

# Ohio "Share the Road" Driver's Education Unit



## Bicyclists are Drivers of Vehicles

- § § 4501.01. Definitions
  - (A) "Vehicle" means every device, including a motorized bicycle, in, upon, or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except that "vehicle" does not include any motorized wheelchair, any electric personal assistive mobility device, any device that is moved by power collected from overhead electric trolley wires or that is used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks, or any device, other than a bicycle, that is moved by human power

## Approved Signage



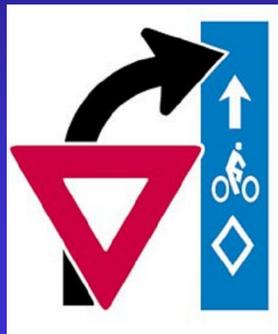
Ambiguous & not understood by all



Unambiguous & easy to understand

## Always Yield to Bicyclists

- When encountering a bicyclist in a bike lane (or on a path parallel to the lane), **always** yield to the bicyclist; this is analogous to a pedestrian crossing the street in a crosswalk.
- Riding on the sidewalk is allowed in some cities and most allow children to use the sidewalk. Check your local law.



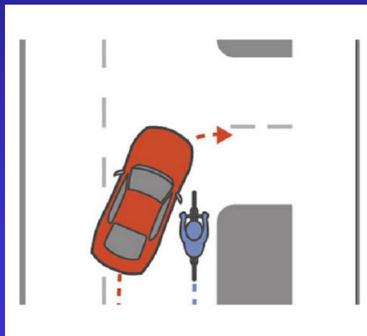
## Passing a Bicyclist

- Slow down as you approach the cyclist
- Wait until it is safe and legal to pass
- Allow the cyclist plenty of room; preferably, change lanes *just as you would do to pass any motor vehicle*



## Passing a Bicyclist - **What Not To Do**

- Do not slow down as you pass; do not stop quickly or turn sharply to the right once you've passed the bicyclist
- Do not startle a bicyclist with loud noises, which includes blaring the horn



## Bicyclist Laws

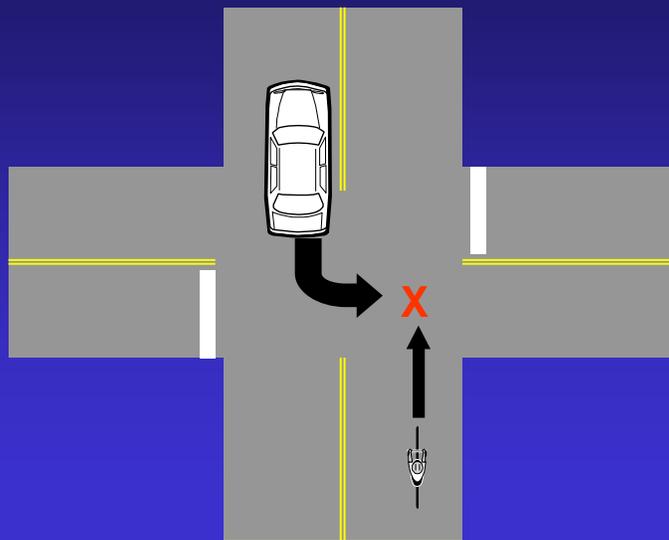
- Bicyclists have the right to full use of the traffic lane (and are not required to ride to the far right of the lane)
- Bicycles are considered vehicles and bicyclists are drivers of vehicles
- Bicycle operators have the same rights of the road as other drivers
- Bicycle operators travel in the same direction as other traffic, not against traffic

## The Most Common Bicycle-Motorist Collisions

Accidents are often the result of a motorist underestimating a cyclist's speed.

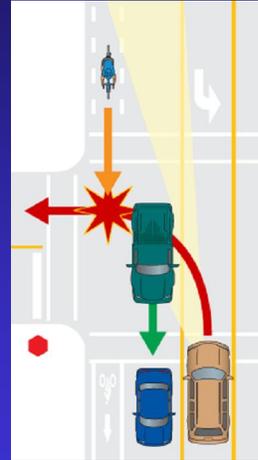
Recreational cyclists may ride 15 -18 mph while competitive cyclists may ride 20 - 25 mph or even, at times, 30 - 35 mph.

