street.

4. This car is passing too closely for the bicyclists to avoid hazards (like opening car door). To avoid a crash, always leave at least THREE FEET of space between any bicyclist and your car.

BICYCLIST TURN SIGNALS

Bicyclists often use hand signals when they are going to turn.

BIKE LANES
It is illegal to drive or park in bike lanes.

When entering the bike lane to turn or parallel park, always:
- Yield to bicyclist
- Use your turn signal
- Pull all the way into the bike lane so bicyclist will pass on the left

BE AWARE OF BICYCLE TRAFFIC

1. Bicyclists usually ride just to the right of faster moving traffic.

2. If you see this symbol on the pavement, it means you will likely have to share a lane with a bicyclist.

3. Where a lane is too narrow, bicyclists may ride in the middle. Change lanes before you pass them and leave at least THREE FEET. Don’t follow closely because bicyclists can stop suddenly.

4. The law says bicyclists may use the LEFT LANE to turn. Let them merge and don’t follow too closely. Before moving into a left turn lane, check over your left shoulder for bicyclists.

WHERE BIKERS SHOULD RIDE

1. In the road.

2. In a wide lane, bicyclists can share the lane with car drivers.

3. In a narrow lane, bicyclists should ride in the middle so cars don’t squeeze them out of the traffic lane.

4. Local jurisdictions can pass ordinances allowing bicycling on sidewalks if they have unusual circumstances where the sidewalk is safer for certain bicyclists. Be aware of and yield to children bicycling.