

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.

Reprinted with permission of the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company. Copyright 1998. The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company. All Rights Reserved.

Our thanks to:
Iowa Motor Truck Association
U.S. Department of Transportation
Iowa State Patrol
Ride Right—The Des Moines Register
B.R.A.G. (Bicycle Ride Across Georgia)



A Safety Message from Project P.I.E.
(Public Information & Education)
FACT SHEET #040
Georgia Department of Public Safety
Motor Carrier Compliance Division
P.O. Box 1456
Atlanta, GA 30371-1456
(404) 624-7211 www.dps.georgia.gov

WHEEL

ISSUES:

ROAD – SHARING

TIPS FOR



Bikes And Big Trucks