## 1. Motorist Left Turn (Left Cross)

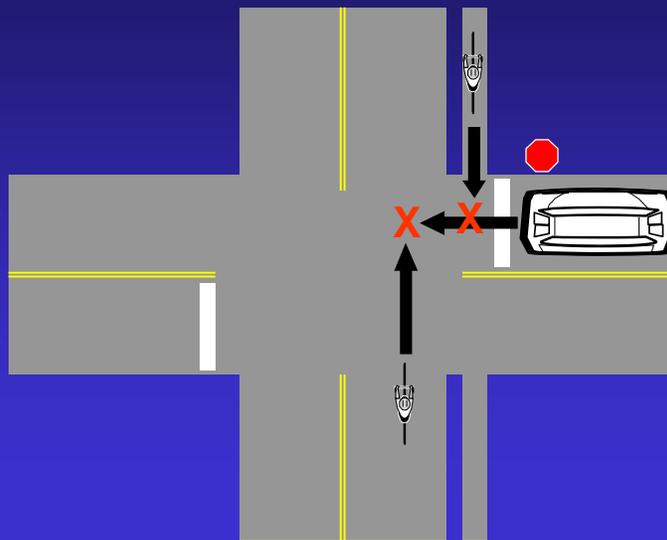


## Avoiding Left Turn Crashes

- Look twice for oncoming traffic before turning
- Look for bicyclists obstructed by other oncoming vehicles
- Be aware that bicycles may be traveling faster than you expect



## 2. Motorist Drive-Outs

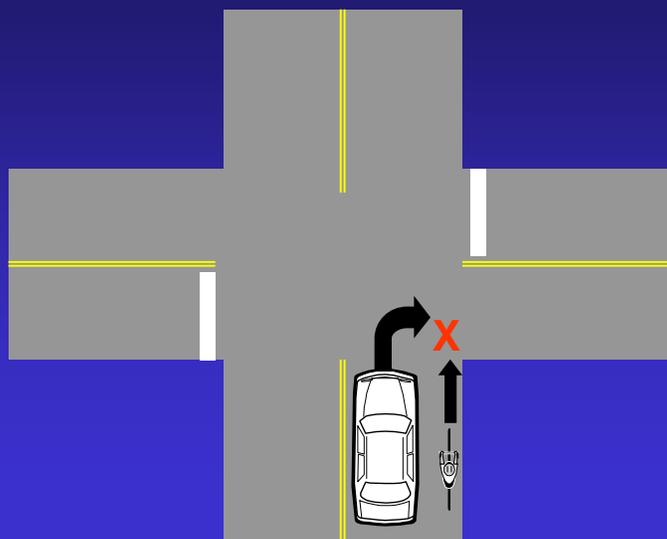


## Avoiding Motorist Drive-out Crashes

- Come to a **full stop** at stop signs, red lights, and crosswalks (e.g., as you exit your driveway) as required by law.
- Look **both ways** before proceeding.



## 3. The Right Hook

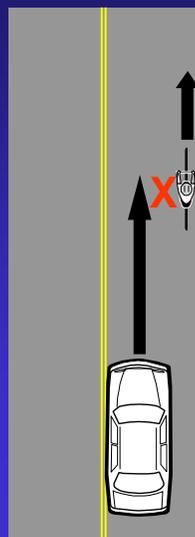


# Avoiding Right Hook Crashes

- **Signal** well in advance of your turn
- Don't try to pass a bicyclist just before your turn; **be patient** and wait for the bicyclist to get past the turn before you turn
- After passing a bicyclist, ensure that you're **well beyond the bicyclist** before reentering the lane



## 4. Overtaking



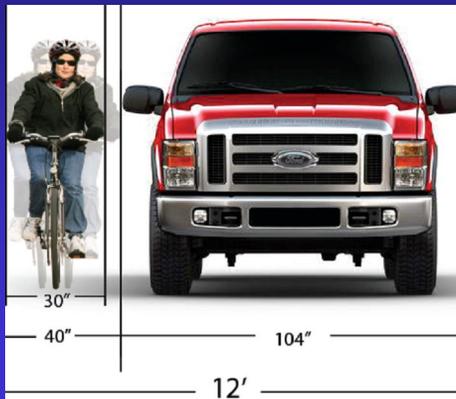
## Avoiding Overtaking Crashes

- Always **slow down** for slower traffic on the road
- Look for and yield to traffic in the next lane before passing
- Change lanes to pass (preferred)
- **Do not pass** if there is oncoming traffic, limited sight distance, on the crest of a hill, or at an intersection
- Ohio motorists **may** cross solid yellow lines when passing slow moving vehicles, if there is no oncoming vehicles and it is safe to pass.



## Space Required for Safe Passing

- Bus, truck, van and large SUV drivers should not pass within the same lane as a bicyclist.



