



SHARING THE ROAD



www.durham.ca/cycledurham

To request this information in an accessible format,
please call 905-668-4113 ext.2900



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Cyclist and Motorist Responsibilities

Cyclists and motorists have the same rights and responsibilities, and must follow the same rules. The following are known as the three Rs of safe cycling:

Same Roads: Vehicles and bicycles share the same roads.

Same Rights: When on the road, cyclists have all the same rights and duties as motorists and must obey all signs and traffic control devices.

Same Rules: Other than the difference in a cyclist's position on the road, cyclists are expected to follow the same rules of the road as motorists.

By understanding and practicing the three Rs, cyclists can help ensure their own safety and, at the same time, help motorists understand their intentions.

Motorists should always follow the rules of the road and ensure that cyclists are given the courtesy and space required to ride safely.

Motorist Responsibilities

- Reduce your speed when encountering cyclists.
- Leave a safe following distance should the cyclist need to stop suddenly.
- Recognize the hazards that cyclists may face and give them one metre of space. There may be times when they must ride closer to the middle of the lane. Be aware of where a cyclist is and anticipate their actions.
- Try not to use your horn. The sound of a car horn can be very startling to a cyclist.
- Be cautious and respectful.
- When turning left, watch for and yield to oncoming cyclists just as you would to oncoming motorists.
- When turning right, yield to any cyclist travelling on your right. Do not try to pass a cyclist if you're planning to turn at the next intersection or driveway.
- Look for cyclists before opening car doors.
- Children on bicycles can be unpredictable. Expect the unexpected and slow down.

Cyclist Responsibilities

- Ride respectfully. The same traffic laws that apply to motorists also apply to you.
- Use hand signals and eye contact to communicate your actions.
- Obey traffic control signals and signs.
- Ride in a straight line and do not weave between parked cars.
- Do not ride on the sidewalk.
- Ride in single file when riding with other cyclists.
- Ride as closely as practicable* to the right-hand side of the road.
- Increase your visibility by wearing brightly coloured clothing.
- Use a white front light/reflector and a red or amber rear light/reflector.

***As close as practicable:** The law requires vehicles moving at less than the normal speed of traffic to keep as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the road. Although the Highway Traffic Act does not define "as close as practicable", experienced cyclists recommend riding approximately one metre (three feet) away from the curb. This will help you maintain a straight line while avoiding hazards such as potholes, wide cracks, service covers, debris, and puddles. Use your best judgement when determining how far away from the curb to ride and when it may be necessary to move closer to the middle of the lane.



Passing a Cyclist

Drivers should pass a cyclist only when it is safe to do so. The *Making Ontario Roads Safer Act (2015)* requires drivers to provide one metre of clearance to cyclists when travelling alongside or passing them. This may require drivers to change lanes in order to pass safely. Extra caution must be exercised and additional space may be required when passing cyclists in highway travel situations.

There are some situations where it is not safe to pass a cyclist including:

- In construction zones where traffic is reduced to one narrow lane.
- In lanes with narrow widths that do not permit passing at a safe distance.
- In a yield lane.

Caution and additional space are required when passing cyclists at high rates of speed. By using common sense and following the rules of the road, cyclists and drivers can make streets safer for everyone.



