

Bicycle Safety:

It's a two-way street.

Advice to MOTORISTS and BICYCLISTS

When we all drive safely and are
considerate of others, it's easy
to Share the Road!



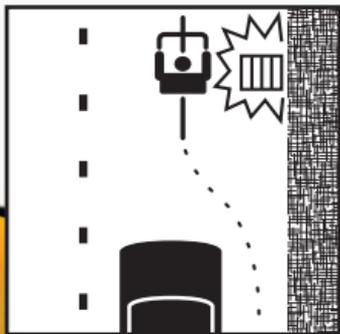
RULES FOR MOTORISTS

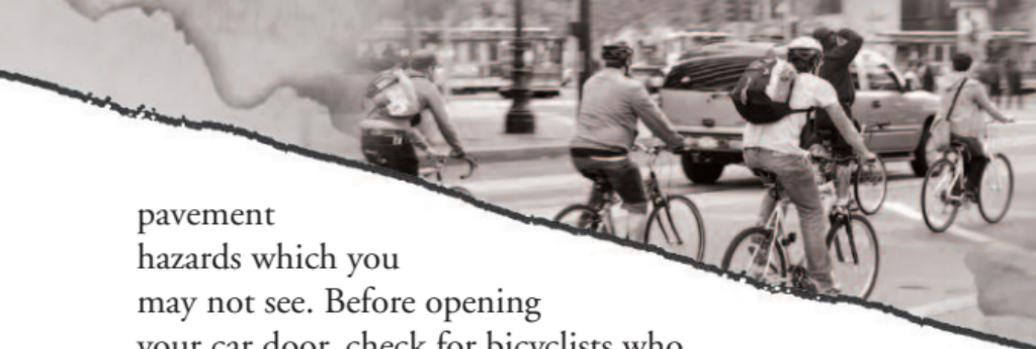
By Maryland law, bicycles are vehicles, and bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers of motor vehicles – but bicycles are less visible, quieter, and don't have a protective barrier around them. Motorists should drive carefully around a bicyclist; even a slight mistake can result in death. Bicyclists fare best when they act like and are treated as drivers of vehicles.

Do your part by being a safe and courteous motorist.

Here are some suggestions to help motorists share the road with bicyclists:

- **Expect Bicyclists on the Road** – Always expect to encounter a bicyclist on the road: on all types of roads, in all types of weather and at all times of the day and night. Bicyclists may be riding out in the travel lane for their own safety due to narrow roads, obstacles, or

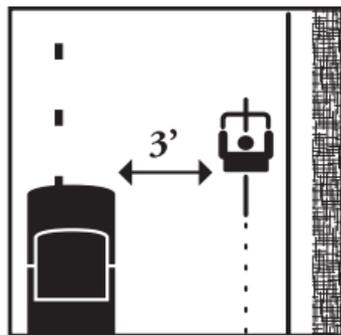




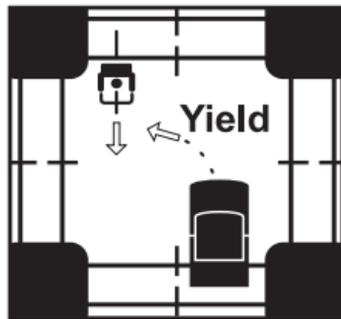
pavement hazards which you may not see. Before opening your car door, check for bicyclists who may be approaching.

- **Pass with Care, Give Bikes at Least 3 Feet –**

Pass a bicyclist as you would any slow-moving vehicle. Slow down, wait until oncoming traffic is clear and allow at least 3 feet of clearance between your car and the bicyclist when passing. After passing a bicyclist, check over your shoulder to make sure you have allowed enough room before moving over. Experienced bicyclists often ride 20 to 25 mph and may be closer than you think.

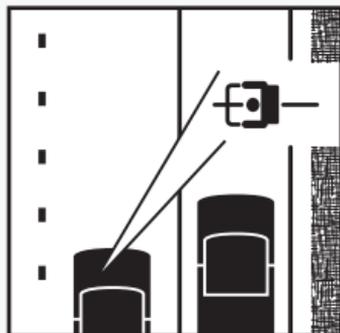


- **Be Careful in Intersections** – Always assume bicyclists are traveling through an intersection unless they signal otherwise, and yield



to them as you would to any other vehicle. Do not turn left or right in front of bicyclists unless you can do so safely. You can be fined \$1000 and receive 3 points if you injure a bicyclist by violating their right-of-way.

