

SHARE THE ROAD



A GUIDE FOR BICYCLISTS AND MOTORISTS

South Bay
Bicycle
Coalition



SAFER BIKING FOR EVERYONE

Working to make biking safer and more accessible throughout the South Bay.

www.southbaybicyclecoalition.org



Tips for Sharing the Road Legally and Safely

This pocket guide illustrates how bicyclists and motorists can “Share the Road” legally and safely within California.

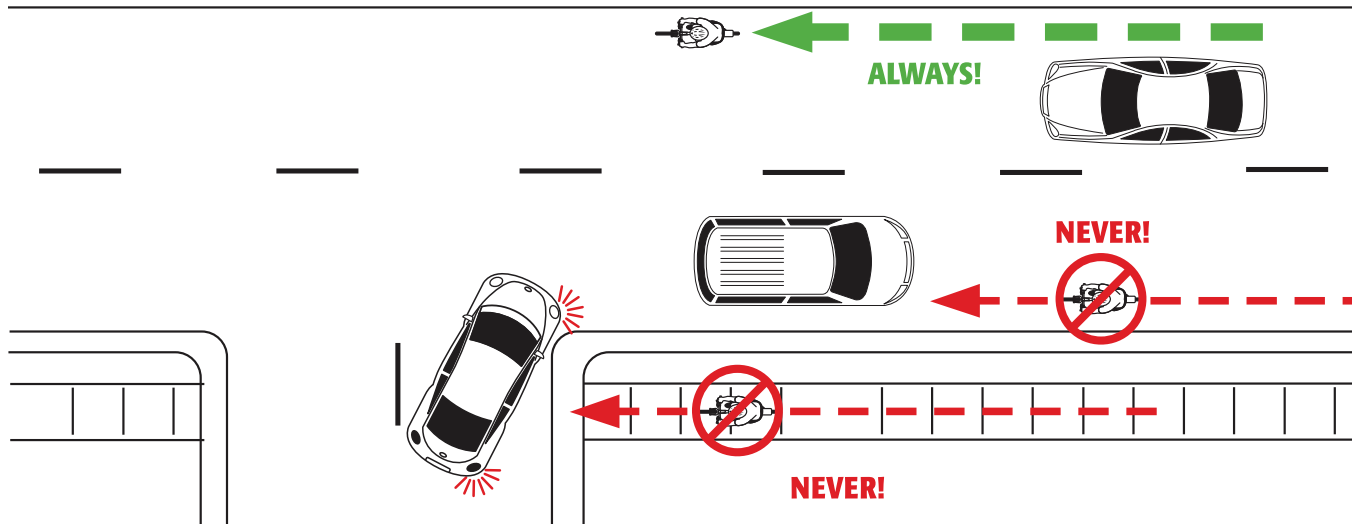
Please read through these safety tips to better understand the other person’s view of the road and to learn more about cycling and driving more safely in our great State.

The more we understand each other’s needs, the better we can respect and cooperate with each other on the streets.

NEVER ride against traffic!

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BICYCLISTS

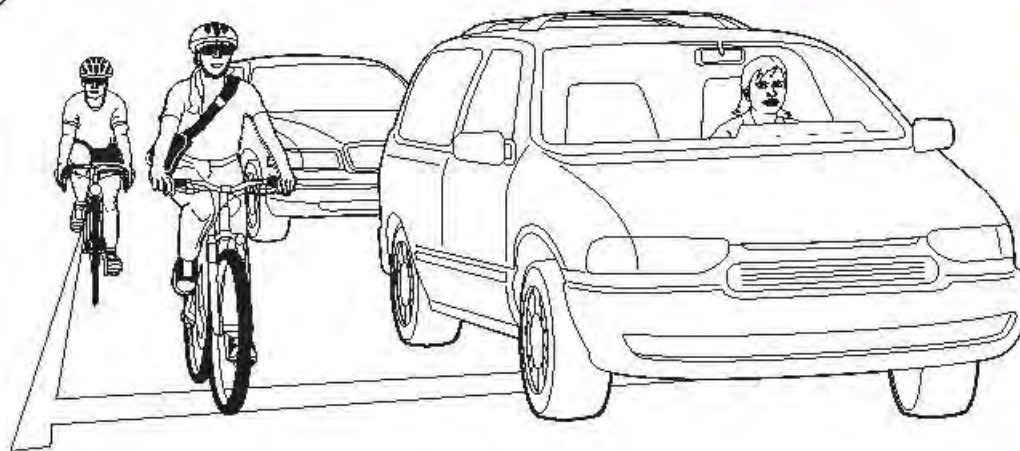


Ride on the right with the flow of traffic—**NEVER** ride against traffic on the road, in a bike lane, or on a sidewalk. Drivers turning from the side cannot see you and approaching drivers will not expect you to be riding the wrong way. (CVC 21202)



**SHARE
THE
ROAD**

Show respect to others

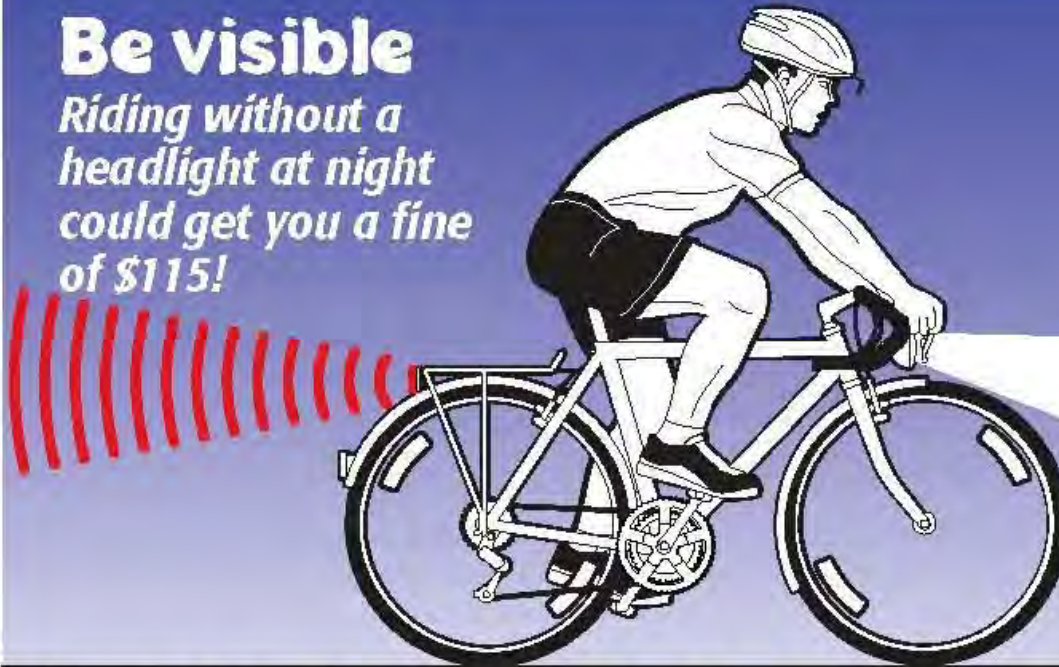


Be polite and be smart. Show respect for all users of the road, and you'll get respect back as a result.

