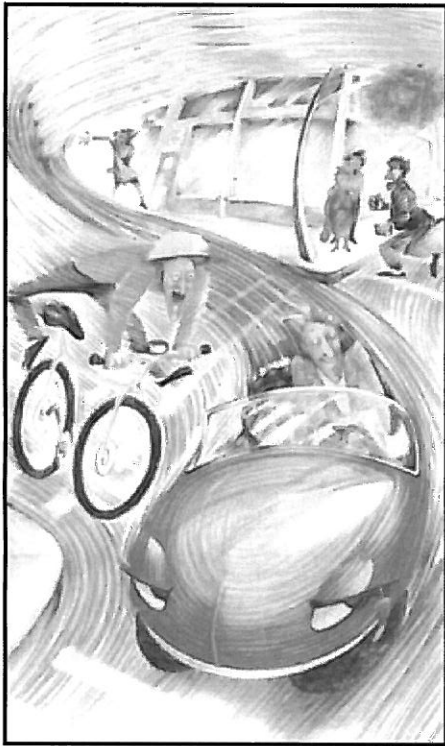


Don't Be A Road Hog!



Share the Road
Bicycles are vehicles too!



*Office of the Governor
NH Department Of Transportation
NH Department Of Safety
NH Highway Safety Agency*

Bicycles are Vehicles and Belong on the Road

According to New Hampshire law, bicyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers of motor vehicles. (RSA 265:143)*

Bicyclists may pass a slower moving vehicle in the same lane if safe to do so. Passing on the right is allowed if the motor vehicle is stopped. (RSA 265:144-7)

Expect bicyclist to use designated turn lanes and to move away from the right edge of the road to avoid hazards including other vehicles, pedestrians, debris, and opening doors of parked vehicles. (RSA 256:144-11)

Respecting the rights of all users of the road goes a long way toward avoiding crashes. Some bicyclists ignore the rules. That doesn't mean you should imitate their behavior!

You Can Prevent Crashes

Most crashes involving bicyclists and motorists occur at intersections. This often happens when a motorist pulls out from a stop sign or driveway without yielding, or turns across the bicyclist's path.

- When turning right, make your turn from the right edge of the road. (RSA 265:42) Before turning, slow and merge behind a bicyclist ahead of you.
- When turning left, yield to on-coming bicyclists or any other vehicle, even those at the far side of the road. (RSA 265:29). Don't underestimate the speed of a bicyclist.
- A stop sign means you must stop and wait until no traffic, whether bicycle or car, is close enough to be a danger. (RSA 265:30-1)
- A yield sign means you must wait for traffic, cyclists included. (RSA 265:31) This may require you to stop.
- Signal well in advance of turns (at least 100 feet), so that bicyclists and other vehicles know your intentions. (RSA 265:45-11). You may not turn or move across the road unless it can be done safely. (RSA 265:45-1)
- When getting out of a car, check for approaching bicyclists before opening the door. (RSA 265:96)

For more information or to access an electronic copy of this flyer visit our site at:
www.nh.gov/dot/nhbikeped

Make Room for Bicyclists

You may overtake only if it is safe to do so (RSA 265:18) Change lanes to pass if you can't pass safely in the same lane. Leave plenty of room and pass at a safe speed. Do not cross the center line if you can't see the road a sufficient distance to know that there are no oncoming vehicles. (RSA 265:20) You are responsible for using due care to avoid colliding with a bicyclist. (RSA 265:37) Don't take unnecessary risks for the sake of convenience.

When passing a bicycle, leave a reasonable and prudent distance. That should be at least 3 feet when the vehicle is traveling at 30 miles per hour or less and one extra foot for every 10 MPH over 30. (RSA 265:143-a).

If you think a bicyclist is farther out from the curb than necessary, look closely. Bicyclists need to ride at least a door's width away from parked cars to avoid being hit by a suddenly opening door. Bicyclists also need to allow room to avoid potholes and debris and to pass double-parked cars.

Bicyclists may occupy any part of a traffic lane when their safety warrants it. If the lane is too narrow to share, it is safer for the bicyclist to communicate that information by riding in the center of the lane.

Be Nice

Traffic can be slow and frustrating. Don't take anger out on others. Threatening other road users with your voice or your vehicle is illegal, not just impolite.

Bicyclists have the same right to the road that you do!

*Brochure concepts and text borrowed with permission from the Boston Transportation Department, the City of Toronto, Toronto City Cycling Committee and Province of Ontario
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