

RULES FOR MOTORISTS

• LOOK FOR BICYCLISTS

To avoid a collision with a bicyclist look before you turn into traffic or open your car door. Bicyclists should be riding with the flow of traffic on the Right hand side of the road. Do not assume all bicyclists will obey this rule. Also, recognize there are exceptions to this rule: When a bicyclist is making a Left turn, or trying to avoid road hazards, or passing another bicyclist or vehicle.

• ALLOW A BUFFER

Always give bicyclists a three-foot buffer to ensure adequate maneuvering room. Maintain this buffer as you pass, paying close attention as you would on any other slow-moving vehicle. Always be aware of obstacles, like pot holes and other obstructions that could cause the bicyclist to maneuver.

• YIELD WHEN TURNING RIGHT

Yield to bicyclists when you are making a right-turn. Do not attempt to pass them before you turn, even if they are moving slowly.

• PASS BICYCLISTS SAFELY

Pass only in areas with wide lanes, or when there is no oncoming traffic. Do not attempt to pass a bicyclist where lanes are narrow or where there is excessive traffic to prevent you from passing safely. Always reduce your speed when passing a bicyclist.

• USE YOUR VEHICLE'S REARVIEW AND SIDE MIRRORS

Mirrors are tools to be used for helping you see what might be approaching you from the right hand side, left hand side, and/or behind your vehicle. Use these tools to avoid a collision with a bicyclist, pedestrian, or other motorist.

• DO NOT HONK

Honking your horn may startle a bicyclist and it could cause an accident. Be patient, slow down, and share the road.

SAFETY TIPS FOR MOTORISTS:

- Watch for bicyclists at all times and in all situations
- Do not talk on your cellular telephone and drive at the same time
- Pay attention to your surroundings as you drive
- Watch the crosswalks – be on the watch for bicyclists and pedestrians as you drive
- Familiarize yourself with the legally recognized hand signs bicyclists use
- Exercise patience – slow down and make eye contact with bicyclists and pedestrians
- Scan the road as you drive looking for all types of potential hazards
- Use rearview and side mirrors to see what may be approaching your vehicle
- Be predictable

BICYCLISTS and MOTORISTS

Ride and Drive with Respect

Respect is earned or lost by the choices you make!

Always Ride and Drive by the Rules

Same Roads, Same Rights, Same Rules!

Your Safety Starts with You

Share the Road and Put Safety First!

HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency:..... 9-1-1

Traverse City Police Department: 231-995-5150

G.T. County Sheriff's Department:..... 231-995-5000

Michigan State Police:..... 231-946-4646

Traverse City Parks/Recreation: 231-922-4910

G.T. County Parks/Recreation:..... 231-922-4818

G.T. County Road Commission: 231-922-4848

T.A.R.T. Trails:..... 231-941-4300

B.A.T.A. Transportation:..... 231-941-2324

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A Guide to the Rights and Responsibilities of

Bicyclists & Motorists

SHARE THE ROAD
SAFELY – LEGALLY - EFFICIENTLY



SAME ROADS - SAME RIGHTS - SAME RULES

CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY
&
TRAVERSE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



RULES FOR BICYCLISTS

- **OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS**
Bicyclists are responsible to know and obey all traffic laws. Do not ride the wrong way on streets, run red lights, stop signs, or weave through traffic. This type of behavior reinforces the thought that bicyclists do not belong on the road.
- **RIDE WITH THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC**
Never ride against traffic. It is dangerous and illegal.
- **RIDE ON THE RIGHT**
Bicyclists are more visible to a motorist when they ride their bicycles on the Right side of the road; not on the Left. Always ride on the Right, with the flow of traffic except when preparing for a Left turn, passing another bicyclist or vehicle, or when attempting to avoid road hazards.
- **RIDE ON THE PAVED SHOULDER**
Bicyclists must ride on the paved shoulder except when making a Left turn, avoiding hazards, or overtaking a vehicle on the shoulder. When no shoulder is available, move as far to the right as is possible and safe.
- **RIDE AT LEAST THREE-FEET FROM PARKED CARS**
Bicyclists should be looking ahead as they travel to plan for parked cars. Bicyclists have suffered serious injuries when a car door is opened into their travel path. Beware and use caution as you bicycle past parked vehicles.
- **BICYCLISTS AND TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS**
Bicyclists who violate traffic laws are subject to the same fines as motor vehicle drivers. You must ride the same direction as traffic, and you must obey all traffic control devices.