Bicycle & Vehicle Collisions

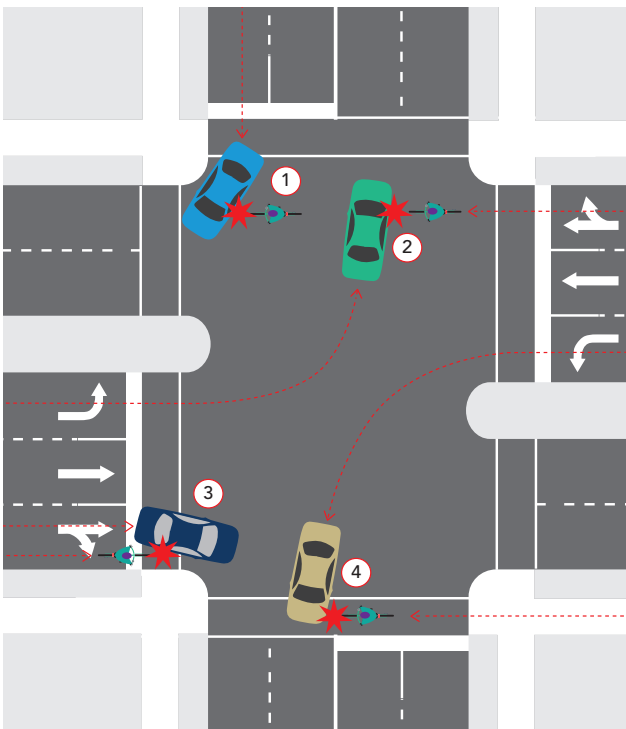
There are many causes for bicycle and vehicle collisions, such as: not adhering to the rules of the road, failing to yield the right of way, and motorists not seeing the cyclist or squeezing the cyclist to the edge of the road. To avoid collisions, all road users should continually scan their surroundings and be aware of what's going on around them.

Common collisions

Collisions between cyclists and motorists can occur when:

1. A motorist makes a right turn into the path of a cyclist travelling through the intersection
2. A motorist makes a left turn into the path of an oncoming cyclist travelling through the intersection
3. A motorist makes a right turn across the path of a cyclist continuing straight through the intersection
4. A cyclist is travelling illegally on the sidewalk and crosses an intersection

These situations are illustrated in the diagram below.



Cycling Road Infrastructure

There are several types of cycling road infrastructure available in Durham to make your ride easier and safer. Signage along designated routes inform road users when cycling amenities such as bike lanes start and end. The following are the most common cycling infrastructure found on our roadways.

Bicycle-only lanes

A bicycle-only lane is reserved for cyclists only. It is marked with a bicycle symbol on the pavement. Motorists are prohibited from using reserved bike lanes at all times except to immediately access driveways or to turn at intersections. Drivers may be charged for improper use in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act.

Power assisted bicycles (including e-bikes and electric scooters) with a maximum speed of 32 kilometres per hour are allowed in the cycling lane. Personal mobility devices, including wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs, and medical scooters are **not** allowed in the cycling lane.



Sharrows

Sharrows refer to shared-lane markings on the pavement showing a bicycle with two chevrons. They remind road users to share the road when driving or cycling, and encourage motorists to reduce speeds and leave space for cyclists who may occupy the lane.



Sharrows on roadways are often accompanied by ground-mounted "Share the Road" signs (left) to remind users that the lane is shared by both cyclists and vehicles. These signs may also appear where bicycle-only lanes end.

Bus and Cycle-only Lanes

• Pavement markings and signage have been provided at all intersecting roadways on Highway 2 (Kingston Road) to guide right-turning traffic into the correct lane.

• Dashed lane markings indicate where it is acceptable to change lanes to enter the bus-only lane to turn right.

• Change lanes only when it is safe to do so and when there is no traffic approaching in the reserved bus and bicycle lane.

• When an emergency vehicle is approaching, motorists should enter the reserved lanes when safe, and bring their vehicle to a stop as near as practical to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

• Motorists turning right from Highway 2 at an intersection with an exclusive right-turn lane are allowed to cross the bus-only and cycling lanes where the lane markings are dashed, permitting entry to the right-turn lane. Motorists must yield to buses and cyclists while merging into the right-turn lane.

• Motorists turning right from Highway 2 at an intersection without an exclusive right-turn lane are allowed to enter the bus lane where the lane markings are dashed and make the right turn from the bus-only lane. Motorists must yield to buses while merging into the bus-only lane and to cyclists when turning right.

• Motorists entering from a driveway onto Highway 2 with bus-only lanes should yield to right-turning traffic, buses and cyclists. Motorists are required to exit the bus lane within 60 metres of entering, and when safe to do so.

