

## Share the Road with Bicyclists

Under Rhode Island law a bicycle is considered a vehicle with equal rights and responsibilities as cars and other vehicles on the road. When bicyclists or automobile drivers do not understand or obey the law, confusion or accidents can result.

Potholes, puddles, poor road conditions, dogs and other animals, railroad tracks, manhole covers or grates, broken glass and other debris: all these obstacles can seriously hinder bicyclists' safety on the road.

The Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay Wheelmen, Providence Bicycle Coalition, RI Chapter of the Sierra Club, and U.S. Open Cycling Foundation created this brochure to explain what motorists need to know so that everyone can use our roads safely.



**Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island**

[www.rigreenways.org](http://www.rigreenways.org)



[www.nbwclub.org](http://www.nbwclub.org)



[www.bikeprovidence.org](http://www.bikeprovidence.org)



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

<http://rhodeisland.sierraclub.org/index.html>



[www.usopencycling.com](http://www.usopencycling.com)

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Some graphics courtesy of Bicycle Coalition of Maine [www.bikemaine.org](http://www.bikemaine.org)

# Rhode Island Cyclists and Motorists

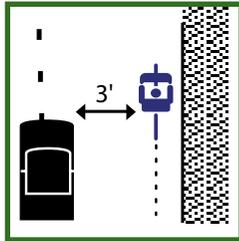


## Let's Share the Road

## Share the Road with Bicyclists

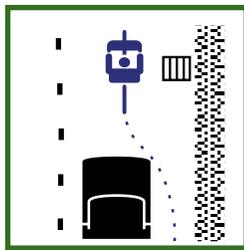
If automobile drivers and bicyclists follow common safety practices and respect the rights of others we can all “Share the Road”

**1•** When passing cyclists leave adequate space and be aware of road surface conditions like potholes, puddles or debris which may force cyclists to move further left than usual.



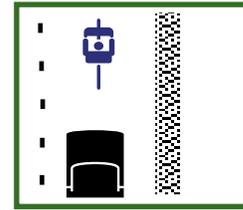
- Don't blast your horn as you approach a cyclist as the loud noise can startle them and cause them to swerve.
- Avoid talking on a cell phone, text messaging, or being otherwise distracted when approaching or passing a bicyclist.
- Avoid driving or swerving into bicycle lanes.

**2•** When approaching or passing a bicycle be prepared to stop suddenly if the person enters the driver's lane.

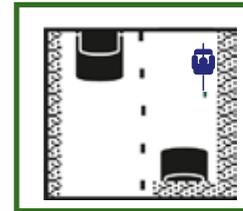


- In bad weather give bicyclists extra trailing and passing room like you would give other motorists.

**3•** When a road is too narrow for cars and bicycles to travel safely side by side, be prepared to slow down or stop when the bicyclist ahead of you “takes the travel lane,” i.e., proceeds in the center of the road.

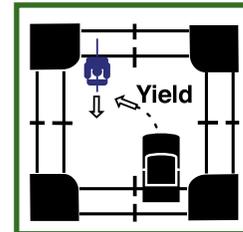


**4•** Do not pass bicyclists if oncoming traffic is near. Wait until there are no oncoming automobiles before you pass.

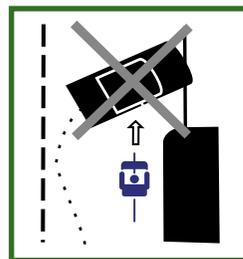


- After you have passed a bicyclist, do not slow down or stop quickly directly in front of them.

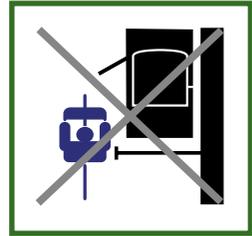
**5•** When turning left at an intersection yield to oncoming bicyclists just as you would to an oncoming motorist.



**6•** Before turning right at an intersection or driveway check for bicyclists on your right or behind you who are continuing straight ahead.



**7•** Look behind you for a cyclist approaching your parked car before you open the door into a traffic lane.



## Watch for Children on Bicycles

Children cannot see things out of the corner of their eyes as well as adults, and cannot judge the speed and distance of oncoming vehicles. They lack a sense of danger and believe adults will look out for them.

**8•** Always reduce speed and use extra caution when children are in the vicinity, particularly in school zones.



- Check for bicyclists in the street or on the sidewalks at intersections.

## Rhode Island law

“Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway 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 except where official traffic control devices (signs or pavement markings) specifically direct bicyclists to do otherwise.”

To learn more about bicycling resources in Rhode Island, visit The Rhode Island Department of Transportation web site: <http://www.dot.ri.gov/bikeri/>