

General considerations

- Under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, a bicycle is a vehicle. Obey all traffic laws. Signal, stop and yield.
- Always be on the lookout for pedestrians and other cyclists as well as automobiles. Pedestrians have the right of way at intersections and crosswalks.
- Avoid passing slow moving vehicles on the right-hand side. This is an extremely dangerous maneuver for a cyclist.
- Wear a helmet. Helmets save lives! Make sure your helmet fits and is positioned properly.
- Be prepared for changes in the weather.
- On long rides, bring a toolkit, water, and small first-aid kit.
- Always use lights when riding at dawn, dusk, or night. Wear reflective clothing so you are clearly seen by motorists.
- Always lock your bike up.
- Use your bell when passing other cyclists or on blind curves on trails.
- Don't ride on the sidewalk! It's illegal AND dangerous!
- Be aware of your surroundings. Make eye-contact with motorists, other cyclists and pedestrians. Do not use head-phones.

See, Be Seen, Be Predictable

See: Always be aware of your surroundings. Use shoulder checks to know where other vehicles are.

Be Seen: Stay in the motorist's field of vision. Wear bright clothing and use lights.

Be Predictable: Cycle in a straight line and avoid making abrupt or unpredictable movements. Signal all stops and turns.

Respect pedestrians and motorists, and share the road responsibly!

GET SMART GET CYCLING

The SCU is a grassroots organization whose focus is to provide a strong unified voice for cyclists and to facilitate a better urban cycling culture in Sudbury. Our aim is to make cycling safe, accessible, and fun for cyclists of all ages and abilities.



SUDBURY CYCLISTS UNION

Cycling Safety Tips for Sudbury Cyclists



How should you ride on the road?

- Always ride on the right side of the road, travelling with the traffic.
- Ride in a straight line. Don't weave in and out.
- Always obey the rules of the road. Obey traffic signals, and signal your turns and stops.
- Ride one meter from the curb or close to the right hand edge of the road when there is no curb.
- You may take as much of the lane as necessary if you are turning left; avoiding potholes, grates, or other debris in your riding path; going faster than other vehicles; or if the lane is too narrow to share with an automobile.
- Ride in a straight line at least one metre away from parked vehicles. Keep to this line even if the vehicles are far apart to avoid continuous swerving.
- Watch for parked vehicles - motorists and passengers may open their car door into your path.
- On a multi-lane road, always ride in the curb lane unless you are turning left or passing a slow-moving vehicle.
- If a curb lane is too narrow to share safely with a motorist, it is legal to take the whole lane by riding in the centre of it.

- When changing lanes, vehicles on the left always have the right of way.
- Always shoulder check, signal, and shoulder check again before changing position in a lane or moving to another lane.
- When turning right, always use the right-hand curbside lane. Obey traffic signals, and signal your intention to turn. Give way to pedestrians.
- When turning left on a road with one lane in each direction, turn from the center of the lane. Give way to pedestrians. In multi-lane situations, move gradually from the right-hand lane to the left-hand lane(s). Unless you have experience or training in these situations, act like a pedestrian and walk your bike across the crosswalk.
- Ride across streetcar and railway tracks at a 90 angle to the track to avoid getting your wheels caught.
- Never move into a merge or diverge lane on a major arterial road unless you are leaving the main road. Travel straight through in the right-most through lane.

What to look for when riding

- ***Right-turning cars:***

Motorists who are turning right don't always check for bicycles when making a right-hand turn. Make sure you are not cut off. Leave space between you and the curb and watch for cars cutting in front of you.

Position yourself in front, behind or to the left of a car turning right. Never move up beside it on the right. You can take the whole lane if you are going straight through.

- ***Intersections:***

Most car/bike collisions occur at intersections. Intersections can include laneways and driveways. Stay within one meter of the curb so you are visible to drivers. It is usually better to "take the lane" before the intersection so that right-turning motorists stay behind you.

Treat an intersection as if you were in a car. Stop and yield as required. Watch for vehicles turning in your path.

If two vehicles arrive at an intersection and stop simultaneously, the vehicle on the right has the right-of-way. This includes bicycles.

If you are intending to travel straight through an intersection, never position yourself in a right-turn only lane.

- ***Trucks and other large vehicles (RVs)***

Position yourself before or after a truck - never beside - when stopped at an intersection. Otherwise, you may be in the driver's blind spot.

Cyclists can easily be crushed by a right-turning truck or other vehicle.