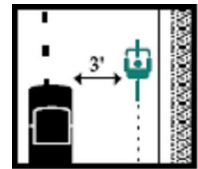
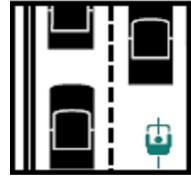


Share the Road Rules for Motorists

Bicycles are defined as vehicles in Ohio law and therefore cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers of cars. As a motorist, you should drive carefully around bicyclists. Here are some tips to more safely share the road with bicyclists.

Narrow Lanes

Be aware that when a traffic lane is too narrow for cars and bikes to ride side by side, cyclists should “control the lane”, which means riding in or near the center of the lane. Bicyclists may ride two abreast in Ohio.



Three Feet Please

Maintain a safety zone of at least 3 ft (more at higher speeds) between the car and the cyclist. Consider the car’s right outside mirror when maintaining this safety zone.

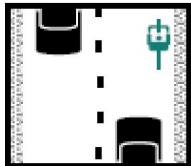
Passing Safely

Pass a cyclist only when it can be done safely. Reduce your speed when approaching and passing a cyclist. Do not blast your horn when passing a cyclist – this could startle the cyclist and cause a crash.



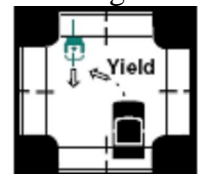
Hazardous Zones

A motorist may cross a solid yellow line to pass a bicycle (or other slower vehicle) as long as the faster vehicle is capable of passing without exceeding the speed limit and as long as there is sufficient clear space in which to do so. Do not pass a cyclist if oncoming traffic is near. Your patience will only take a few seconds.



Right Turns

Leave ample room when turning right after passing a cyclist so the cyclist is not cut off. Make sure you provide adequate distance between you and the cyclist before merging back into your travel lane. Experienced cyclists can ride at high speeds, especially when traveling downhill.

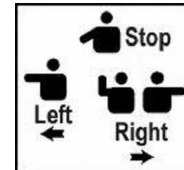


Left Turns

Yield on left turns to oncoming cyclists. Cyclists may be traveling faster than you realize. Yield to cyclists as you would any other vehicle.

Slow Down in Bad Weather

In inclement weather, give cyclists extra trailing and passing room, just as you would other motorists.

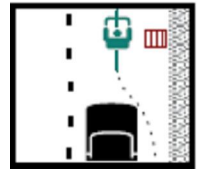


Hand Signals

Be aware that when a cyclist must make an emergency stop, that they may be unable to signal their stop because they may need to use both hands to brake.

Road Hazards

Learn to recognize situations and obstacles that may be hazardous to cyclists, such as railroad tracks, potholes, debris and drain grates – then give them adequate space to maneuver.



Opening Car Doors

When parked at the side of the road, check your rearview mirror before opening your car door to make sure there are no cyclists or other traffic approaching. Suddenly opening car doors is a major cause of bicycle accidents.

Children on Bicycles

Children on bicycles are often unpredictable in their actions. Expect the unexpected turn or swerve.



Sidewalk Riding

Bicyclists are permitted to ride on sidewalks in Ohio, but many cities and villages prohibit sidewalk cycling, especially in business districts. Children are generally permitted to ride on sidewalks, so watch for them on sidewalks and crosswalks.

Sources: Ohio Revised Code,
League of American Bicyclists (www.bikeleague.org),
Bicycle Coalition of Maine (www.bikemaine.org)