

SAFETY DOESN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT.



www.AlertTodayFlorida.com

**WHEN DRIVING, WALKING,
OR BICYCLING...
PAY ATTENTION.
READ THE SIGNS.
LEARN THE RULES.**

AVOID DISTRACTIONS.



STOP BEFORE TURNING RIGHT ON RED.

USE SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS.

RIDE PREDICTABLY, WITH TRAFFIC.





Obey all traffic laws. If no sidewalks are present, walk against the direction of traffic so you can see oncoming vehicles.

Always use the crosswalk. Push the button to get the walk signal.

Be visible. Wear bright, reflective clothing and safety accessories.



Avoid distractions while driving. Focus on the road.

Pass bicyclists safely. Allow at least three feet between your vehicle and the bicyclist.

Slow down! Speed is the cause of 32% of all fatal crashes.



Always wear a helmet. Ride in the same direction of traffic on the street. Obey all traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.

Yield to traffic when appropriate. It's better to yield than "be in the right" and risk injury.

Be visible. Position yourself in the lane so others can easily see you. Always use a headlight and taillight at night.

TIPS FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND KIDS

BICYCLE SAFETY

Bicycling is fun, healthy, and a great family activity.
But a bicycle isn't a toy; it's a vehicle!

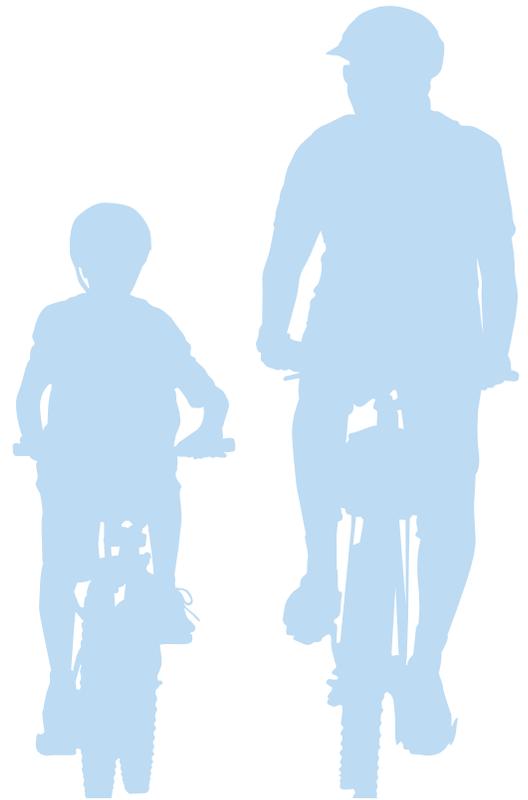
Some bike crashes can cause serious injuries and most are related to the behavior of you (the bicyclist) or the motorist. There are a number of things you can do to prevent a crash, and protect your brain if a crash occurs.

Safe Riding Tips

Before riding, make sure you, your family, and the bicycles are ready to ride. Be a "Roll Model" for other adults and children.

Remember to:

- **Wear a Bicycle Helmet.** Everyone – at every age – should wear bicycle helmets. For more guidance on fitting a helmet, see the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *Fitting Your Bike Helmet*.
- **Adjust Your Bicycle to Fit.** Stand over your bicycle. There should be 1 to 2 inches between the rider and the top tube (bar) if using a road bike and 3 to 4 inches if using a mountain bike. The seat should be level front to back, and the height should be adjusted to allow a slight bend at the knee when the leg is fully extended. The handlebar height should be level with the seat.
- **Check Your Equipment.** Before riding, inflate tires properly and check that the brakes work.
- **See and Be Seen.** Whether daytime, dawn, dusk, bad weather, or at night, make yourself visible to others. Wear neon, fluorescent or other bright colors when riding, to be most easily seen. Wear something that reflects light, such as reflective tape or markings, or flashing lights. Remember, just because you can see a driver doesn't mean the driver can see you.
- **Control the Bicycle.** Ride with two hands on the handlebars, except when signaling a turn. Place books and other items in a bicycle carrier or backpack.
- **Watch for and Avoid Road Hazards.** Look for hazards such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, puddles, leaves, and dogs. All these hazards can cause a crash.
- **Use Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication.** This includes eye contact with drivers, turn signals, pointing to road hazards for bicyclists behind you, and stating "passing on your left," or "on your left."
- **Avoid Riding at Night.** It's hard for road users to see bicyclists at dusk, dawn, and nighttime. Use reflectors on the front and rear of your bicycle. White lights and red rear reflectors or lights are required by law in all States.