Cyclists and Drivers: Same roads, same rules, same rights and responsibilities.

Be visible

Riding without a headlight at night could get you a fine of \$115!



Wear white or brightly colored shirts and consider reflective clothing for nighttime use. A white front headlight and red rear reflector are required on your bike if you ride at night. (CVC 21201) You should also use a red rear taillight.



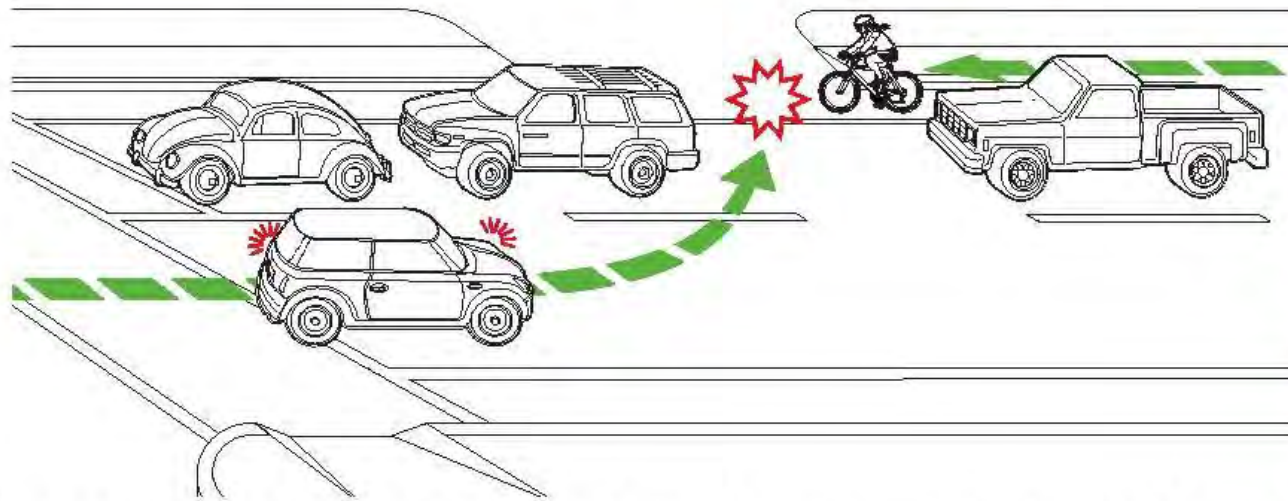
Protect yourself

According to national studies, 85% of brain injuries can be prevented by wearing a helmet.

CVC 21212 (a) requires all bicyclist under the age of 18 to wear a helmet.

Helmet and bicycle mirrors can improve your overall awareness and allow you to see following vehicles.

Watch for cars turning through gaps



Riding too fast past a line of stopped cars can get you clobbered. When passing a line of vehicles **SLOW DOWN AND BE ALERT**, especially near driveway entrances. Motorists often can't see past the line of vehicles and won't know you're there.

Be polite and be smart

Use hand signals to show your intentions and ride in a predictable fashion .