## Visibility of Cyclists

- Bicyclists are more difficult to see in traffic compared to other vehicles, for the following reasons:
  - Bicycles are smaller and narrower than motorcycles and motor vehicles
  - Bicyclists may be obstructed by larger vehicles traveling either behind or next to them

## Bicyclists May Use Full Lane

“Bicyclists can travel in the middle of the lane if they are proceeding at the same speed as the rest of the traffic or the lane is too narrow to share safely with a motor vehicle.

Conditions that may require riding away from the edge of the roadway includes when necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, surface hazards or if it otherwise is unsafe or impracticable to do so.”

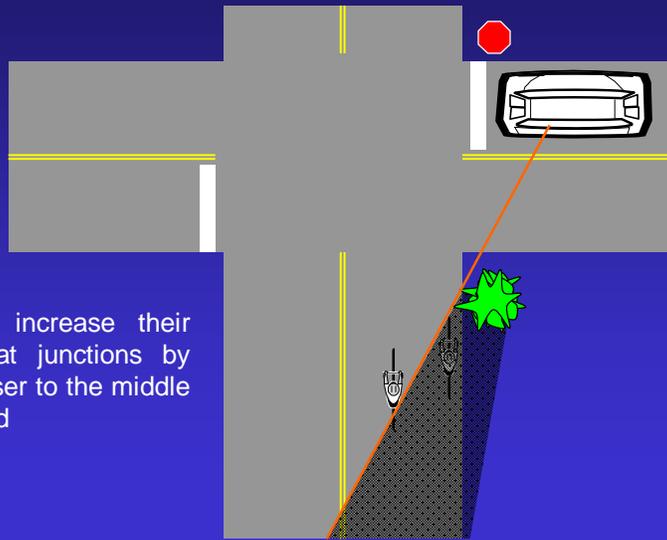
Ohio Digest of Motor Vehicles

<http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/hsy7607.pdf>



## Road Position and Sight Lines

Bicyclists increase their visibility at junctions by riding closer to the middle of the road



## Riding Side-by-Side

- Bicyclists may legally ride two or more abreast in a single lane
- This improves conspicuity/visibility, reduces unsafe passing (passing in the same lane) by motorists, and makes it easier for motorists to pass groups of cyclists by making the group more compact in length.



## Bicyclists Cannot Be Cited for Impeding Traffic

*§ ORC 4511.22 (C) "In a case involving a violation of this section, the trier of fact, in determining whether the vehicle was being operated at an unreasonable speed, shall consider the capabilities of the vehicle and its operator."*



## All Roads Are Bicycle Facilities

- Bicycles are allowed on all roads with the exception of freeways.

A freeway, by definition, has no at-grade intersections with other roads, railroads or multi-use trails. The crossing of freeways by other roads is typically achieved with under- or overpasses. Because traffic never crosses at-grade, there are generally no traffic lights or stop signs on a freeway. Bicycles are not allowed because freeways are specifically designed for high speed operation of motor vehicles.

## Shared Lane Markings

- Reminds motorists to expect cyclists in the travel lanes but have no legal meaning



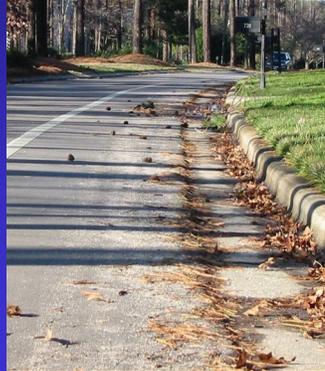
## Signed Bike Routes

- Bike routes are designated by each state or local jurisdiction and simply identify pleasant routes for bicycling. They, too, have no legal or other meaning.



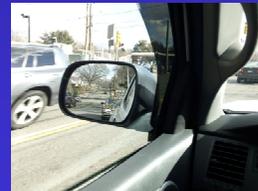
## Paved Shoulders

- Legally optional for bicyclists to use but may post significant safety hazards including
  - poor surface conditions
  - obstructions
  - inadequate width
  - Rumble strips/stripes



## Striped Bike Lanes

- Legally ***optional*** for cyclists to use
- Some pose a door hazard, motorist much ***check rear view mirror*** before exiting vehicle.
- Motorists should merge into the bike lane after yielding right of way to cyclists in the lane when preparing to turn right.
- Motorists should yield to cyclists in the bike lane when entering on-street parking areas.



## Penalty For Failure to Yield the Right-of-Way (DELETE?)

- In Ohio:
  - Failure to yield the right-of-way to another vehicle (including bicycles) or pedestrian/blind person, is 2 points. §§ 4511.41-42, 46-47
  - Failure to yield the right-of-way without due regard, reckless or unsafe operation is 3 points.