Rules of the Road – Bicycling on the Road

In all States, bicycles on the roadway are considered vehicles, and bicyclists are the drivers, with the same rights and responsibilities as motorists to follow the rules of the road. When riding, always:

- **Go With the Traffic Flow.** Ride on the right in the same direction as other vehicles. Go with the flow – not against it.
- **Obey All Traffic Laws.** A bicycle is a vehicle and you're the driver. When you ride in the street, obey all traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- **Yield to Traffic.** Almost always, drivers on a smaller road must yield (wait) for traffic on a major or larger road. If there is no stop sign or traffic signal and you are coming from a smaller roadway (out of a driveway, from a sidewalk, a bike path, etc.), you must slow down and look to see if the way is clear before proceeding. Yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
- **Be Predictable.** Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars. Signal your moves to others.
- **Stay Alert at All Times.** Use your eyes and ears. Watch out for potholes, cracks, wet leaves, storm grates, railroad tracks, or anything that could make you lose control of your bike. Listen for traffic and avoid dangerous situations; don't use personal electronics when you ride.
- **Look Before Turning.** When turning left or right, always look behind you for a break in traffic, and then signal before making the turn. Watch for left- or right-turning traffic.
- **Watch for Parked Cars.** Ride far enough out from the curb to avoid the unexpected from parked cars (like doors opening, or cars pulling out).

Where to Ride Safely

- **Use bike lanes or bike paths, if available.**
 - While bicycles are allowed on many roads, riders may feel safer being separated from traffic. A lane or path is a safer choice than riding on a sidewalk.
 - Riding on sidewalks puts you in a place where cars do not look for or expect to see moving traffic.
 - Sidewalk riding puts you at risk for crashes at driveways and intersections.
- **Children younger than 10 years old are not consistently able to make the decisions necessary to safely ride unsupervised in the street.** Therefore, they are safer riding away from traffic.
- **For anyone riding on a sidewalk:**
 - Check the law in your State or jurisdiction to make sure sidewalk riding is allowed.
 - Watch for vehicles coming out of or turning into driveways.
 - Stop at corners of sidewalks and streets to look for cars and to make sure the drivers see you before crossing.
 - Enter a street at a corner and not between parked cars. Alert pedestrians that you are nearby, saying, "Passing on your left," or use a bell or horn.





BIKE ROUTE signs help label roads and direct bicyclists. Specially marked bicycle routes have limited pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic.



Reflective **SHARE THE ROAD** signs advise motorists that bicyclists will be using the roadway along with motor vehicles.



The **BICYCLES MAY USE FULL LANE** sign is used on roadways where no bicycle lanes or adjacent shoulders, usable by bicyclists are present and where travel lanes are too narrow for bicyclists and motor vehicles to operate side by side. Treat bicyclists as if they are drivers of slow moving vehicles.



BIKE LANE SIGNS AND PLAQUES are placed at the beginning, end, and at periodic locations along a bicycle lane. They are always accompanied by pavement markings to inform all road users of the location of bicycle lanes.



BEGIN RIGHT TURN LANE YIELD TO BIKES sign may be used to inform both motorists and bicyclists that vehicles entering an exclusive right-turn lane must merge across bicycle traffic in a bicycle lane.



The **BIKE WRONG WAY** sign and **RIDE WITH TRAFFIC** plaque may be placed facing wrong-way bicycle traffic, such as on the left side of a roadway.



This sign and plaque may be mounted back-to-back with other signs to minimize visibility to other traffic.



USE PED SIGNAL is used where the crossing of a street by bicyclists is controlled by pedestrian signal indications.



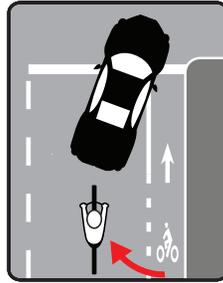
The **SHARED-USE PATH RESTRICTION** sign is used where a solid white pavement marking line on facilities provides a separate designated pavement area for each mode of travel.



YIELD TO PEDS sign is used where a bicyclist is required to cross or share a facility used by pedestrians and is required to yield to the pedestrians.

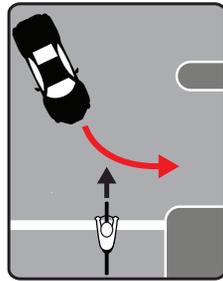


The **BIKE SIGNAL ACTUATION** sign may be installed at signalized intersections where markings are used to indicate the location where a bicyclist is positioned to actuate the signal.



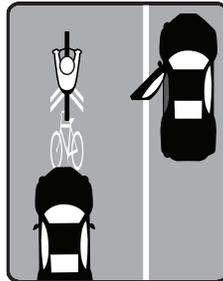
Avoid the RIGHT HOOK

Bicyclists proceeding through an intersection should signal and communicate with the motor vehicle drivers behind them. When safe to do so, the bicyclists should move into the main travel lane and proceed through the intersection.



Watch out for the LEFT CROSS

Ride big and be predictable. Ride farther left, especially when approaching intersections. This helps drivers know your intended riding direction when crossing the intersection. A bicyclist may use the full lane, especially when approaching intersections.



BEWARE of the DOOR ZONE!

Stay far enough away from parked cars to avoid car doors opening.



Be PREDICTABLE

Ride in a straight, predictable line and don't weave between lanes or around parked cars.



For more information about bicycle laws in the state of Florida, please check out www.AlertTodayFlorida.com

and www.FloridaBicycle.org

Funded by FDOT



FLORIDA BICYCLE SIGNS, SIGNALS & MARKINGS



Go with the flow of traffic.