Turning
right



OR



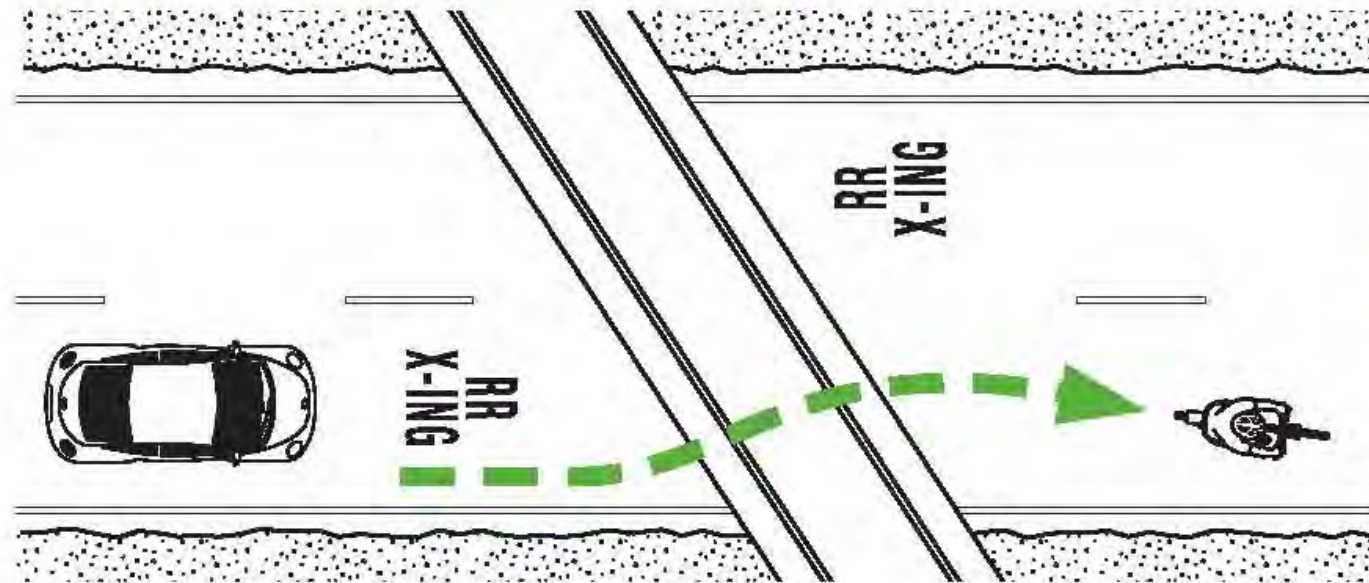
Turning
left



Slowing
down



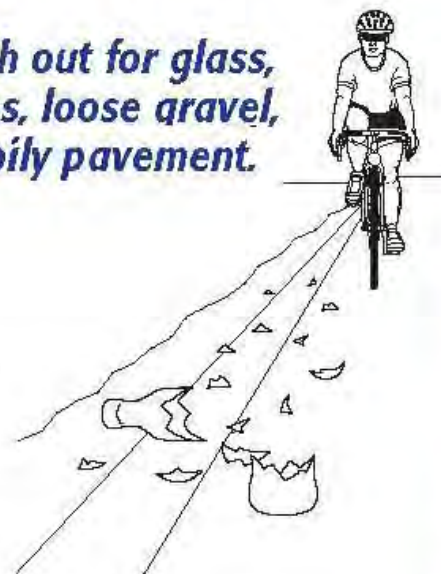
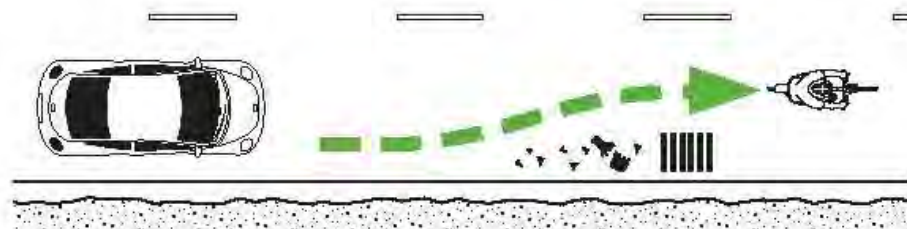
Cross tracks carefully



Watch ahead for hazardous railroad tracks. Look behind you to make sure it's safe, signal your intentions, then cross tracks as close to a right angle as possible •

Take the lane when appropriate

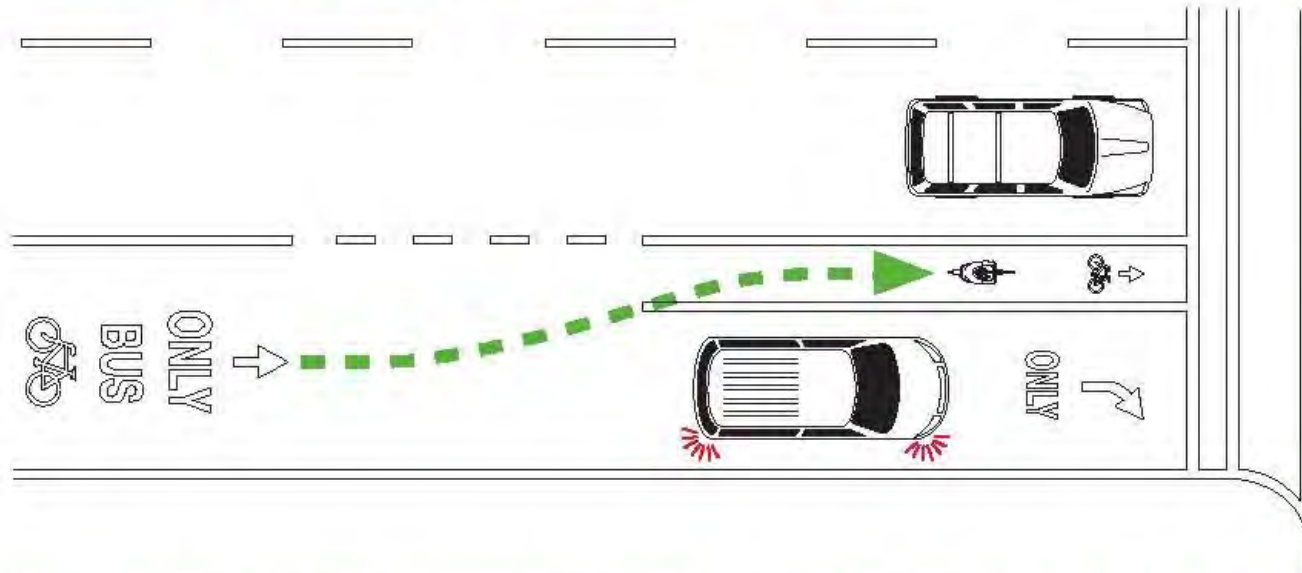
Watch out for glass, grates, loose gravel, and oily pavement.



BICYCLISTS

Remember that you may “take the lane” if the lane is not wide enough for both a car and bike to safely share. Check behind you to make sure it’s safe, signal your intentions, and take the lane by riding $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the way into the lane. When safe and possible, move to the right to allow a following vehicle to pass.

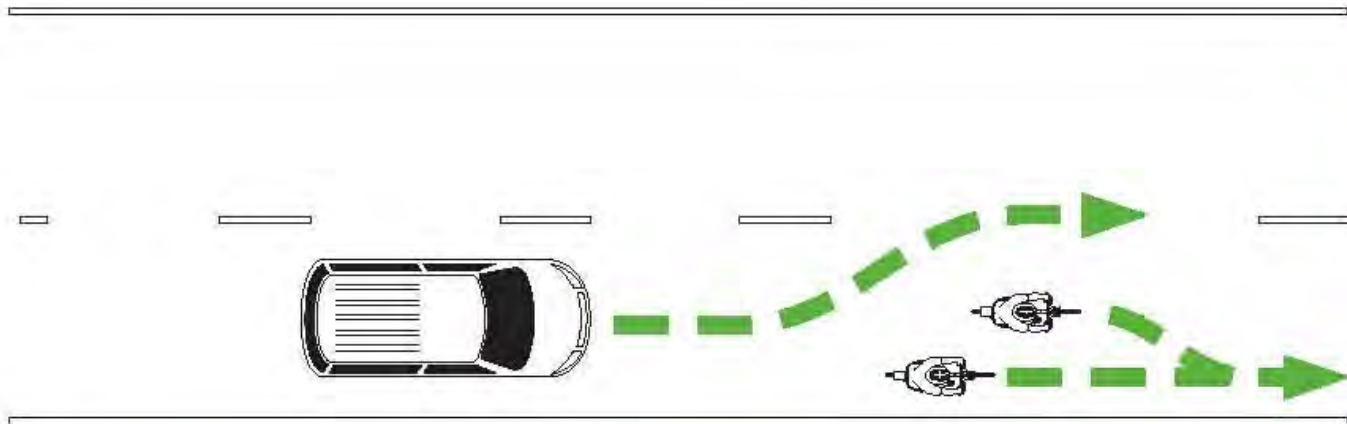
Riding in bus/bike lanes



When using the bus/bike lanes, ride near the center of the lane to make yourself as visible as possible. When approaching an intersection, move to the left before proceeding through. Bus drivers are required to pass cyclists outside of the bus/bike lane.