- **FOLLOW LANE MARKINGS**
Like other traffic, bicyclists must follow lane markings. Bicyclists can not turn left from the right lane or go straight in a right-turn-only lane. When riding on a street where there is a right turn lane and the rider intends to go straight, the rider must move into the lane to go straight, staying in the right portion of that lane.
- **USE HAND SIGNALS**
Bicyclists must advise motorists of their intentions. The following are legally recognized and recommended hand signals bicyclists use when riding on the road:
 - LEFT TURN:** Extend your left arm and hand straight out
 - RIGHT TURN:** Extend your left arm straight out, bend your elbow 90 degrees with your hand straight up
 - STOP:** Extend your left arm straight out, bend your elbow 90 degrees with your hand down.
- **DO NOT PASS ON THE RIGHT**
Motorists are NOT looking for bicyclists to pass on the right. Establish your place in traffic behind the motorist where you can watch his/her turn signals.
- **CHOOSE THE BEST WAY TO TURN LEFT**
 You can choose from TWO ways to make a legal left turn on a bicycle.
 1. **Like a motorist** - signal, move into the left lane, and complete the turn.
 2. **Like a pedestrian** - ride straight to the far crosswalk and walk the bike across the intersection.
- **USE LIGHTS AND REFLECTORS AT NIGHT**
When riding after dark, your bicycle must be equipped with a strong white front light and a red reflector, or red light on the back. For more information on these laws and others, go to the [State of Michigan](#) web site and click on [Michigan Vehicle Code or Uniform Traffic Code](#).
- **KEEP BOTH HANDS ON THE HANDLE BARS**
Use both hands while you steer and/or brake your bicycle. Remember wet or icy conditions make bicycle control and braking more difficult.
- **DO NOT RIDE DOUBLE**
Riding double on a bicycle made for one person is dangerous and illegal. It is illegal to attach yourself or the bicycle to a moving vehicle.
- **RIDING TWO ABREAST**
Bicyclists are allowed to ride two-abreast in Michigan; however, it is safest for both the bicyclist and the motorist if the bicyclists drop into single file when a motor vehicle approaches.

- **SHARE THE SIDEWALKS**
Yield to pedestrians. They have the right of way. Reduce your speed and announce your presence with a proper audible warning, bell, or horn. Courtesy begins with you!
- **LICENSE AND REGISTER YOUR BICYCLE**
The City of Traverse City offers free bicycle licenses for City residents. To obtain a license, you must fill out a short application form at the Dennis W. Finch Law Enforcement Center, 851 Woodmere Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan, 49686, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- **CODE OF ORDINANCES**
Did you know the City of Traverse City posts its Code of Ordinances on its web page? Bicyclists can find important information on the proper operation of a bicycle within the city limits of the City of Traverse City by reviewing the Chapters located under [Section Four – Traffic Code](#) as follows:
 - Chapter 410, Section 410.03**
Titled: Amendments to the Uniform Traffic Code
Subsections: (c), (d), and (e)
 - Chapter 420, Sections 420.01 through 420.99**
Titled: Bicyclist and Coaster Toys
Subsections: Not applicable
 - Chapter 1374, Sections 1374.02**
Titled: Bicycle Parking
Subsections: (a), (b), and (c) 1-3

SAFETY TIPS FOR BICYCLISTS:

- Always ride your bicycle with the flow of traffic–never against it
- Carry personal identification and a cellular telephone
- Dress appropriately
- Always wear a helmet and eye protection
- Use a pack or rack
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Scan the road behind you
- Avoid road hazards and be predictable
- Keep your bicycle in good working condition
- Lock and register your bicycle

