

# RULES OF THE ROAD

Chances are, if you drive in Missoula you pass bicyclists all the time. But, did you know that bicycles are vehicles too? Bicycles and motor vehicles are expected to follow the same traffic rules, and both have the same rights and responsibilities while on the road.

**Please follow these common-sense safety tips, and help make Missoula's roads safer for everyone!**



missoula in motion

435 Ryman  
Missoula, MT 59802  
missoulainmotion.com  
406-552-6675

Tips adapted from:  
"Sharing the Road: Survival of the Smallest"  
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National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration

## SHARING MISSOULA'S ROADS

COEXISTING WITH  
BICYCLISTS



# SHARE THE ROAD



## SAFETY

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Check for bicyclists before opening your car door. Flinging it open can be very dangerous for you and bicyclists, especially in traffic.

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Remember that bicyclists riding near curbs may have to avoid debris. Give them extra room.

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Watch carefully for kids on bicycles, common in Missoula's neighborhoods. They are especially unpredictable. Nationwide, about 40 percent of all cycling fatalities involve children under fourteen.

## LAWS

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Yield to bicyclists in designated bike lanes, and watch for bicycles merging into regular traffic lanes at intersections. Remember that state law prohibits motor vehicles from driving or parking in designated bike lanes. When you have to cross bike lanes, signal your intentions and watch carefully for bicyclists.

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Leave three to four feet of space when passing a bicyclist, and don't merge over until you have completely passed. State law allows motorists to cross the double yellow line to pass bicyclists safely.

## RESPECT

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Treat bicyclists with respect. They have just as much right to ride as we do to drive. In fact, bicycles are vehicles according to state law.

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Always signal your intentions, and make eye contact with bicyclists when possible. Good communication will prevent the majority of motor vehicle/bicycle crashes.

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Expect the unexpected: Bicyclists may swerve in front of you to avoid a road hazard. They may ride the wrong way (against traffic). They can be very hard to see at night.