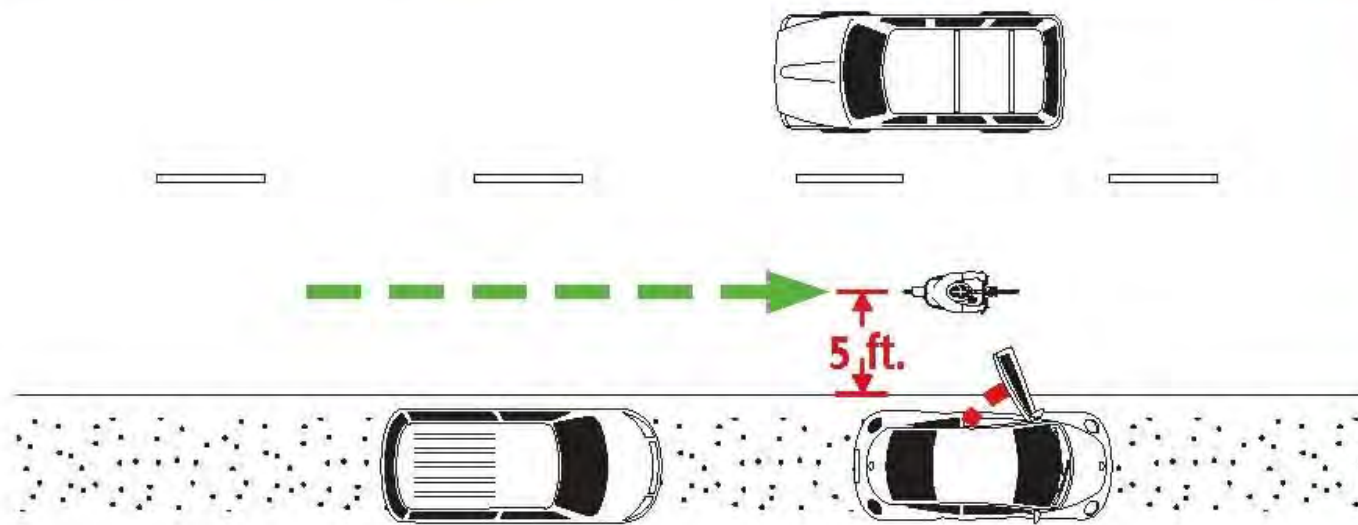
Be cautious when riding two abreast

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Riding two abreast is permitted by law. You can help drivers pass on two-lane roadways without bike lanes by riding single-file when safe to do so (stay at least 2 to 3 feet from the edge of the road). It's always nice to give a friendly wave when drivers pass safely.

Be careful when riding by parked cars

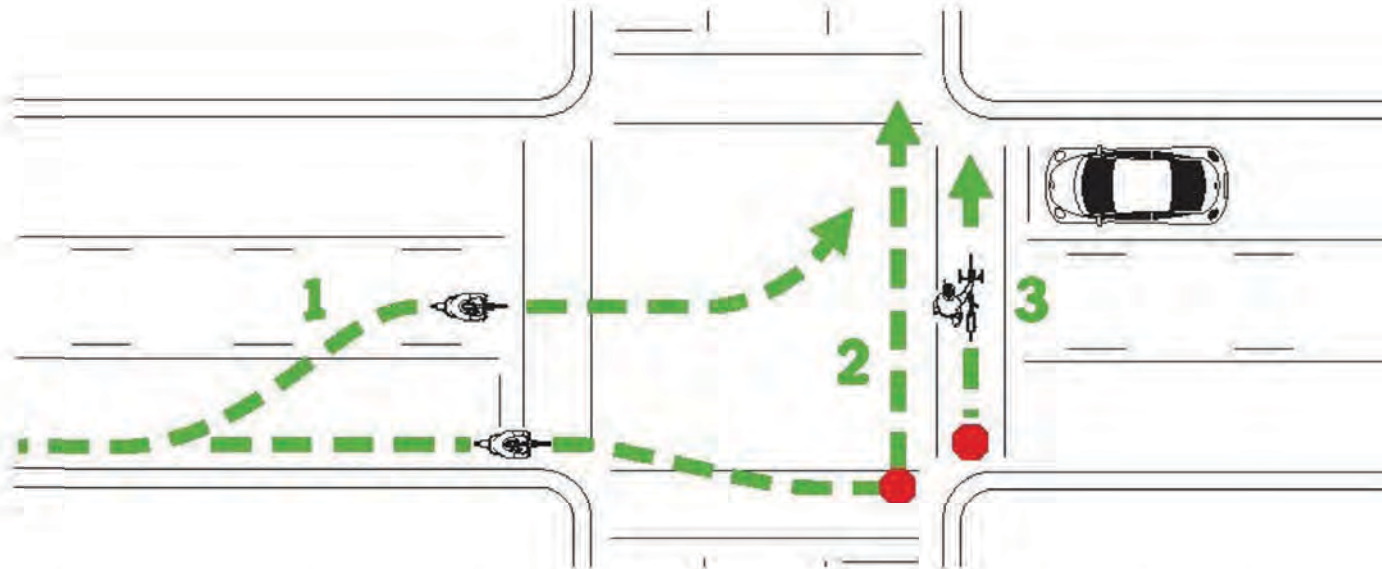


Look for people in parked cars ahead of you and ride in a straight line **at least 5 feet** away from the car. Someone may open the car door unexpectedly. **Be predictable:** don't weave in and out between parked cars.

Three legal ways to turn left

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BICYCLISTS

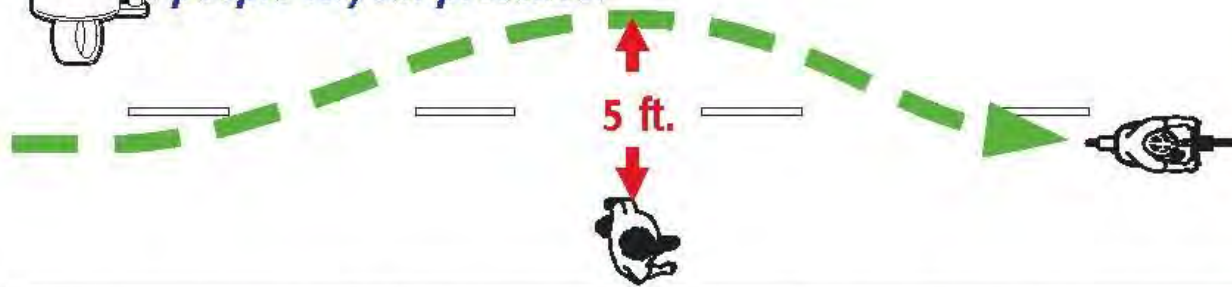


- 1** You may make a left turn like a vehicle by looking over your shoulder, signaling, and moving into the left turn lane when it's safe.
- 2** You may make a left turn by going to the far side of the intersection, turning your bike and using the roadway.
- 3** You may make a left turn by going to the far side of the intersection, turning your bike, and then walking across using the crosswalk.

