



Share the Road Campaign:

MOTORIST INFORMATION



Marin County's roads should be safe for all bicyclists and motorists. In order to co-exist safely, we need mutual respect and understanding between cyclists and motorists, as they share the same rights and responsibilities on public roads. Follow the behaviors included here and we'll all be safer.

BE SAFE:

Allow at least 3 feet when passing: Slow down and wait for a safe place to pass when driving behind a cyclist on a narrow roadway. A car passing too closely can injure or kill a cyclist.

Treat each bicycle as you would any slow-moving vehicle: Don't try to squeeze by a cyclist on a blind corner, near the crest of a hill, when there is oncoming traffic or on a narrow road. Always wait for a safe place to pass. Unsafe passing can result in a head-on collision!

Be alert and look for cyclists: Look for bicycles when driving and parking. Always check for bikes before changing lanes or opening a car door.

Pay special attention around schools: Drivers need to exercise additional caution when driving near a school. Slow down and be on the lookout for children. Children can dart out from sidewalks and between parked cars unexpectedly!

BE COURTEOUS:

Only honk in emergencies: Sounding your horn near a cyclist can startle them, causing them to weave into traffic or even fall from their bike. Cyclists often cannot hear vehicles behind them when riding downhill due to the wind in their ears. Pass them with a wide berth when the road ahead is clear.

Wait patiently to pass: As often as not, a cyclist in front of you on a narrow roadway is looking for a safe place to pull over to let you pass. Give them time to do the safe thing, then pass at a reasonable speed. Road rage kills and cyclists are the most vulnerable users of the roads.

REPORT INCIDENTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT:

The Share the Road program has the support of all 13 of Marin's law enforcement agencies, who encourage you to report "road incidents" as soon as possible. When a law has been broken, the local law enforcement agencies will take appropriate action. "Street justice" can backfire – don't participate in Road Rage!

Stay at the scene of a crash and wait for the police to arrive. (per CA Vehicle Code 20001 (a) duty to stop at scene of accident).

Dial 911 to report "road incidents" such as collisions, injuries or reckless behavior.



Be a Part of the Solution, not a Part of the Problem

Provided by Marin County Bicycle Coalition and Marin Law Enforcement, July 2005





CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE

21200. (a) Every person riding a bicycle upon a highway has all the rights and is subject to all the provisions applicable to the driver of a vehicle ...

MOTORIST CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Obey traffic laws (fine for running a stop sign or light can range from \$100-\$400)
2. Do not exceed the posted speed limit.
3. When passing a bicyclist, provide at least three feet of space between your vehicle and the bicyclist.
4. Yield to bicyclists and pedestrians at cross walks and when they are crossing freeway on and off-ramps.
5. Look for bicyclists before opening a car door.
6. Look for bicyclists before exiting a parking place or driveway.
7. Look for bicyclists when making turns – it's easy to misjudge the speed of an oncoming cyclist.
8. Use hand signals.
9. If pulling a trailer, take special care to ensure that the trailer does not endanger bicyclists.
10. Don't drive if you are impaired by alcohol or drugs.

BICYCLISTS HAVE A RIGHT TO THE ROADWAY

The California Vehicle Code CVC 21202 allows for bicyclists to use an entire traffic lane under the following five conditions:

1. When riding at the same speed as the posted speed limit or at the same speed as the normal flow of traffic.
2. When passing a slower vehicle.
3. When avoiding hazardous conditions on the side of the road.
4. When the lane is too narrow to be shared by both a bicycle and a vehicle.
5. When preparing to make a left turn.

FREE Basic Street Skills Classes

Free Basic Street Skills bicycle safety classes are offered at Marin General Hospital in Greenbrae.

The Marin County Superior Court allows bicycle traffic infraction citation fee reduction to \$50 (regardless of the original fine amount) through class attendance. The two-hour PowerPoint-based class teaches participants to safely and confidently use a bicycle for transportation, avoid crashes and citations, improve visibility, ride through intersections, the legal rights and obligations of cyclists, and more. **Drivers benefit by understanding bicyclist behavior.** Classes are appropriate for individuals aged 16 and up.

To learn more, see the class schedule, and register, please visit www.marinbike.org, or call the Marin County Bicycle Coalition at 415-456-3469 ext. 3#.



MARIN COUNTY BICYCLE COALITION

is a non-profit membership-based organization whose mission is to promote safe bicycling for everyday transportation and recreation.

JOIN US!

Become a member online at www.marinbike.org.



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