

Specific Recommendations for Motorists in a Bicycle Friendly World

What can the motorist do to avoid car/bike crashes? We have a list of things we recommend:

1. Leave at least three feet of passing space between the right side of your vehicle and a bicycle.
2. Be aware that when a road is too narrow for cars and bikes to ride side by side, bicycles should "take the lane," which means riding in or near the center of the lane.
3. Reduce speed when passing a cyclist, especially if the roadway is narrow.
4. When turning left at an intersection, yield to oncoming bicyclists just as you would yield to oncoming motorists.
5. After passing a cyclist on your right, check over your shoulder to make sure you have adequate distance before merging back in.
6. Don't blast your horn when approaching bicyclists--you could startle them and cause a crash.
7. In inclement weather give cyclists extra trailing and passing room, just as you do other motorists.
8. Learn to recognize situations and obstacles that may be hazardous to cyclists, such as potholes, debris, and glass--then give them adequate space to maneuver.
9. Look for bicycles when opening your car door.
- 10 Children on bicycles are often unpredictable in their actions. Expect the unexpected.

[Depending on your audience and the time available, you may want to spend time on each of the above points, trying to relate it back to what was discussed earlier. Or you may want to simply show and/or hand out this list, go over it quickly, and then go to the next block of recommendations.]

Specific Recommendations for Public Officials in a Bicycle Friendly World

There is a lot that we as citizens can recommend to legislators and other public officials to promote a better and safer world for all riders of bicycles, either through specific legislation, social pressure from among those who are close to cyclists, or by way of law enforcement. Note that many of them are also beneficial to motorists.

1. Encourage improvement of roads and their design, both new and existing, to better accommodate bicycles as a part of the normal traffic flow.
2. Encourage improved road maintenance.
3. Educate adult bicyclists about the responsibilities involved in operating a bicycle.
4. Educate children, and those who teach children, about the responsibilities involved in operating a bicycle.
5. Educate motorists about bicyclists' rights and responsibilities, and appropriate methods for sharing the road with bicyclists.
6. Promote recognition by law-enforcement personnel of the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists. Encourage law-enforcement personnel to enforce traffic law for cyclists and motorists.
7. Encourage helmet use by all bicyclists.
8. Work for full vehicle status for the bicycle in all 50 states.
9. Provide a legal support system for aggrieved bicyclists (i.e., injury, wrongfully arrested or ticketed, dog attacks, theft, etc.)
- 10 Work to decrease drunk driving.

CLOSURE

It might be a good idea to try to open up the discussion at this point to see if there are any changes in basic attitudes toward cyclists. You might want them to give you some feed back as to what they will be coming away with from the session. Don't forget in closing to go back to the list of motorist concerns about cycling which was developed at the beginning of the class and make sure that all of those concerns were addressed.