- **Watch for Children** – Children on bicycles are often unpredictable – expect the unexpected. Strictly observe speed limits in school zones and in residential areas.



- **Use Extra Caution in Bad Conditions** – In bad weather, give bicyclists extra trailing and passing room. When uncertain in any situation, slow down until it's safe to proceed.

RULES FOR BICYCLISTS

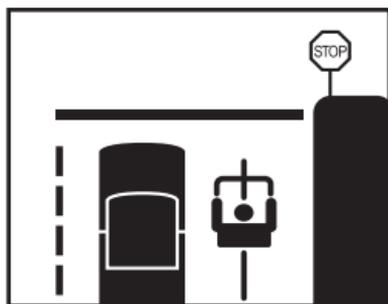
Like motor vehicle operators, bicyclists have both rights and responsibilities for operating on the road safely.

Many bicycle crashes are the result of bicyclists not observing the rules of the road.

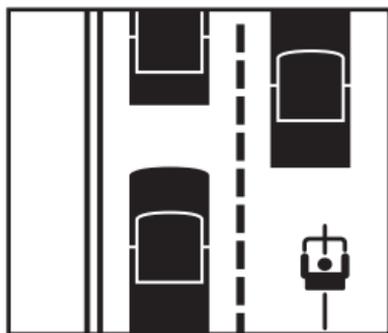
Do your part by being a safe and courteous bicyclist.

Below are a few rules and suggestions for safe, enjoyable bicycling:

- **Obey the Rules of the Road** – Ride straight and single file in a predictable manner. Plan ahead and allow time to maneuver around road hazards and to negotiate with traffic and open car doors. Yield to pedestrians and obey all traffic signals and signs.

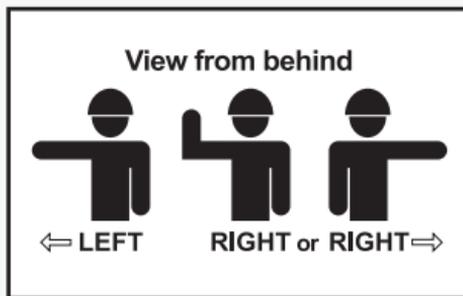


- **Ride with Traffic** – Always ride on the right side. Use caution if passing other traffic on the right. When approaching an intersection, use the appropriate lane for the direction you intend to travel (left, straight, or right).



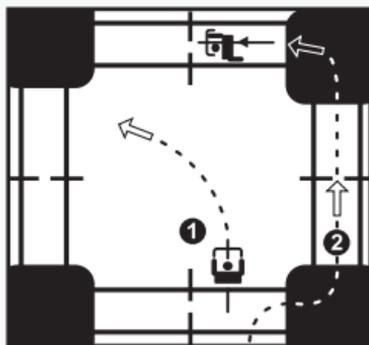
- **Signal All Turns** –

Look back before you make a lane change or turn. Signal safely in advance using one of these signals.



- **Make Left Hand Turns Safely** –

You may turn left as a vehicle (1) by moving into the left side of the travel lane (or left turn lane) OR cross like a pedestrian (2) by stopping, dismounting, and walking across crosswalks.



- **Be Prepared for Conditions** – When braking in the rain or snow, allow extra distance to stop and look for pavement markings and utility covers which may become slippery.

- **Be Visible – Use Lights at Night** – When riding at night, Maryland State Law requires a white headlight on front and a red reflector on the

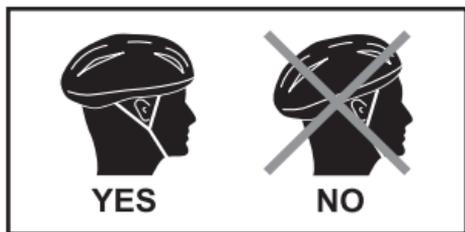
back visible
from at least 600 feet.
In addition, we
recommend you wear
bright clothing in the
daytime and reflective
clothing for night riding.



- **Maintain your Bike** –

Check your tires, chain and brakes before every trip. Take your bicycle to a bike shop at least once a year for a professional inspection and tune-up. Make sure your reflectors and lights are in working condition.

- **Wear a Helmet Correctly** – Helmets are required by law for anyone under 16, but everyone should wear a helmet to prevent a head injury. Your helmet should be level and snug and should not shift while riding (go to www.choosesafetyforlife.com for helmet fit tips).



Choose Safety for Life[★]



Everyone Share the Road

*For more information call 888.963.0307
or visit www.choosesafetyforlife.com*



MARYLAND

Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*

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