Follow the signs and traffic signals.



Be visible at night with white front lights and red rear lights and reflectors.



Watch for pedestrians crossing.



Stop behind the crosswalk at the stop bar.

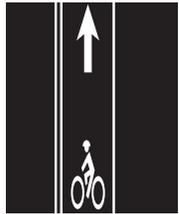


Ride with caution. Stay clear of parked cars and the door zone.



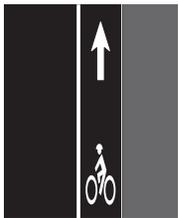
Keep a distance of at least 3 feet from a bicyclist when passing.

www.AlertTodayFlorida.com



BUFFERED BIKE LANE

A buffered bike lane indicates a standard 7' or 6' wide bike lane. The extra line ("buffer" stripe) makes the lane look too narrow for motor vehicles. The lanes are wide enough to provide the 3' minimum passing distance required by law.



BIKE LANES WITH SOLID LINES

These are for people traveling on bicycles only. Motor vehicle drivers should not cross into these lanes unless they have yielded to bicyclists before turning.



BIKE LANES WITH DASHED LINES

These give bicyclists a place to ride, but motor vehicle drivers may need to merge into them at certain times. Motor vehicle drivers should yield to bicyclists before crossing the dotted line or making a turn.

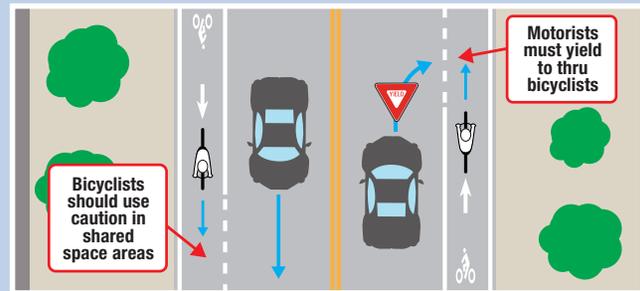


BICYCLE DETECTOR MARKING

The Bicycle Detector Marking indicates where a bicyclist should stop to trigger a traffic signal. Place your bicycle wheels directly over the marking. Be patient! Some signal changes may take 3 minutes or longer!

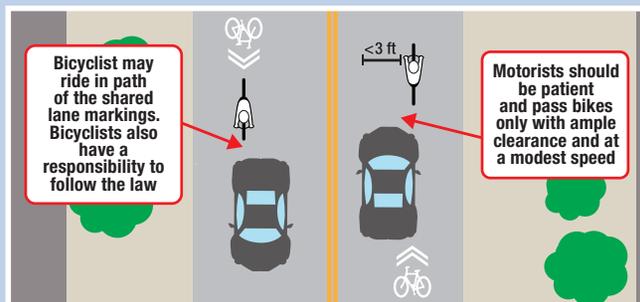
PAVEMENT MARKINGS

A bike lane is striped and marked for bicycle traffic. A bike lane's purpose is to provide a dedicated space on the roadway for bicyclists. The lane must be at least 4 feet wide, marked by solid white lines, with a white bicycle symbol placed in each block. As a bike lane approaches an intersection or bus stop, the white lines are dashed to indicate a space shared by bicyclists and turning motorists.



SHARED LANE MARKINGS

Shared lane markings or "sharrows" (derived from "shared" and "arrows") are pavement markings indicating that cyclists should be expected in the travel lane. They encourage bicyclists to ride in a safe position outside of the door zone (where side doors of parked cars open) and to alert motorists to expect cyclists in the lane. Shared lane markings include a bicycle symbol and a double chevron indicating the direction of travel. They do not designate any part of the roadway as either exclusive to motorists or bicyclists. Rather, the symbols highlight that the travel lane may be used by cyclists and motorists alike.

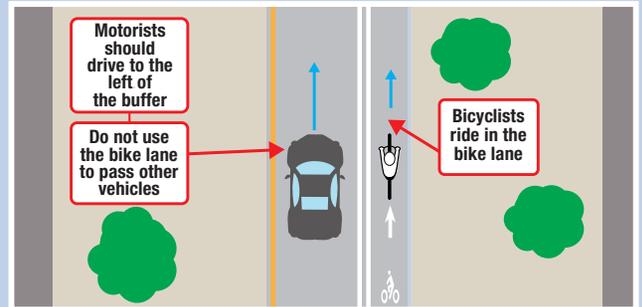


BUFFERED BIKE LANES

A buffered bike lane is similar to a regular bike lane, but also includes a marked buffer between the bike lane and adjacent travel lanes. Buffered bike lanes are wide enough to provide adequate maneuvering room for cyclists. The buffer is needed to prevent motorists from using the lane as a travel lane.



The buffer is placed between the bike lane and travel lane. The buffer is marked with two white lines to indicate the bike lane is a special use lane for bicyclists, and motorists must yield to traffic in the lane before merging or turning across the lane.



GREEN BIKE LANES

Green bike lanes are pavement markings used to highlight locations where motorists merge across or turn across a bike lane. Green bike lanes are marked with a solid green background, bounded by dotted white lines.

