



For years, roads were built with only automobiles in mind – and the rules of the road were focused on them. But these days, with more cyclists on the road and more bike lanes being added to streets, it's essential that drivers and cyclists alike understand **the rules of the road**.



Creating a bicycle-friendly Indiana through promotion, education and advocacy.

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The motorist's responsibility:

- **Pass with care.** Slow down and give bicycles at least three feet of clearance when passing. If there isn't room, be patient and wait until it's safe to pass.
- **Don't honk.** A car horn can startle a cyclist, causing a wreck.
- **Treat bicycles like other vehicles.** Never cut them off. Yield to them when turning. Always assume bicyclists are traveling straight unless they signal otherwise.
- **Keep it clean.** Glass and other trash create hazards for bicyclists.
- **Be aware.** Watch out for cyclists, treat them with respect and give them the room they need to be safe.

First of all, it's important to note that, once they enter the roadway, cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers of motorized vehicles. They must:

- **Obey all traffic laws.**
- **Stop at stop signs and traffic lights.**
- **Signal all turns.**
- **Ride *with* traffic, in the right side of the lane.**
- **Use lights when it's dark.**

Bicycles are alternate modes of transportation that benefit us all – whether we ride them or not.

They are pollution-free and add no wear or tear to our roadways – and that means cleaner communities and lower roadway maintenance costs for Hoosier taxpayers. And that makes sharing the road not just sensible, but also worthwhile.

However, there are special rules cyclists must follow – and drivers must accommodate.

- **Two abreast.** Bicyclists may ride two-abreast, even in traffic.
- **Room to ride.** Bicyclists are *not* required to ride on the shoulder or to surrender the lane to vehicles. When riding with traffic, they are expected to ride as far to the right as practical *when the lane can be shared safely with other vehicles*.
- **Extra room.** Bicyclists may move away from the right side of the road when passing another vehicle going in the same direction, or when avoiding a hazard such as a pothole, debris, animals or other vehicles.
- **Left lane.** Bicyclists may use the left lane or move to the left side of a single lane when preparing to make a left turn – just like a car.



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Promoting the Benefits of Cycling



Riding a bicycle on the road means sharing the road with cars, trucks and motorcycles. That can be a scary thought, but if you **ride smart**, you can be safe and enjoy the ride. Following are a few tips to remember so you share the road with sense.



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First of all, remember that, when you ride in traffic, you're really just another driver, with the same rules and responsibilities as everyone else. That means you must:

- Obey all traffic laws.
- Stop at stop signs and traffic lights.
- Signal all turns.
- Ride *with* traffic, in the right side of the lane.
- Always look back, signal and check for traffic before turning or entering the roadway.
- Be aware of what's going on around you.

On the other hand, as a bicyclist, you're smaller, slower and less protected than other drivers on the road. That means you need to think about things other drivers don't. Here are some dos and don'ts:

- Do wear a helmet. (It could save your life!)
- Do wear bright colors to help drivers see you.
- Don't surprise other drivers. Ride straight, with no sudden changes in direction.
- Don't hog the road: Two cyclists, side-by-side, is the limit. If the lane can be safely shared with a car, ride single-file.
- Do let motorists pass when it's safe, but hold your lane so you have room to ride.
- Do allow four feet between you and parked cars so you don't get surprised by an opening door.
- Do let pedestrians go first.
- Do be prepared: Carry water and tools.
- Do allow extra distance for stopping in wet weather.
- Do use a light and wear reflective clothing if you must ride when it's dark. Reflective patches and reflective wheel strips also help.