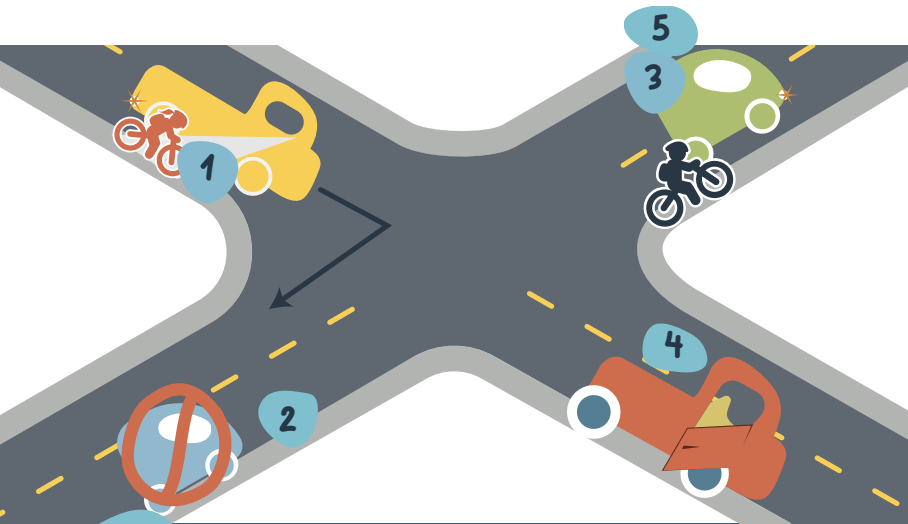


# Safe Driving Around Cyclists

These scenarios cover some basics of safe driving around cyclists:

- 1 Turning Right across a Bike Lane**  
Check for cyclists before merging or turning.
- 2 Stopping in a Bike Lane**  
Don't block bike lanes; park in designated areas.
- 3 Driving Near Bikeways**  
Be aware of cyclists and give them space.
- 4 Opening Car Doors**  
Check for cyclists before opening your door.
- 5 Sharing a Traffic Lane**  
Maintain a safe distance when passing cyclists.



## DID YOU KNOW?



**An average cyclist goes 20 km per hour.** That means a 5 km ride can take about 15 minutes – depending on route, terrain, and waiting for lights at intersections. It's often faster than the bus!

**Supporting safe cycling isn't just about cyclists - it benefits everyone.**

Fewer cars in school zones reduce congestion, improve safety, and promote clean air, community, and independence.

## Debunking Cycling Myths for Safer Streets

**Bike Lanes Are Always Safest**  
Not necessarily. Hazards like debris and parked cars may require leaving the lane.

**Sidewalks Are Safer Than Roads**  
Often riskier. Sidewalk riding increases collision risks at driveways and intersections.

**Cyclists Impede Traffic**  
False. Cyclists have the same rights as motorists and contribute to safe, predictable traffic flow.

**Cyclists Must Always Ride Curbside**  
Not always. Riding farther left can prevent close passes and improve safety.

## Contact info

✉ [info@greencommunitiescanada.org](mailto:info@greencommunitiescanada.org)

School Travel Planning is a program of Green Communities Canada.  
Learn more: [greencommunitiescanada.org](http://greencommunitiescanada.org)



## WHEELS IN HARMONY:

# Sharing the Road Safely



**There's room for everyone.**  
Let's move with empathy, especially in school zones.

Cycling for school trips is more than transportation - it promotes health, strengthens community ties, and builds independence and resilience in youth.

# Cycling Benefits

**Convenient**  
Often faster than transit or traffic, especially downtown.

**Healthy**  
Biking regularly boosts fitness, mental health, and energy.

**Affordable**  
Costs far less than a car or transit.

**Eco-Friendly**  
Reduce air pollution and street congestion by biking.

**Safe**  
Expanding bike lanes and laws make cycling safer and more enjoyable.



# Cycling Infrastructure

**Sharrows**  
Shared lane markings where cyclists and cars share the road. Drivers must give cyclists at least one metre when passing.



**Painted Bike Lanes**  
Marked by a bike symbol and solid white line. A dashed white line indicates where vehicles may cross when turning.



**Protected Bike Lanes**  
Separated from traffic by barriers like concrete walls or flexi-posts.



**Contra-Flow Bike Lanes**  
Marked by a solid yellow line, these lanes allow cyclists to ride against traffic on quiet one-way streets.



# Cyclists



Stay Safe & Ride Smart

- ✓ A bike is your first vehicle—ride responsibly!
- ✓ Obey traffic rules: stop at lights, signal turns, ride predictably.
- ✓ Wear bright colours and use lights for visibility.
- ✓ Stay alert for car doors and moving vehicles.
- ✓ Ride 1 metre from curbs and parked cars.
- ✓ When eye contact isn't possible, check a vehicle's front tires to anticipate direction of movement.
- ✓ Always stop for school buses with flashing lights.
- ⊘ Never ride against traffic unless in a contra-flow lane

Despite the benefits, young cyclists are vulnerable on roads that they share with drivers.

**Canadian police-reported collision data shows that preteens and teens face a higher risk of cycling-related injuries compared to other age groups.**

Roads become a much safer place when all travellers learn how to interact with each other safely and respectfully.

**Evolving mobility - who else is sharing the road?**  
For 2024, Bike Share Toronto reported 6.9 million rides on 9,350 bikes.



# Drivers



Keeping Cyclists Safe

- ✓ Drive with care - Watch for cyclists, especially near schools and intersections.
- ✓ Slow down and yield when needed.
- ✓ Check before opening doors - Prevent "dooring" accidents.
- ✓ Follow traffic signals - Stop behind bike boxes at intersections.
- ⊘ Stay out of bike lanes - Never park or stop in them.
- ⊘ Avoid risky moves - No U-turns or 3-point turns that interfere with traffic flow.

\*See more types in the City of Toronto's Cycling Infrastructure page