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BIKES: Blog: Cars v. Bikes

Jennifer Brown/Online Reporter

Issue date: 1/11/10 Section: [Online Exclusives](#)

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Motorists and bicyclists share the road every day, but there has been some controversy over how they share the road.

Motorists are supposed to give the right-of-way to bicyclists, but this is not always how it happens.

In order to insure safe biking, there are precautions that have to be taken.

Motorists can not know to give the bicyclist if they are not driving safe on the road.

First, [check your lights](#) on your bicycle and make sure you have a headlight and a taillight. The headlights of motorist's will be much stronger than the bicyclist's, and taillights will allow them to see them on the road.

Make sure you ride with traffic and not against traffic; riding where there are headlights is always safer than riding in the dark.

[Often when bicyclists are in the lane](#), they may not be aware to which side is better.

It's always wise to stay to the right of the motorist because this is where their mirrors are located.

When passing, always pass on the left because passing on the right may result in an accident involving the bicyclist. The motorist may not see you or believe you are going slower than you actually are on the bicycle.

Similar to how motorists use turn signals, bicyclists [should be using hand signals](#) when heading into traffic. If you're turning right, bend your left arm up at a ninety-degree angle. If you're turning left, hold your left arm out straight and to stop hold your left arm down at a ninety-degree angle.

Another issue that faces bicyclists is riding on the sidewalk.

Motorists don't often see the bicyclist on the sidewalk due to the blind spot in their mirrors. There is a solution, however. A bicyclist can get a mirror and this will help them in seeing oncoming traffic. It will prevent accidents and help keep the bicyclist safe.

Finally, the bicyclist should wear a helmet while riding their bicycle. Motorists have a metal frame to protect them from harm, but motorists only have a bicycle. This bicycle makes them more prone to injury and broken limbs. Safety gear such as helmets and pads on elbows and knees can save a life.

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