



Cooperative Driving: A Life Saving Initiative

Cycling is a fantastic way to help the environment by reducing the number of vehicles on the road and meet your exercise goals. Yet many people may not cycle as often as they like citing concerns around safety of cycling on roadways.

Both cyclists and drivers need to take steps to ensure everyone stays safe while sharing the road. Sometimes our own actions or the actions of others around us can put us in danger. This can make driving and riding unpleasant and stressful.

The Injury Lawyers of Ontario newsletter states these types of behaviours contribute to approximately 75% of collisions involving motorists and cyclists at intersections.¹

Tips for drivers:

1. Try to make eye contact with cyclists to show you see them.
2. Be patient and share the road sensibly. Cyclists may be going faster than you think and you may cause them to have to brake heavily to avoid a collision with you.

3. Always check your mirrors, especially right-side mirrors and remember to signal well in advance to warn the cyclist that you intend to turn. Be sure to do an over the shoulder look to check blindspots.
4. At an intersection, let the cyclist go first and clear the intersection.
5. When approaching an intersection at the same time as a cyclist, pull up behind verses alongside.
6. When passing a cyclist be sure it is safe to do so. In Ontario the law says you must give at least 1 metre of space.
7. If you are sitting in a parked vehicle, check that there isn't a cyclist approaching before you open a door to get out. Open the door with your opposite hand. This puts you in a more natural position to look down the side and behind your vehicle.

Cyclists also have a responsibility to be a courteous road user. The rules of the road pertain to all users.

Tips for cyclists:

1. Do not assume that a driver has seen you, or even if they have, that they will wait for you. Be ready to stop or take avoidance action.

¹ <https://www.ilolaw.ca/cycling-accidents>

2. Collisions can happen at intersections when cyclists are waiting to pull out. Be careful not to mis-judge the approaching vehicle's speed.
3. Give yourself plenty of space and time when turning left across oncoming traffic, or joining fast moving traffic.
4. If waiting ahead of a large commercial vehicle, remember that immediately in front of the cab is one of the driver's blind spots and they may not have seen you.
5. If intending to turn right at an intersection, maintain your lane position. Positioning yourself too close to the curb may convince the driver that there is room to squeeze past.
6. Do not be tempted to ride down the inside of any vehicle (especially a bus or truck) that is waiting at an intersection. Hold back and stay behind where the driver can see you in their mirrors.
7. When a large vehicle turns right, it cuts in very close to the curb (it may move out to the left first) and the space on its inside will become the blind spot. This is the last place you want to be!
8. Don't forget to watch out for pedestrians crossing between parked vehicles.

We all need to do more than just obey the rules, we must "share the road" respectfully and care about the safety of others on the road. Everyone is responsible for avoiding collisions.

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