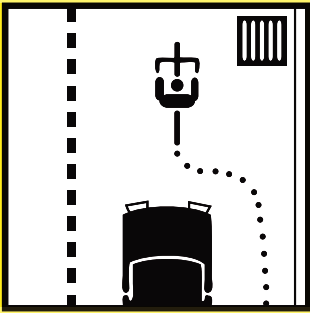


BICYCLES ARE VEHICLES

In New Mexico, persons operating bicycles on roads have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers of motor vehicles.

As a motor vehicle driver, sharing the road with bicycles requires that you:

- Try to pass a bicyclist with at least five feet of clearance, and only when safe and legal to do so.
- Provide the bicyclist with extra time and space to merge and use turn lanes like other vehicles.
- Remember that a bicycle is a legal, slow-moving vehicle such as a tractor or buggy. Be patient and courteous so that the roadways work for everyone.

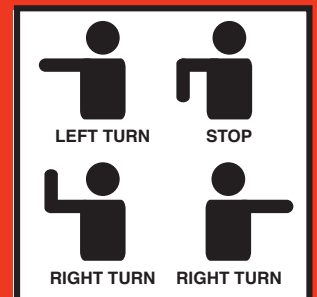


Special Considerations for Driving Near Bicycles:

- While bicycles usually should stay to the right of the roadway, they are legally allowed to take the lane by riding in the center of the traffic lane when necessary. Bicyclists will typically take the lane to prepare for a left turn, to avoid being squeezed on a narrow street, or to avoid hazards and debris.
- Do not make a sudden right turn after passing a bicyclist on your right. Instead, slow down and merge behind the bicyclist before turning.
- Some bicyclists, especially young children, will behave unexpectedly. Stay watchful for sudden movements and lane changes.

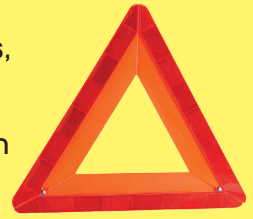
As a bicyclist, sharing the road with motorists requires that you:

- Obey all traffic signals, laws and signs, just as if you were driving, including using a bright headlight and a good, rear reflector at night.
- Travel in the same direction as traffic, making left and right turns in the same manner cars do.
- Use hand signals to indicate turning and stopping.



Special Considerations for Bicycling in Traffic:

- Bicycles are hard for motorists to see. Wear bright colors, use proper lighting, and be predictable.
- The safest way to ride is as part of the traffic, going with the flow of the normal traffic pattern.
- Adults should, and children must, wear a well-fitting helmet.



What are Sharrows?

Sharrows are short-hand for “shared lane pavement markings” and are placed on the pavement when a roadway is too narrow for side-by-side road sharing. They indicate that bicyclists are encouraged to use the entire travel lane and that motorists shall yield to the bicyclist as needed.

As a motorist, what should I do in the presence of sharrows?

- Slow down and yield to bicyclists in the roadway.
- Pass bicyclists only when the width of the roadway allows cyclists enough room to move to the right.
- Try to give bicyclists at least five feet of clearance when passing.

As a bicyclist, what should I do in the presence of sharrows?

- Bicyclists may ride through the center of the sharrow.
- Keep a safe distance from the “door zone” of parked cars.
- Move right to let vehicles pass only when it is safe to do so.

Helpful notes for all road users:

- It is legal for bicyclists to ride two-abreast when safe, but they should ride single-file on narrow or busy streets.
- Bicyclists may legally ride on some sidewalks, so be watchful when approaching pathways.
- “Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.”

- John Forester



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