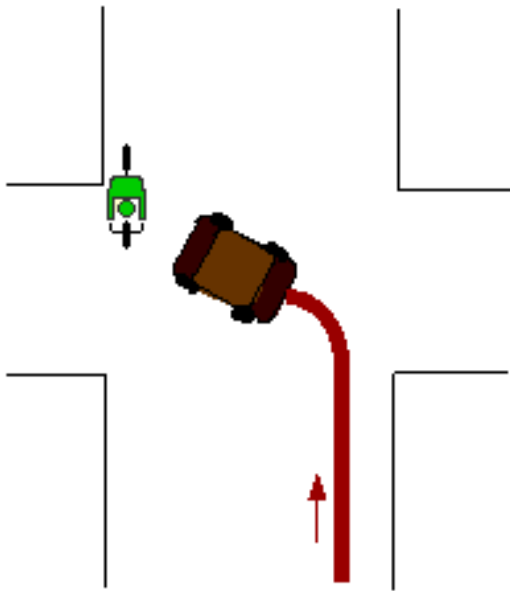


- * Use caution at intersections. Be especially alert for cyclists approaching from the opposite direction. A motorist's unexpected turn into the cyclist's travel lane is a common cause of bike-motor vehicle crashes.



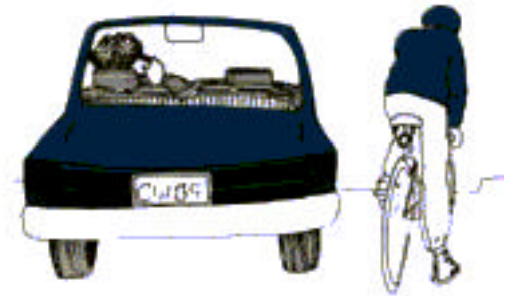
- * Motorists aren't accustomed to cyclists stopping to take their fair turn, but many more are doing so. Use eye contact to acknowledge their presence, and yield to bicycles as you would a car.

For more information about the NYS vehicle and traffic laws pertaining to pedestrians, skaters and bicyclists, please visit:
www.bike.cornell.edu/EDU.htm

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For more information about bicycle safety education materials, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or Lois Chaplin, Biological and Environmental Engineering Department, 326 Riley Robb Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Email: lec4@cornell.edu *

MOTORISTS: SHARING THE ROAD WITH CYCLISTS



It is estimated that there are 99 million bicyclists in the United States. Unfortunately, not everyone who rides a bike understands or obeys the rules of the road. Educational efforts to reach these cyclists are ongoing. Motorists, too, have a responsibility to act in ways to make the road safer for all users. To follow are several points for you, the motorist, to consider as you share the road with cyclists:

* As motorists, we're conditioned to watch for large obstacles, such as vans and tractor-trailers. Although cyclists are no bigger than pedestrians, we need to expect them on the roadway. Make scanning for cyclists second nature, too.

* Don't blast your horn when approaching bicyclists. You could startle them and cause a collision. A gentle "toot" from several hundred feet back may be acceptable if the cyclist appears unaware of your approach.



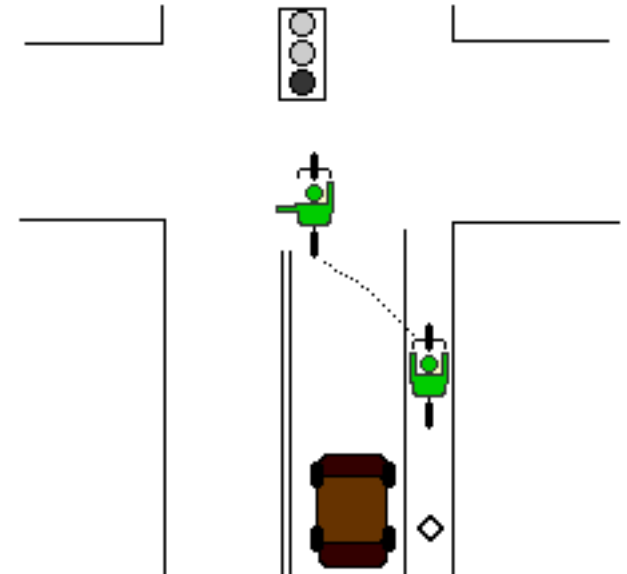
* Don't assume cyclists should position themselves on the road as far to the right as possible. Smart cyclists plot a line straight down the roadway 3-4 feet from the curb or parked cars. This allows them space to avoid road hazards and to be more visible to motorists and pedestrians.

* Allow plenty of space when passing a bike. Just as the wind produced by a passing tractor-trailer can pull a car off course, so too can a passing car cause a cyclist to swerve out of control.

* When passing by a cyclist, check over your shoulder to make sure you have allowed adequate distance before merging back in or attempting a right hand turn. Experienced bicyclists can ride 20-25 mph and may be closer than you think.

* New York State law requires motorists to change lanes to pass cyclists if they can't safely do so while staying in the same lane. This means that on curving, narrow roads you should slow down and remain behind the cyclists until you can see far enough down the left-hand lane to pull out and clear the cyclist safely.

* Some roads have bike lanes along them. Cyclists are required to use these lanes, but may enter into your lane in order to execute a left turn.



* Be aware that when a road is too narrow for cars and bikes to ride safely side by side, bicyclists should ride in or near the center of the lane to discourage motorists from trying to pass.