Respect pedestrians

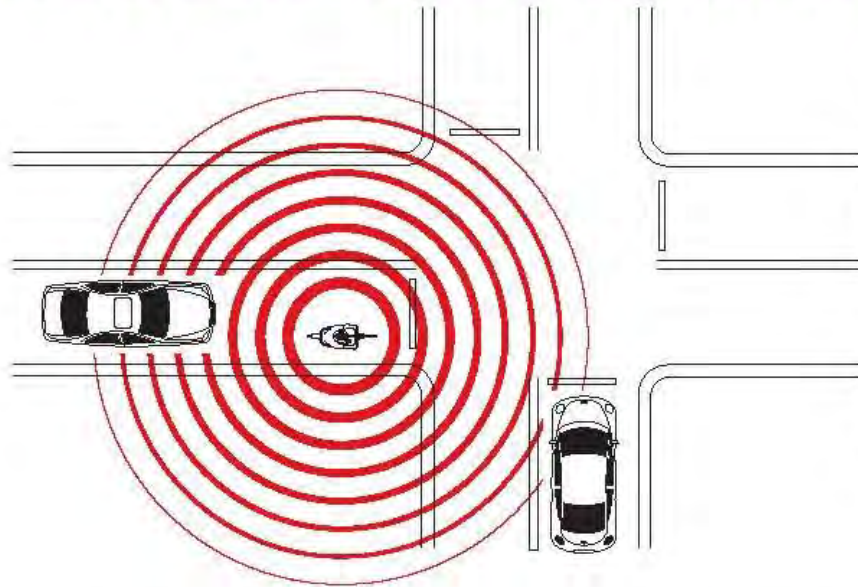


Bicycle bells are a polite way to alert people to your presence!



On a shared pathway reduce speeds when approaching pedestrians, give a verbal warning you're about to pass, and provide at least 5 feet of passing distance. **Remember!** The pedestrian you treat well on the pathway may be the driver who treats you well when you're riding on the roadway.

Be a defensive bike 'driver'



Be aware of your surroundings and especially of turning and side traffic. Make eye contact with drivers and be sure to get their attention.

Even with eye contact the person may not really see you or realize the speed you are going, **so be prepared!**

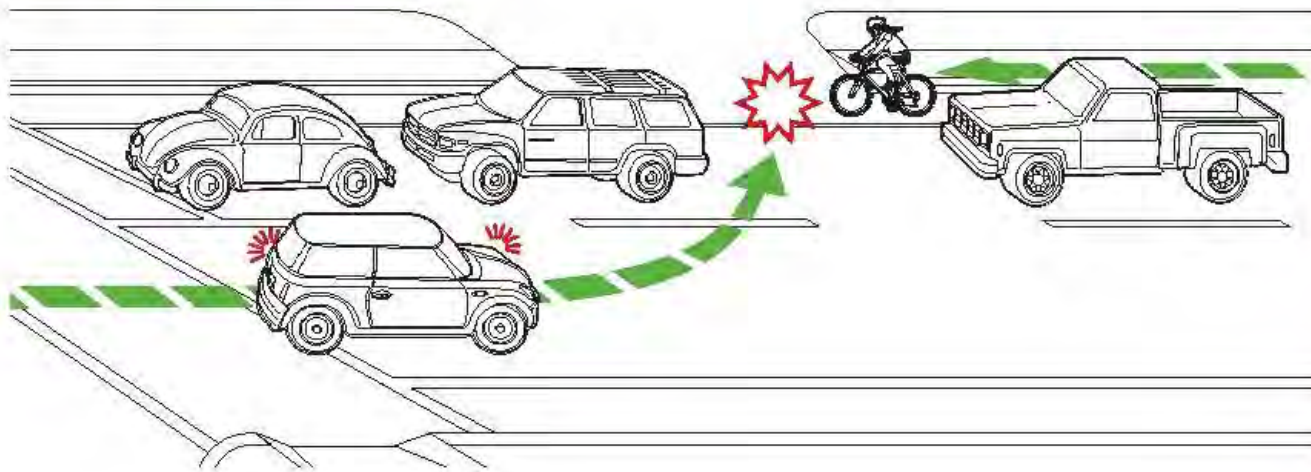


Pay attention

Headphones and cell phones cause distraction and reduce your ability to hear traffic, which could cost you your life.

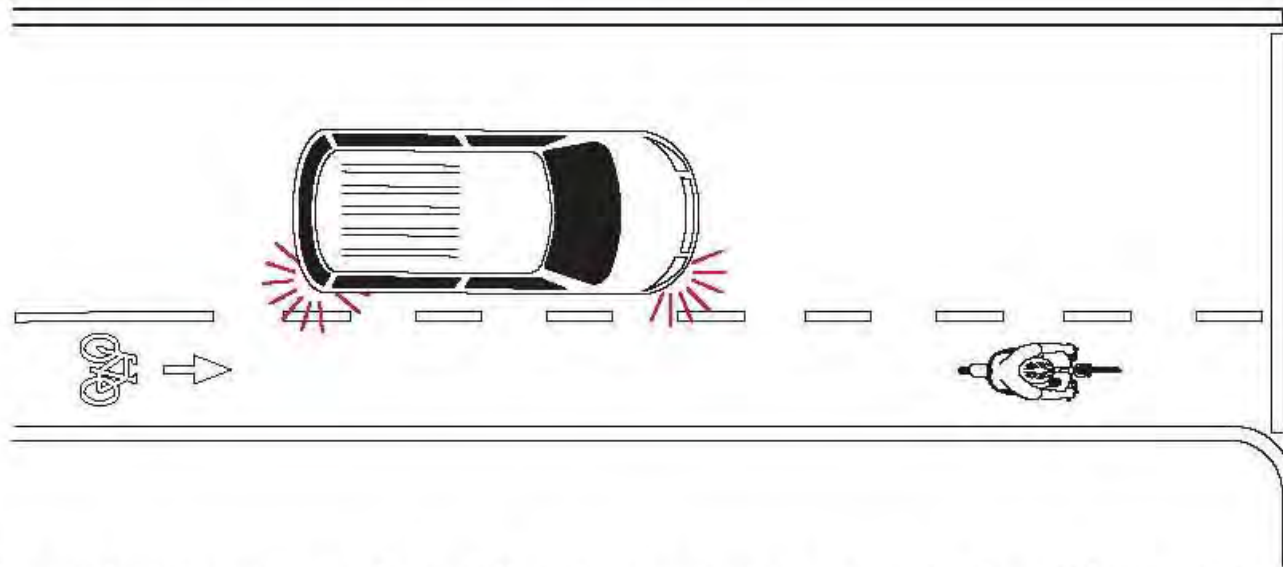
Don't use any kind of headphones or a cell phone when riding your bike.
(CVC 27007)

Yield to bikes when turning through gaps



A situation when a motorist allows another car to make a left turn through a line of cars can be hazardous to cyclists. **Make your turn with extreme caution and yield to bicyclists.**

