



Riding a bicycle on the road means sharing the road with cars, trucks and motorcycles. That can be a scary thought, but if you **ride smart**, you can be safe and enjoy the ride. Following are a few tips to remember so you share the road with sense.



Creating a bicycle-friendly Indiana through promotion, education and advocacy.

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**First of all**, remember that, when you ride in traffic, you're really just another driver, with the same rules and responsibilities as everyone else. That means you must:

- Obey all traffic laws.
- Stop at stop signs and traffic lights.
- Signal all turns.
- Ride *with* traffic, in the right side of the lane.
- Always look back, signal and check for traffic before turning or entering the roadway.
- Be aware of what's going on around you.

**On the other hand**, as a bicyclist, you're smaller, slower and less protected than other drivers on the road. That means you need to think about things other drivers don't. Here are some dos and don'ts:

- Do wear a helmet. (It could save your life!)
- Do wear bright colors to help drivers see you.
- Don't surprise other drivers. Ride straight, with no sudden changes in direction.
- Don't hog the road: Two cyclists, side-by-side, is the limit. If the lane can be safely shared with a car, ride single-file.
- Do let motorists pass when it's safe, but hold your lane so you have room to ride.
- Do allow four feet between you and parked cars so you don't get surprised by an opening door.
- Do let pedestrians go first.
- Do be prepared: Carry water and tools.
- Do allow extra distance for stopping in wet weather.
- Do use a light and wear reflective clothing if you must ride when it's dark. Reflective patches and reflective wheel strips also help.