

Driving safely around bicyclists



Buffered Bike Lane, Austin, TX, Coppola Photography

Bicyclists generally have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle drivers in Texas. As a motor vehicle driver, here are some safe driving habits to avoid crashes with bicyclists.

Stay off your phone; be aware

Distracted driving is a leading cause of crashes, including those with bicyclists and other vulnerable road users.

Make eye contact

Make eye contact with bicyclists and pedestrians waiting to cross at intersections before making turns.

Check twice before passing

Give bicyclists at least 3 feet of space when passing. If you don't have 3 feet of room to safely pass a bicyclist, slow down and wait to pass. When you are following a bicyclist, don't tailgate; allow yourself plenty of space in case you need to stop suddenly.

Understand bicyclists are different but equal

A car weighs 2 tons or so, while an average bike is 20 lbs. Give bicyclists space and recognize they are more vulnerable to injury in a crash. **Bicyclists are allowed on all roads in Texas** unless explicitly prohibited with signage.

Look before you leave your car

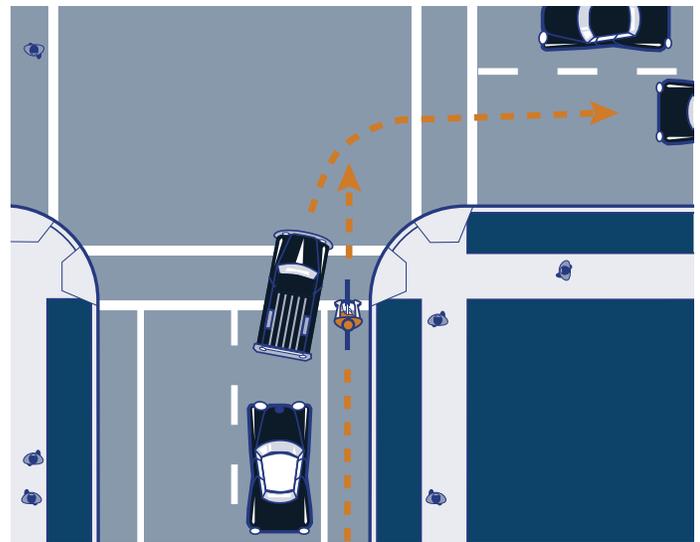
Bicyclists fear getting "doored." Before you open your door, look out the side-view mirror to see if a bicyclist is approaching.

Watch out for road hazards

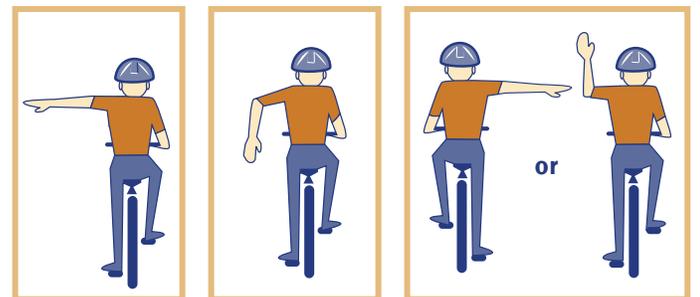
Bicyclists may swerve or take the lane to avoid a road hazard. Be aware of upcoming drainage grates, parked cars, surface condition hazards (ice, water, loose gravel, uneven pavement, or rumble strips), railroad tracks, or debris.

Avoid the right hook

Check your blind spot before every right turn.



Look for bicyclists hand signals



Left

Slow/Stop

Right



For more information on TxDOT's Bicycle Program, visit:
www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/modes-of-travel/bicycle.html