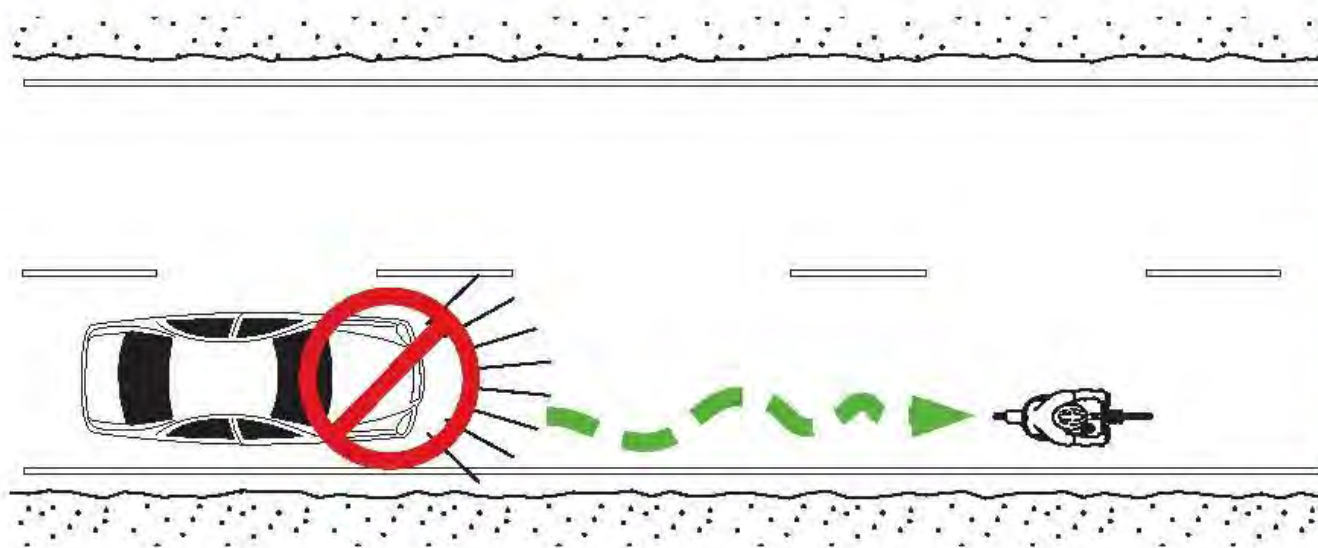
Bike lanes are for bikes



Do not drive or park in bike lanes or on paved shoulders. When turning right, wait and allow the cyclist to go through the intersection first. **Be predictable and always signal your intentions. Be careful not to turn in front of cyclists.**

Horns don't help

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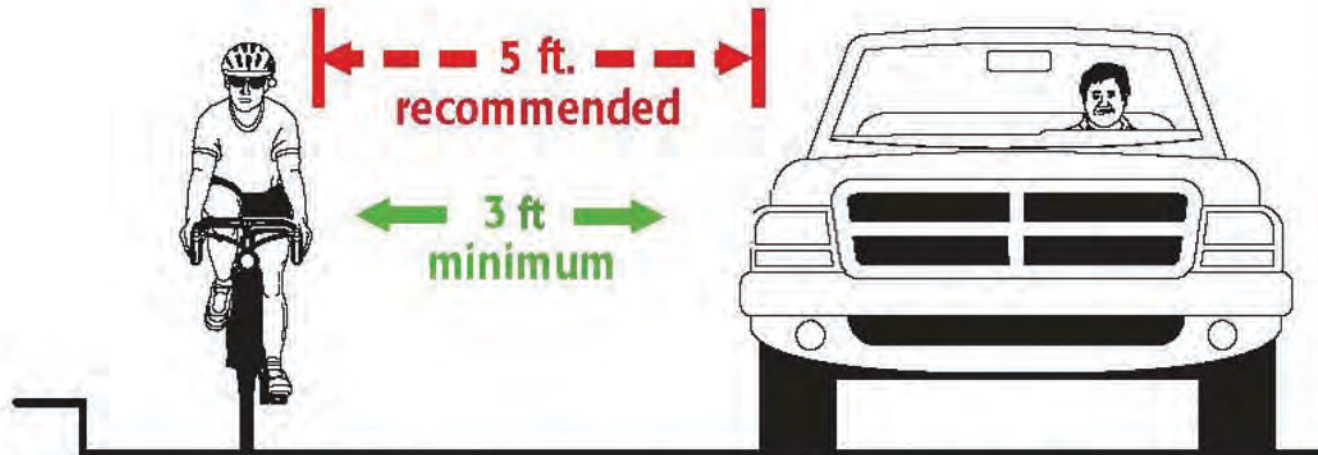


Do not use your horn when following a cyclist. A sudden loud blast from a horn may startle the cyclist and cause him or her to swerve into traffic. **The driver can be cited for causing a crash.**

MOTORISTS

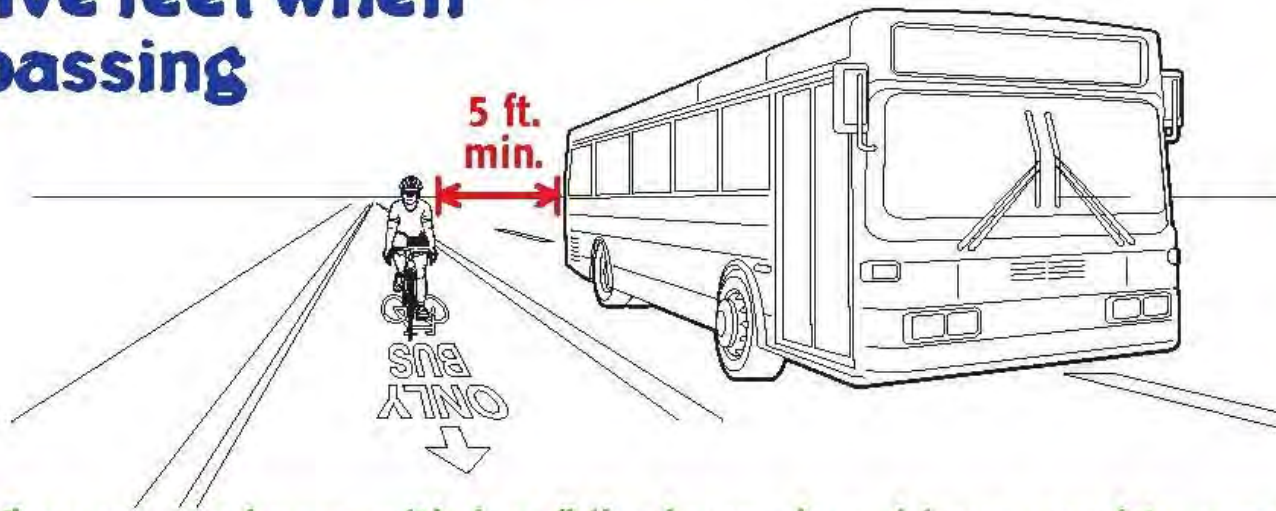
Safe passing is the law

*Unsafe passing can
result in a fine.
CVC 21650*



The California Three Feet for Safety Act requires motorists to give at least three feet of clearance when passing people riding bikes. CVC 21760

