

## 5. Sharing the Road — Motorists and Cyclists

Through cooperation and respect, motorists and cyclists can share the road safely. When encountering cyclists on our roadways you should be aware of the three **R**'s that apply to motorists and cyclists:

- **Same Roads:** Motor vehicles and bicycles share the same roads.
- **Same Rights:** Cyclists have a right to their space on the road and are expected to follow them. Motorists are expected to give cyclists the space they require to ride safely.
- **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 a motorist.

### Your responsibilities as a motorist:

- Take extra caution as some cyclists may not know or follow all the traffic safety rules.
- 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 (e.g. debris on the road) and give them plenty of space. Cycling advocacy groups suggest providing approximately one metre of clearance when travelling alongside or passing cyclists.
- 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 are planning to turn right at the next intersection or driveway.
- Children on bicycles are often unpredictable. Expect the unexpected and slow down.
- Look for cyclists before opening your car doors.
- At night, always dim your lights when approaching an oncoming cyclist.
- Motorists should always be cautious and respectful and provide adequate space to prevent potential collisions with cyclists.



## Cyclists are expected to:

- Ride respectfully — the same traffic laws that apply to motorists also apply to cyclists.
- Use hand signals and eye contact to communicate their actions to motorists.
- Obey traffic control signals and signs.
- Ride in a straight line and refrain from weaving between parked cars.
- Dismount on sidewalks.
- Ride single file when riding with other cyclists.
- Ride as closely as practicable to the right hand boundary of the road.
- Wear a certified helmet.
- Increase their visibility by wearing brightly coloured clothing.
- Use a white front light and a red rear light in low light conditions.
- Not cycle in places where a Cycling Prohibited sign is posted.



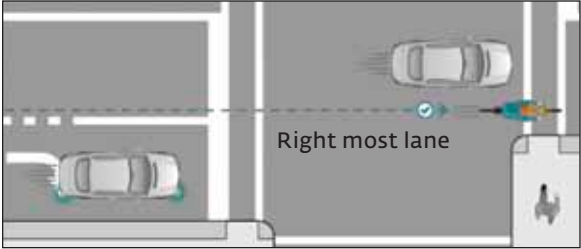
## Understanding a Cyclist's Position on the Road

*The Highway Traffic Act* indicates that cyclists should position themselves 'as close as is practicable' to the right side of the roadway. This means that cyclists are required to exercise good judgment when determining their positioning on the roadway. Motorists need to be aware that a cyclist's position on the road may be affected by traffic volume, road conditions, weather hazards and municipal lane restrictions.

Motorists can help reduce the number of bicycle and motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities by understanding a cyclist's positioning on the road. There are certain situations when a cyclist may choose to be further away from the right side of the road or ride closer to the middle of the lane.

Motorists should be aware of these hazards for cyclists which may include:

- Adverse road conditions such as potholes, puddles or construction.
- When passing parked vehicles and additional space is required to stay clear of the door zone.

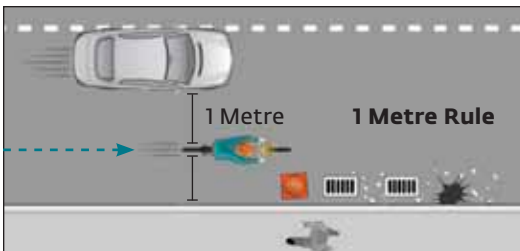
- When making a left turn. The cyclist should be positioned closer to the centre of the turning lane and following the path of a vehicle as they make the turn.
- When the right lane is intended for right turns only and the cyclist intends to go straight. Cyclists in these situations will carry on in a straight line through the intersection.
 
- When there is slower moving or stopped traffic in the right hand lane. Cyclists are allowed to pass on the left as long as it is safe to do so, however after completing the pass, the cyclist would then return to the right edge of the lane.
- When cycling on one-way streets with more than three lanes of traffic.

## Passing a Cyclist

Motorists should pass a cyclist only when it is safe to do so. Cycling advocacy groups suggest providing approximately one metre of clearance. 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 may be required when passing cyclists at high rates of speed.

The *Highway Traffic Act* does not specify how close cyclists should ride near the right edge of the roadway or the clearance motorists must give a cyclist when travelling alongside or passing them. By using common sense and following the rules of the road, cyclists and motorists can make streets safer for everyone.

## Cyclist Signals

Watch for these hand signals that indicate the cyclist's intentions.

**Remember:** Many children fail to signal, so always be extra cautious when approaching young cyclists. Their lives are in your hands.



Stopping



Turning Left



Turning Right

or



Lane Changes

For more information how to safety and responsibly share the road with cyclists visit [mpi.mb.ca/english/rd\\_safety/bikesafe/BikeSafe.html](http://mpi.mb.ca/english/rd_safety/bikesafe/BikeSafe.html)