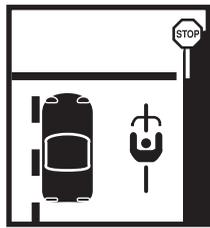


Bicycles are Vehicles and Belong on the Road

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as operators of motor vehicles, according to Massachusetts State law. This means that you are required to follow all traffic rules, and you are allowed to drive your bicycle on any road or highway in the state, except for limited access expressways (like I-93).

Following the same rules as other vehicles makes you predictable, and significantly reduces the likelihood of a crash. Obeying the law also sends the message that you belong in traffic and that you respect other road users.

Give respect — Get Respect

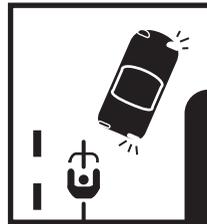


Traffic signals are for bicyclists too

Obey all traffic signs and signals. Stop behind the stop line, so pedestrians can cross safely in the crosswalk.

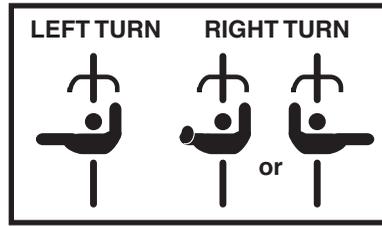
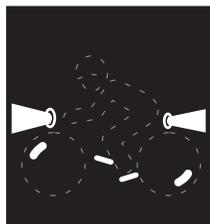
Avoid the right hook

Avoid passing any moving vehicle on the right. If there is a bicycle lane on the right, pass other traffic slowly and carefully, and watch for right turning vehicles.



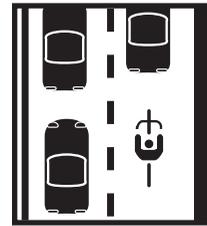
Don't be invisible!

Bikes are, by law, required to have a front white light, a rear red reflector or light, side reflectors, and pedal (or ankle) reflectors at night.



Look and signal before turning

Always look behind you to see if it is clear before turning or changing lanes.

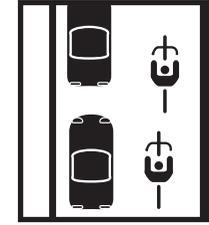


Take the lane when necessary

If a lane is too narrow for sharing with a car, move into the center of the lane. Motorists may act impatient, but they aren't likely to pass unsafely.

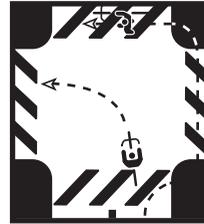
Ride single file

Unless passing, ride single file. Notify other cyclists of overtaking cars by announcing "Car back".



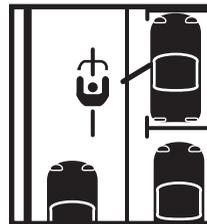
Left turns

Turn left as a vehicle by merging into the left turn lane or left side of single lane. Or, stop, dismount the bike, and cross as a pedestrian in crosswalks.



Beware of the door zone!

Ride at least 4 feet away from parked cars, even if there is a bike lane, or traffic trying to pass you.



Pass busses on left

Busses pull to the right to drop off passengers, so always pass on the left, or wait behind the bus until it starts moving again.

Sidewalks are for walking

Bike riding on sidewalks is prohibited in business districts. Residential sidewalks are OK to ride on at a slow pace.



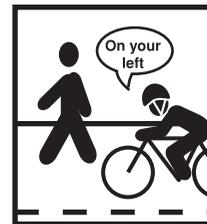
Yield to pedestrians

Stop for all pedestrians in crosswalks. Do not pass other vehicles stopped at crosswalks—there might be a pedestrian you can't see coming from the other side.



Don't swerve

Ride in a straight, predictable line. Car drivers may not be able to avoid hitting you if you suddenly move into their path.



Pass pedestrians with care

When on a path or sidewalk, pass other users with care, and announce your presence with a bell or a friendly "Passing on your left".

Go by Bike!



A guide to commuting on a bicycle