Buses need to allow five feet when passing

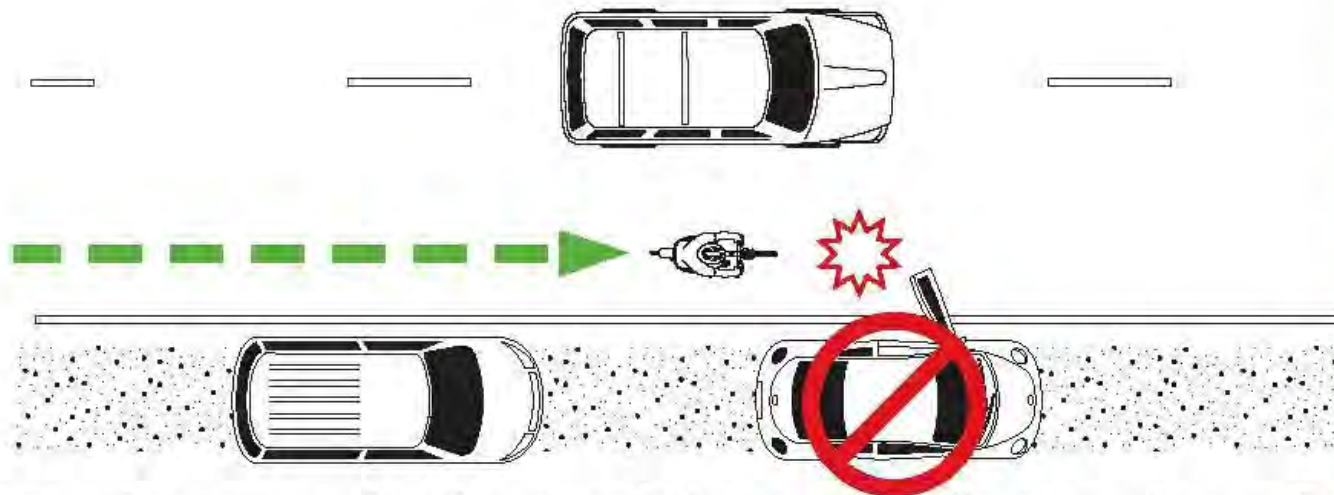


When on roadways with bus/bike lanes, bus drivers need to pass cyclists completely out of the lane. The wind draft caused by the bus can startle cyclists or even knock them sideways. Because the engine is in the rear, cyclists may not hear the bus approaching from behind.

Look before opening your door

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MOTORISTS



Opening your car door in a crowded area can be disastrous to a cyclist riding alongside parked cars. Drivers are legally required to make sure it's safe before opening a car door into the roadway. (CVC 22517)

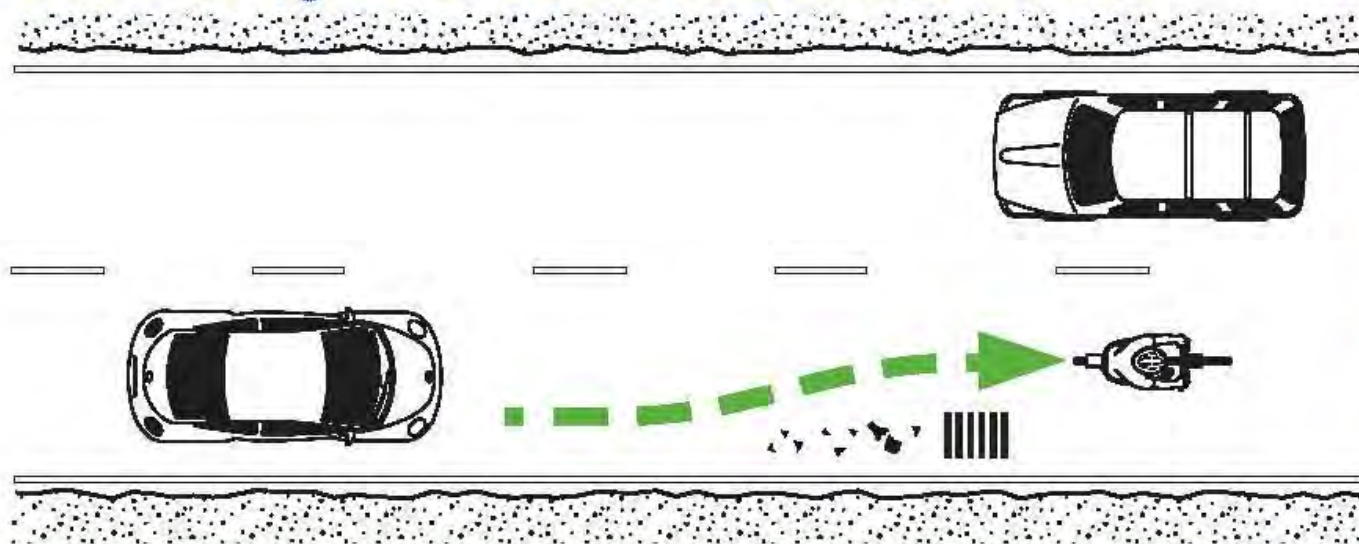


Pay attention to the road, not to your phone

According to national research, you are four times more likely to have an automobile crash if you use a cell phone while driving.

