



In the event of a crash:

DO NOT just leave the scene thinking you suffered only minor bumps and bruises. Serious injuries can show up days or weeks later!



- Call the police. Tell them what happened and the location. If needed, ask for medical help immediately.
- Get the following information from every vehicle involved in the crash: operator name, address, phone number, driver's license number, make of vehicle, insurance company name and policy number.
- Get the names and phone numbers of witnesses.
- Write down how the crash happened while it's fresh in your memory.
- Get the police report number from police on the scene. This will be useful for legal and insurance purposes.
- Keep any damaged personal items and equipment.

What to do if you encounter rude drivers:

Remove yourself

Make every attempt to get out of the way. As long as you and your bike aren't damaged, don't escalate the situation.



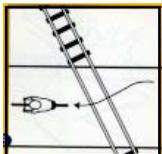
Report harassment

Write down or try to remember everything you can about the incident; license plate, type of car, where and when it happened and what the driver looked like if possible.

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weather and debris often collects on the side of the street near bike lanes. So be prepared to safely avoid these obstacles.

- Make eye contact with roadway users. This interaction lets you know that they see you.
- Ride three feet away from parked cars. Give yourself space to avoid getting "doored", that is when someone opens their door in your path of travel and you hit it.
- Cross railroad tracks at right angles. This prevents you from getting your tires stuck in a track.
- Notify your local public works department of any hazards.



A Bicyclist Guide for Rights, Rules and Safety



Did you know?

- Bicyclists have the same rights on the roads *as well as* the same responsibilities to follow the laws as motorists do, with very few exceptions.
- Bicycling and walking in the U.S. in 1991 was equivalent to 7.6 to 28.1 billion motor vehicle miles, saving 4.4 to 26.3 million metric tons of exhaust emission air pollution. (FHWA-PD-93-0150)

Know your rights as a bicyclist, be safe and have fun!

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Safety

- Wear a helmet. 70 to 80% of all fatal bike crashes involve brain injuries.
- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing. Motorists not accustomed to watching for bicyclists will be more likely to notice you.
- Ride in a straight line. You will be much more predictable to others if you ride in a straight line.
- Always use hand signals. Let others around you know your next move.
- Go without headphones. Hearing is one of your best senses to avoid getting into a crash.
- Look out for road obstacles. Metal surfaces such as storm grates and manhole covers become slick in wet and cold



Michigan Law

Section 257.660 (1) of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code states:

A Person operating a bicycle... shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

As a bicyclist, you have nearly all the same rights and responsibilities that a motorist does. Michigan law requires:

- Ride on the right side of the road **with** traffic. 
- You have the right to ride on any road as long as (1) it is not a limited access highway and (2) it is not otherwise posted.
- Obey all traffic signals, signs and lane markings. As motorists, cyclists must stop for stop signs and yield to pedestrians at crosswalks.
- If you ride between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise your bicycle must be equipped with a white light in front that is visible from at least 500 feet and a rear red reflector visible from 500 feet may be used.
- Ride in the direction of traffic on one-way streets unless a contra-flow lane is provided.
- Two bicycles are allowed to ride abreast.

The Rules & Responsibilities

On sidewalks and multiuse paths...

- Give an audible signal when you plan to overtake a pedestrian such as, "On your left!"

- Yield to pedestrians.
- Riding on the sidewalk should be avoided whenever possible, if there is heavy pedestrian traffic.

On roads...

- In situations where there is not enough room to share a travel lane with motor vehicles, it is safer to take the lane by moving towards the center of the lane. Motorists can then pass you when the traffic flow allows.
- Pass vehicles on the left EXCEPT when the car is making a left turn.
- Bicycles are not required to ride in bike lanes when preparing for turns.

USE HAND SIGNALS to inform motorists



Left turn



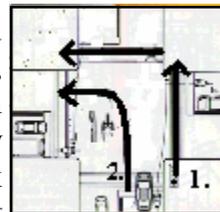
right turn



stop

How to make a left turn; two choices

1. **Like a car:** As you approach the intersection, move into the left turn lane. Signal your every move. Make sure to look behind you first! Turn left with the cars.



2. **Like a pedestrian:** Ride on the street until you reach the intersection. Then move onto the sidewalk and walk your bicycle across with the walk signal. Repeat this to cross the street on the other side.

Going straight when there is a right turn lane

- Avoid riding on the right side of right turn lanes when you intend to travel straight. Instead, position yourself in the right most through lane.
- Be sure to signal for all lane changes.

Parking your bike:

- Try to park only at bicycle racks, preferably those that are in highly visible locations. In general, racks should be located near building entrances out of the pedestrian travel way. 
- Run the lock through both wheels, the frame and the bike rack. Unlocked wheels can be stolen in seconds.

Most municipalities have ordinances forbidding locking items to street lights and sign poles. The reasons for these ordinances are to:

- Avoid obstructing pedestrian traffic flow.
- Allow for maintenance of sidewalks and street furniture.

For extended parking or greater protection, check with your local municipality or your employer about bicycle locker availability.

How to load your bike onto a bus

1. Wait for a bus at a stop, prepare your bicycle by removing water bottles, pumps and other loose items. 

2. When the bus comes to a complete stop, walk your bike to the front of the vehicle, remaining on the curb side of the street.

3. Lift the front top latch on the rack, this can be done with one hand. 

4. Place the front tire of your bike in the position marked "Front Tire" and slip your rear tire into the back slot.

6. Lift the spring loaded brace over the rear tire and you are done. 

7. Pay your fare and enjoy the ride! Your bike rides free!



Work Zones:

Warmer weather brings construction and maintenance on roadways. Temporary barriers or cones are often set up for pavement marking and sidewalk ramps. These are there to protect the public from hazards within the work zone as well as to protect the workers from possible hazards outside the work zone.



Remember:

- Follow the directions on the orange signs that tell you where to go or what to look out for.
- If possible, avoid the area completely.
- Be alert for moving construction vehicles, they're faster than they look.
- Beware of loose gravel and debris.