

## What cyclists need to know about professional drivers:

- Because bicycles are vehicles, truck drivers expect cyclists to obey the same traffic laws as motorists.
- If cycling behind a truck, stay back and position your bike slightly right within the lane so you can have a clear view of the truck's mirrors.
- When a semi-trailer passes, don't assume the road is clear: There may be a second trailer or "pup."
- In city traffic, pay special attention to a truck's turn signals. If a truck is turning right, don't even think about cutting around on the right.
- The bigger the truck:
  - the larger the blind spots.
  - the more room required to maneuver.
  - the longer it takes to stop.
  - the more likely you're going to be the loser in a collision.
- At 55 mph, it takes a truck 300 feet to stop (plus reaction time). Don't pull in front of a large truck and suddenly slow down or stop—the driver can't stop quickly enough to avoid a collision.
- Sun glare during early morning and late afternoon hours make cyclists hard to see.



**The road to safety is paved with healthy attitudes and cooperation.**



## What professional drivers need to know about cyclists:

- Cyclists' skills vary. When possible, assess the rider's capabilities. A safe rider holds a steady line.
- Even though a bicyclist's pace may pose a momentary delay in your schedule, it is important to respect the bicyclist's safety and legal right to roadways.
- Yield the right of way to the bicyclist as you would a car.
- Use extra caution during peak morning and afternoon riding hours.
- Keep cool and lay off the horn and flashing headlights, either of which may startle a cyclist.
- A moving truck creates wind turbulence that seriously affects a cyclist's control. When meeting or passing cyclists, slow down and give the widest berth possible. Crosswinds compound the problem for cyclists.
- Cyclists worry about road defects you'd never feel in your cab. Allow them plenty of room in case they swerve to miss a pothole, storm drain, debris, or other obstacle.
- Cyclists require extra courtesy while negotiating railroad tracks and narrow bridges.
- On a two-lane road, don't pass a cyclist if oncoming traffic is near.
- For safe passing, allow three to five feet of space; add one foot for every 10 mph over 50 mph.

## **Cyclists,**

### **Become predictable!**



- Whenever possible, make eye contact with the driver—especially at intersections.
- Look at and listen to the environment. No headphones!
- Ride a roadworthy bike. If you must stop for any reason, pull completely off the road.
- Always wear an approved helmet.
- Mirrors help you observe following traffic.
- Wear bright colors to be visible.
- If you ride at night, be sure lights and reflectors are part of your equipment.
- Always ride with traffic.
- Before making a lateral move, turn your head to check for following traffic.
- In light traffic, you may ride two abreast but don't obstruct traffic.
- Ride as far right as is practical, but allow 24" to swerve out for hazards.
- On a group ride, split up into clusters of six or fewer bikes so drivers can safely pass.
- In traffic, keep your hands on your brakes and be prepared to stop.
- If you're slowing traffic, pull off the road and allow traffic to pass.

## **Driving a truck or Riding a bicycle**

requires **skill, concentration and patience.** Even experienced cyclists and professional drivers may not know as much as they should about sharing the road.

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A Safety Message from Project P.I.E.  
(Public Information & Education)  
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# **Bikes And Big Trucks**