

Where to Ride on the Roadway

- I. Bicycles are vehicles. Follow all the rules of the road! **CYCLISTS HAVE THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF OTHER VEHICLE TRAFFIC.** That means:

OBEY ALL LAWS.
RIDE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD,
STOP AT STOP SIGNS AND SIGNALS,
WARN OTHER DRIVERS OF YOUR INTENTIONS (SIGNAL!)
YIELD TO TRAFFIC APPROPRIATELY, vehicle on the right has right of way,
STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS.

WRONG WAY RIDING puts the cyclist in an unexpected position on the road, driveway pull outs, intersections, and with respect to other cyclists.

- II. Proper positioning on a roadway:
- A. On wide roads (those with outside lane wide enough for motorists to overtake cyclists within the same lane), ride just outside the traffic lane – not along the curb – about three feet from the cars, not in the gutter/weaving in and out of parked cars.
 - B. On narrow roads (those where the lane is too narrow for motorists to overtake a cyclist within the same lane), ride generally just inside the traffic lane, allowing room for a car to pass you only by going partly over the next lane line.
 - C. Very narrow roads (where it would be unsafe for you to share the lane), take the entire lane, so cars can't pass you unless they cross into the opposite lane. When slowing a significant amount of traffic (more than 5 cars is the law), it is required that slower traffic (usually the cyclist) must yield.
- III. Position with other vehicles:
- A. If you are as fast as the other vehicles, travel in the lane with the cars.
 - B. Don't overtake moving cars on the right; they might make a right turn (or pull over to the right curb) in front of you.
 - C. When riding around curves, ride a little further out toward the center of the road so overtaking vehicle drivers can see you sooner.
- IV. **WHICH LANE TO USE** is based on your destination. Pick the right-most lane going in your chosen direction. Be on the side of that lane corresponding to your destination.
- A. Normally, ride at the right side of the right side, outside the through lane.
 - B. When you chose to enter a single destination turn lane, ride on its right side.
 - C. If a lane serves two destinations, move to the appropriate side for your destination; right side for right destinations, left for left, center for straight through.

- D. Do not move to the right just because the road widens at an intersection. Drivers of other vehicles will think you're going to turn right. Position yourself in the "lane" of traffic going in your chosen direction.
- E. Right-turn only lane: position yourself so that you do not cross traffic inside the intersection. Be in the proper position in the "lane" going to your chosen destination.

V. Parked Cars

- A. Think of the parked cars as if they had their doors open. Cars don't drive in that space, so drivers don't look before opening the door. Don't you drive there!
- B. If there are gaps between parked cars, don't dodge in between cars. You are leaving and re-entering a traffic stream. This is a significant maneuver requiring merging, signaling, yielding, etc. This is the cause of many car-bike collisions.