

## SHARING THE ROAD

Safety Tips For Bicyclists And Motorists



Bicyclists and motorists share responsibility when it comes to safety. Follow these tips to share the road legally and safely.

**Bicyclists** have the right to the road, but they also have the responsibility to follow all traffic laws. Riding in a legal, responsible manner may save your life, earn respect and prevent motorists from resenting other cyclists.

Many **motorists** comment that they do not understand cyclists' behavior and don't know what to expect in traffic. The more we understand each other's needs, the better we can respect and cooperate with each other to stay safe.



ValleyMetro.org

Illustrations by David Burnham and Matthew Zoll,  
Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

### Arizona Bicycle Laws

#### 28-812. Applicability of traffic laws to bicycle riders.

A person riding a bicycle on a roadway or on a shoulder adjoining a roadway is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter and chapters 4 and 5 of this title, except special rules in this article and except provisions of this chapter and chapters 4 and 5 of this title that by their nature can have no application.

#### 28-814. Clinging to vehicle.

A person riding on a bicycle, coaster, sled or toy vehicle or on roller skates shall not attach the bicycle, coaster, sled, toy vehicle or roller skates or that person to a vehicle on a roadway.

#### 28-815. Riding on roadways and bicycle paths; prohibition of motor vehicle traffic on bike paths.

- A. A person riding a bicycle on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except under any of the following situations:
1. If overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
  2. If preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.
  3. If reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals or surface hazards.
  4. If the lane in which the person is operating the bicycle is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.
- B. Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- C. A path or lane that is designated as a bicycle path or lane by state or local authorities is for the exclusive use of bicycles even though other uses are permitted pursuant to subsection D or are otherwise permitted by state or local authorities.
- D. A person shall not operate, stop, park or leave standing a vehicle in a path or lane designated as a bicycle path or lane by a state or local authority except in the case of emergency or for crossing the path or lane to gain access to a public or private road or driveway.
- E. Subsection D does not prohibit the use of the path or lane by the appropriate local authority.

#### 28-816. Carrying article on bicycles.

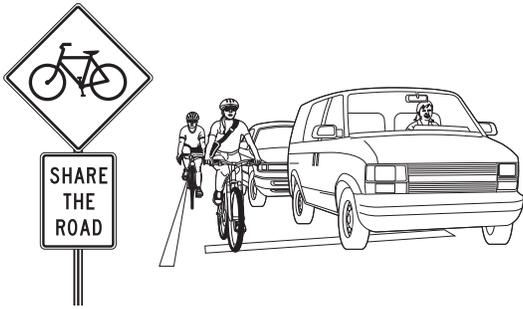
A person shall not carry a package, bundle or article while operating a bicycle if the package, bundle or article prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.

#### 28-817. Bicycle equipment.

- A. A bicycle that is used at nighttime shall have a lamp on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear of a type that is approved by the department and that is visible from all distances from fifty feet to three hundred feet to the rear when the reflector is directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A bicycle may have a lamp that emits a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear in addition to the red reflector.
- B. A person shall not operate a bicycle that is equipped with a siren or whistle.
- C. A bicycle shall be equipped with a brake that enables the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

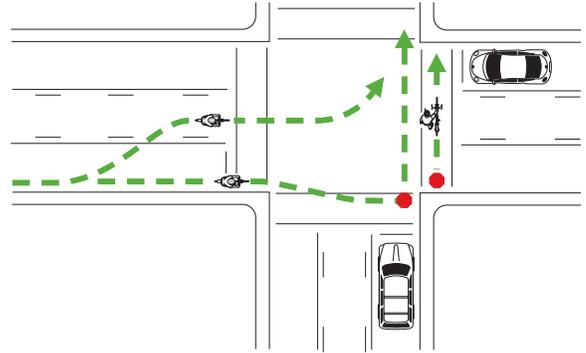
## SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

Be polite and be smart. Show **respect** for all users of the road and you will get respect as a result. Bikes and cars: same roads, same rules, same rights and responsibilities.



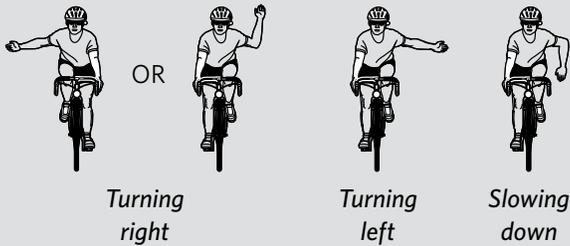
## THREE LEGAL WAYS TO TURN LEFT

1. Bicyclists 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. Bicyclists may make a left turn by going to the far side of the intersection, turning your bike and using the roadway.
3. Bicyclists may make a left turn by going to the far side of the intersection, turning your bike and then using the crosswalk.