## WHAT'S MY SIGN? Left Turn Hand Signal

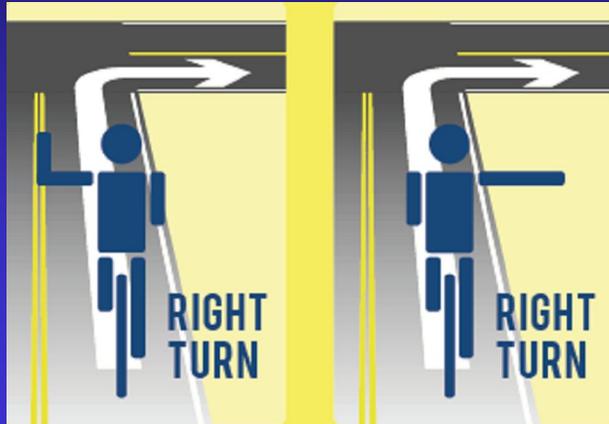
**Universal Left Turn Signal**  
**(Used by both motorists and bicyclists)**



# WHAT'S MY SIGN? Right Turn Hand Signals

Universal Hand Signal

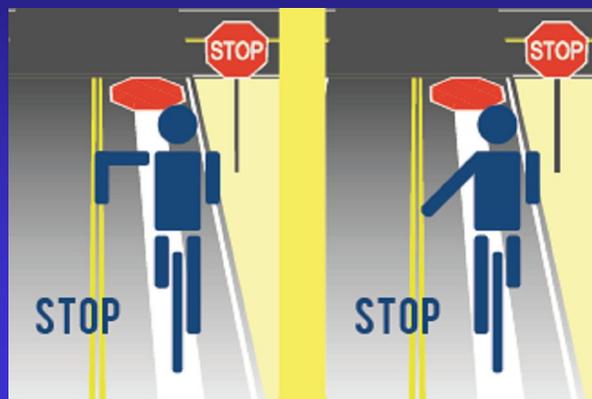
Hand Signal Used By Cyclists



# WHAT'S MY SIGN? Hand Signals for Slow/Stop

Universal Hand Signal

Hand Signal Used By Cyclists



# TAILGATING

It is especially dangerous for bicyclists when motor vehicles tailgate other motorists:

**See Next Slide**

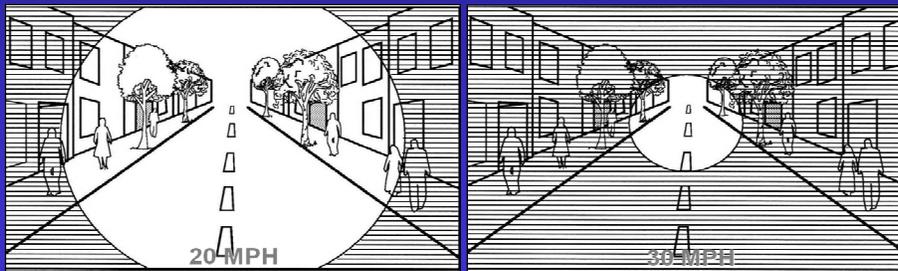
If the lead vehicle quickly moves left to give room to a cyclist traveling in the same lane, then the vehicle following too closely may not have time to react (i.e., move left) and may strike the cyclist.

In SLIDESHOW MODE,  
click anywhere in the slide below to begin the  
animation.



## Driver Focus

After running into a bicyclist, many motorists report that they didn't see the bicyclist. While this is most often due to driver inattentiveness, it may be due, in part, to a phenomena shown in the images below.



## Driver Inattentiveness

This is the number one cause of fatal motorist accidents. Taking your eyes away from the road for even a second to change the station on the radio, put in a new CD, or answer a call takes your eyes off the road long enough for a fatal accident to occur.

Texting while driving is currently illegal in 39 states, including Ohio. You wouldn't want your surgeon texting while performing your surgery and likewise, you shouldn't text while driving because you need to be focused on driving.

**Don't Text and Drive!**

## GENERAL “Share the Road” SAFETY TIPS

- **Remain alert, attentive and focused at all times while driving**
- Be aware that bicyclists are also users of the roadways
- Know the meaning of hand signals
- Keep in mind that bicycles are generally moving slower than most motor vehicles (~10-25 mph)
- Keep in mind that any collision with a bicyclist is likely to result in serious bodily injury to the cyclist and that it is your responsibility to make the safest choices possible
- Keep in mind that it may be necessary for you to simply **be patient for a few minutes** when encountering a bicyclist