

What cyclists would like motorists to know

Cyclists are more vulnerable than motorists. Drivers have the major responsibility to take care. Don't speed or drive aggressively and give cyclists a wide berth when passing. Watch for cyclists when exiting parking places and driveways or when opening your car door.

Cyclists can feel threatened by inconsiderate driving. Cyclists have a legal right to be on the road and in the safest lane position (or in

the middle of the car travel lane). Be patient and wait for a safe opportunity to pass cyclists or wait until they pull over. Allow plenty of space and slow down when passing.

Cyclists must ride away from the right side of the road at times in order to:

- Avoid drains, potholes, debris and other hazards
- Be seen as they come to intersections
- Avoid car doors opening from parked vehicles
- Discourage drivers from sharing a narrow lane
- Prepare to make a left turn

Cyclists are more at risk at intersections and need extra consideration from motorists. This is especially true on multi-lane roads with fast-moving traffic. Drive at or below the posted speed limit and look for bicyclists when making turns.

Cyclists are sensitive to bright lights and loud sounds. Shift from high beam to low beam headlights when approaching a cyclist. Sounding your horn near a cyclist can startle them and could cause them to crash.

Cyclists can be fast movers. Cyclists can travel as fast as cars. Before slowing down to change lanes or make a turn, be sure to use your signal and check for bicyclists approaching from behind before merging.

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Adapted from "Drive Safe, Cycle Safe", Department of Transport, Scotland and the Share the Road Campaign, Marin County Bicycle Coalition and WalkBikeMarin.

Prepared by the Community Traffic Safety Coalition www.sctrfficsafety.org (831) 454-4141 and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission www.sccrtc.org (831) 460-3200

What motorists would like cyclists to know

Motorists are surprised when cyclists violate traffic laws. The most common cyclist violations include riding without lights at night, failing to stop at stop signs or traffic lights, and riding against traffic. All road users should obey the laws.

Motorists may not notice all the hazards that are noticeable to cyclists. Drivers are typically traveling at a faster speed than cyclists and are not able to see roadway or traffic

conditions that could be hazardous to cyclists.

Motorists may not always see cyclists. Make every effort to be visible and be predictable when cycling, which includes wearing visible clothing, using lights and reflectors at night and making eye contact with drivers.

Motorists are alarmed by unexpected behavior. Cyclists hesitating, moving into traffic suddenly, or weaving around parked cars can create traffic hazards. Ride in a straight line, check over your shoulder and use hand signals when possible before passing or changing lanes.

Motorists can feel delayed by cyclists. When riding in the center of the traffic lane, use hand signals to allow passage of motorists when safe. Pull over to allow motorists to pass when 5 or more are lined up behind you.

Motorists can't predict where you are going. Cyclists should follow lane markings. For example, use the "right-turn-only" lane for right turns and the rightmost through lane for going straight.