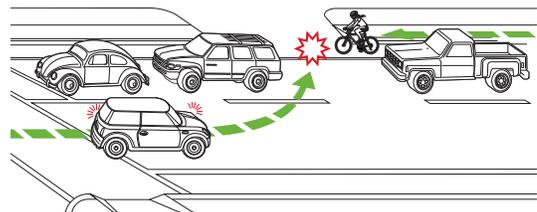
## BE POLITE AND BE SMART

Use hand signals to show your intentions and ride in a predictable fashion. As a bicyclist, **obey the traffic laws** to ensure you are recognized as a legitimate part of traffic. Remember, the laws are there to make it safer for everyone.



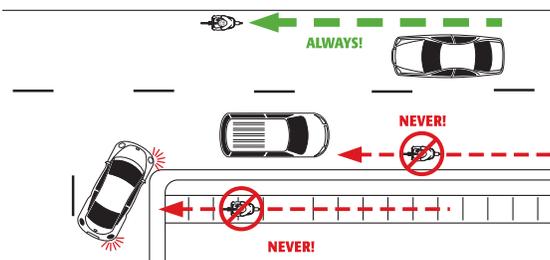
## STOPPED OR PARKED CARS

Riding too fast past a line of stopped cars can get you hit. 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 PREDICTABLE

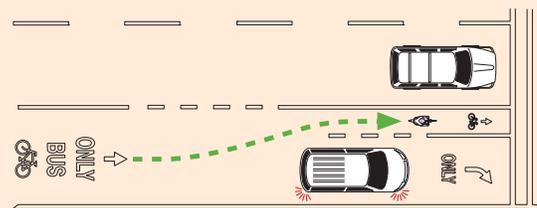
Ride on the right with the flow of traffic—**NEVER ride against traffic on the road, in a bike lane, or on a sidewalk**. Drivers turning from the side cannot see you and approaching drivers will not expect you to be riding the wrong way.



## RIDING IN BUS/BIKE LANES

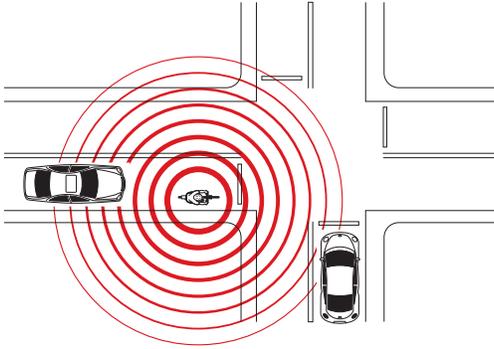
**When using the bus/bike lanes, ride near the center of the lane to make yourself as visible as possible.**

When approaching an intersection, move to the left before proceeding through. Bus drivers are required to pass cyclists outside of the bus/bike lane.



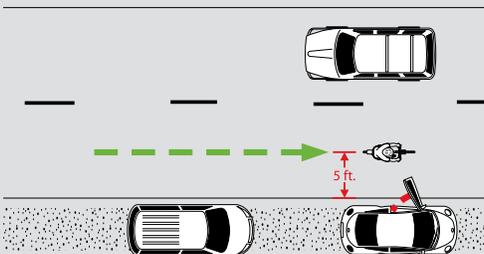
### BE A DEFENSIVE BIKE "DRIVER"

Be aware of your surroundings, especially 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!



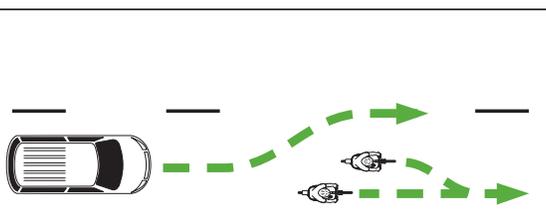
### BE CAREFUL WHEN RIDING BY PARKED CARS

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



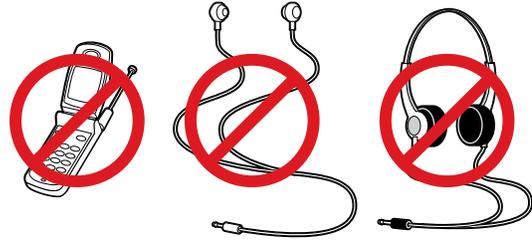
### BE AWARE WHEN RIDING TWO ABOARD

Riding two abreast is permitted by law (A.R.S. 28-215), but under a separate law (A.R.S. 28-704) bicyclists may not unnecessarily slow motor vehicle traffic. 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 and give you plenty of clearance.