For everyone's safety, pull over to a safe location off the road to use your cell phone.
(CVC 23123)

Give a cyclist room to maneuver

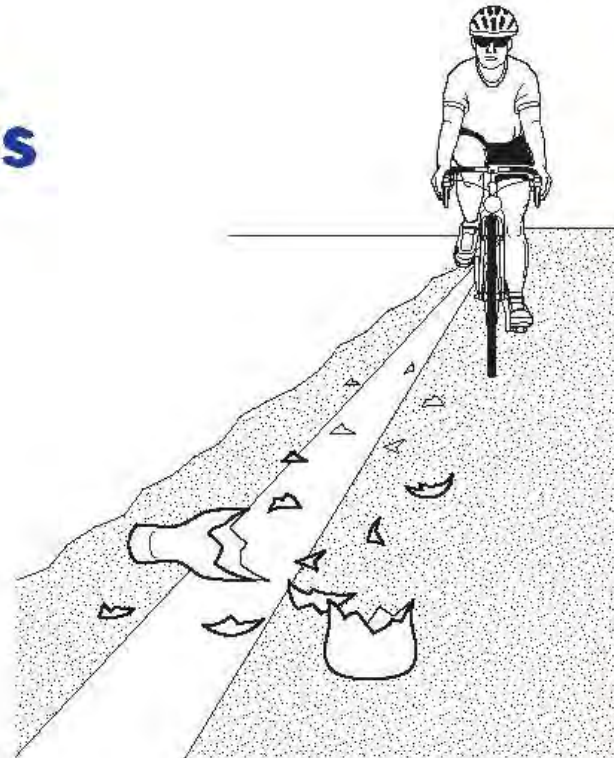


Assume there is a good reason for a cyclist's position in the road and give them adequate room to maneuver. Cyclists can move further into the travel lane due to hazards, to be more visible to drivers, or if the lane is too narrow to safely share with a vehicle.

Help keep trash out of the bike lanes

Debris creates hazardous conditions and forces cyclists further into the travel lane. When hauling trash or other objects, properly secure your loads.

Don't litter! Debris in the bike lanes is dangerous.



Bicycle Program: Sharrows

Shared Lane Pavement Marking a.k.a Sharrows

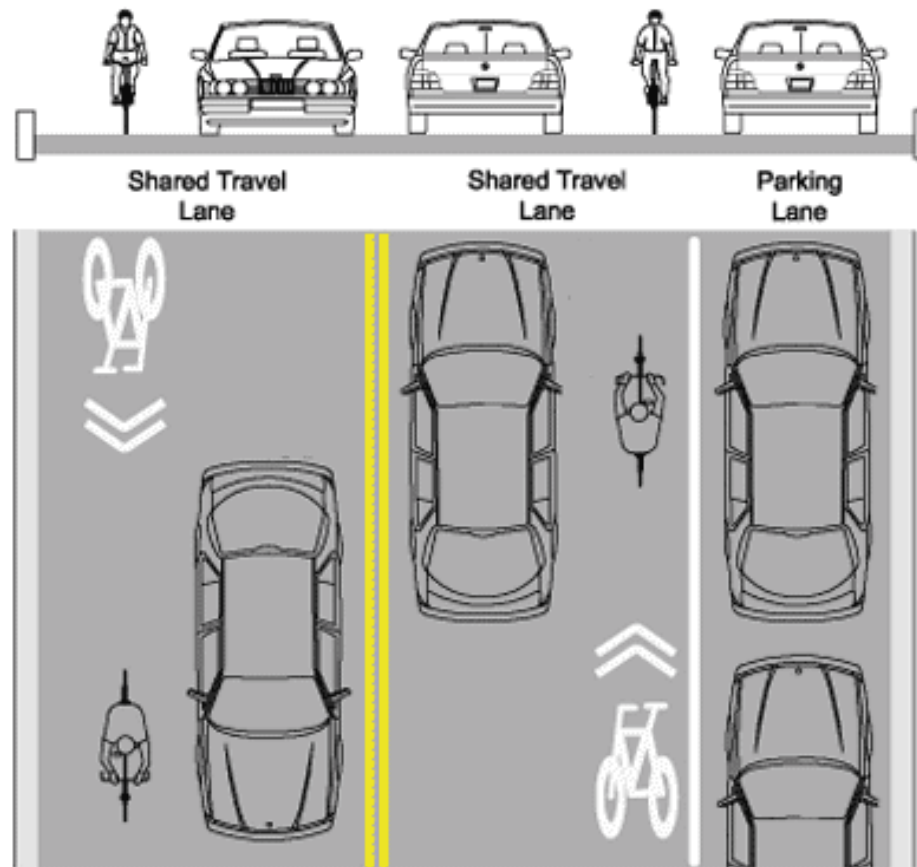
Shared lane pavement markings (or “Sharrows”) are placed to guide bicyclists to the best place to ride on the road, avoid car doors and remind drivers to share the road with cyclists. Unlike bicycle lanes, Sharrows do not designate a particular part of the street for the exclusive use of bicyclists. They are simply a marking to guide bicyclists to the best place to ride and help motorists expect to see and share the lane with bicyclists.

What do Sharrows mean for motorists and bicyclists?

Motorists: Expect to see bicyclists on the street • Remember to give bicyclists three feet of space when passing. Follow the rules of the road as if there were no Sharrows.

Bicyclists: Use the Sharrows to guide where you ride within the lane
• Remember not to ride too close to parked cars. Follow the rules of the road as if there were no Sharrows

Example of Sharrow Lanes



California Vehicle Code

- CVC 21200. (a) Every person riding a bicycle upon a highway has all the rights and is subject to all the provisions applicable to the driver of a vehicle. Including driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs.
- CVC 21200.5. It is unlawful for any person to ride a bicycle upon a highway while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or any drug, or under the combined influence of an alcoholic beverage and any drug.
- CVC 21201. (a) No person shall operate a bicycle on a roadway unless it is equipped with a functional braking
- CVC 21202. (a) Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction at that time shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
- CVC 21203. No person riding upon any motorcycle, motorized bicycle, bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled, or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any streetcar or vehicle on the roadway.
- CVC 21204. A operator or passenger on a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat. If the passenger is four years of age or younger, or weighs 40 pounds or less, the seat shall have adequate provision for retaining the passenger in place and for protecting the passenger from the moving parts of the bicycle.
- CVC 21209. (a) No person shall drive a motor vehicle in a bicycle lane.
- CVC 21210. No person shall leave a bicycle lying on its side on any sidewalk.
- CVC 21212. (a) Anyone under 18 years of age shall wear a properly fitted helmet when operating a bicycle, non-motorized scooter, skateboard, wear in-line or roller skates, ride upon a bicycle, a non-motorized scooter, or a skateboard as a passenger.

Six ways to make BIKE COMMUTING easier...



1. Get the right bike. Mountain bikes were designed for the dirt and are much slower than road bikes or hybrids. Pick the bike that's right for your ride.

2. Drive to work on Monday with a week's worth of clothing. It's a good way to fight wrinkles and lighten your load.

3. Gotta long ride? Use the bike racks on city buses to shorten your ride and give you a bailout on rainy days.

4. Got light? Everybody should have a bright headlight and at least one red flasher on the back. You may get stuck at work or school later than you planned.

State law requires a white headlight and red rear reflector after dark. It's a \$115 ticket if you're caught riding at night without a light.

5. Pick a good route. Major streets can be intimidating for newer riders. Try different routes through neighborhoods and on paths.

6. Ride flat free. There are many new products to help you fight flats, including tire sealant, tire liners and puncture resistant tires.

SHARE THE ROAD

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