

LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

A Motorist's Guide to Sharing the Road Safely with Bicyclists

It is illegal to text and use handheld devices while driving.

Obey the posted speed limit.



Bicycles may use any portion of the lane on roads with a posted speed limit of 50 mph or lower where there is no shoulder or if the travel lane is narrow. Bicyclists traveling on roads with a posted speed limit greater than 50 mph must use the shoulder unless specifically prohibited. Bicycles are generally prohibited on highways and interstates.



GIVE BICYCLISTS

3 FEET

WHEN PASSING
IT'S THE LAW



Before making a right turn, merge fully into the bike lane when a bike lane is present. Be sure to merge safely ahead of or behind the cyclist.

Expect bicyclists on the road. Be aware of your surroundings and stay vigilant. You may encounter a bicyclist on all types of roads, in all types of weather, day and night.



Always keep a safe following distance. When traveling behind a bicyclist, allow more space than when following a motor vehicle. This gives additional time to react to a bicyclist who may be maneuvering or stopping.

Be cautious when opening car doors.



When turning, yield the right-of-way to bicyclists in the same manner as yielding to other motorists. Do not turn left or right in front of them unless you can do so safely.

Before turning right, make sure the path is clear of bicyclists. Do not pass a bicyclist if you are going to turn right immediately afterwards.



Watch and slow down for children on bicycles. Be especially alert in school zones and residential areas.

For your safety and everyone sharing the road with you, always use turn signals. Bicyclists are depending on you to signal your intent. Keep your eyes on the road.



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A Bicyclist's Guide to Sharing the Road Safely

Under Maryland law, bicyclists, including children, have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers.



Maryland law prohibits using headphones (ear buds) and hand-carrying objects while on a bicycle.

Do not attach yourself to any vehicle on a roadway. Towing or clinging is against the law.

Maryland law generally restricts bicycle use on sidewalks. Check local ordinances for specific rules.

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Ride defensively! Be aware of your surroundings and expect the unexpected. Watch for cars pulling out of driveways. Stay alert for road hazards such as potholes, drainage grates and wet leaves.

Stay alert, avoid distractions and keep both hands on the handlebars while cycling.

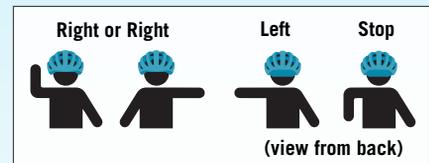
Use marked bike lanes when available and it is safe to do so.



Ride with traffic on the right side of the road.



Use hand signals when turning or stopping to let motorists know your intentions.



Never ride more than two abreast on a roadway. If impeding traffic, ride single file.



Use caution crossing ramps.

Stop for pedestrians.



Make yourself visible and heard day or night. Wear bright and reflective gear and equip your bike with reflectors, lights and a bell or horn.

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.