### PAY ATTENTION

Headphones and cell phones cause distraction and reduce your ability to hear traffic, which could cost you your life. **Don't** use headphones or a cell phone when riding your bike—you're four times more likely to be in a crash!



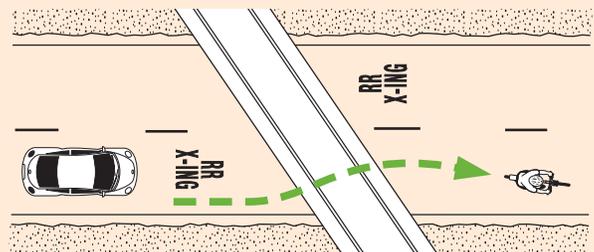
### BE VISIBLE AND PROTECT YOURSELF

Always wear a properly fitted bike helmet. According to national studies, 85% of brain injuries can be prevented by wearing a helmet. Make yourself and the bicycle visible. Wear **bright and reflective** clothing and use a red rear reflector and white front headlight at night (A.R.S. 28-817). Do not take chances around traffic...you will lose!



### CROSS TRACKS CAREFULLY

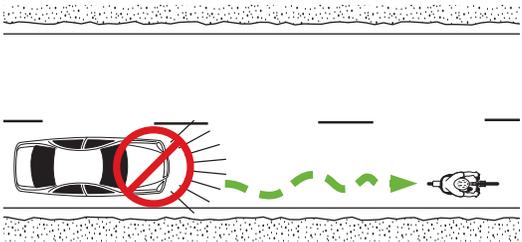
Watch ahead for hazardous railroad tracks. Look behind you to make sure it's safe, signal your intentions, then cross tracks at as close to a right angle as possible (A.R.S. 28-815). Drivers should watch for cyclists moving briefly into a travel lane at railroad crossings.



## Motorists Tips

### HORNS DON'T HELP

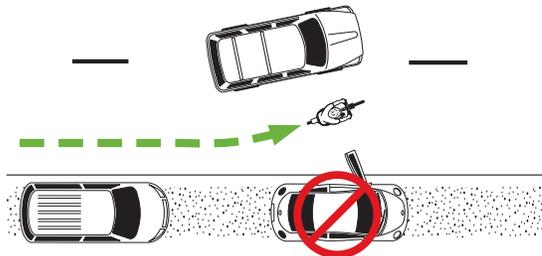
DO NOT use your horn when following a cyclist. A sudden loud blast from a horn may startle the cyclist and cause him or her to swerve into traffic. **The driver can be cited for causing a crash.**



### LOOK BEFORE OPENING YOUR DOOR

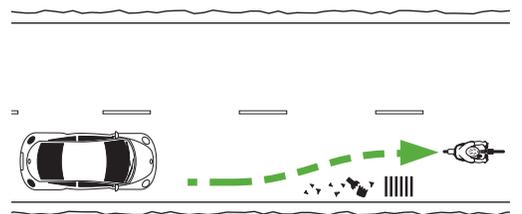
**Opening your car door in a crowded area can be disastrous to a cyclist riding near parked cars.**

Drivers are legally required to make sure it's safe before opening a car door into the roadway.



### GIVE A CYCLIST ROOM TO MANEUVER

**Assume there is a good reason for a cyclist's position in the road and give him adequate room to maneuver.** Cyclists may move further into the lane to avoid hazards, to be more visible to drivers, or if the lane is too narrow to safely share with a vehicle (A.R.S. 28-815).



### SAFE PASSING IS THE LAW

The law requires that you give **AT LEAST 3 FEET** of clearance when you pass (A.R.S. 28-735). Slow down and don't pass a cyclist until safe to do so.

**When possible, please give 5 feet of clearance when you pass.**



## Bike On Bus/Light Rail

Consider taking your bike on the bus or light rail. Both are bike-friendly and can help get you where you're going...even faster. Visit [ValleyMetro.org](http://ValleyMetro.org) for bike-loading instructions and more safety tips.



### Bike on Bus

- Each Valley Metro bus has a rack with room for two or three bikes.
- Be prepared and ready to load when the bus arrives at your stop.
- Before exiting, let the driver know you'll be unloading your bike.
- Load or unload your bike from the curbside; never from the street side.



### Bike on Light Rail

- Each METRO light rail train has a rack with room for four bikes. If you can't load your bike on the rack, stand and hold your bike, but don't block aisles or the operating doors.
- Look for the bike symbol on train windows for the nearest bike rack.
- Never bike on light rail tracks and always walk your bike onto the station platform.
- Secure bike parking is available at each park-and-ride.