

Avoid crashes: Know What to Look For

A cyclist could be your friend, your family member or your neighbor. A pedestrian could be you. Please share the road with the most vulnerable road users. *Here's what drivers can do to avoid crashes:*

Texting: Avoid distractions.

It is illegal to text and drive in Chicago. Your primary responsibility is to stay focused and safe while driving. It is illegal to talk on a cell phone unless using a hands-free device. Talking on a cell phone in a school or construction zone is illegal. *MCC 9-76-230, Sec. 5-11-1002.5*

Pass cyclists at a safe distance.

Leave at least three feet of space when passing a cyclist. Passing cyclists too closely is dangerous and illegal; it can result in a fine.

MCC 9-36-070(c)

Never park in a bike lane.

Parking in a bike lane forces cyclists to merge with faster moving traffic, endangering them and other motorists. Driving, parking, standing or stopping in a bike lane is illegal and can result in towing and a fine up to \$500.

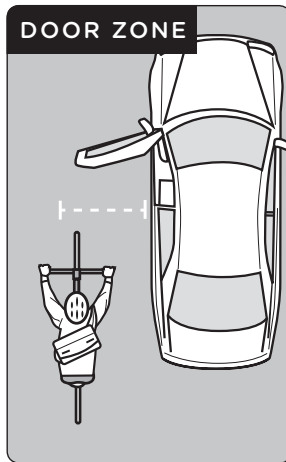
MCC 9-40-060

Watch for people riding against traffic.

If you see a bicyclist riding the wrong way (against traffic), slow down and pass with at least three feet of space.

Check for cyclists before you open your door.

LOOK for cyclists when exiting and entering vehicles near bike lanes. Crashes due to "doorings" cause critical injuries and deaths every year, yet are easily avoided. Violations may result in a fine. *MCC 9-80-35*



Important Laws regarding Bicycles and Pedestrians

The City Wide Speed Limit in Chicago in 30 mph (unless otherwise posted)

9-12-070

Motorists must leave all crosswalks and intersections clear and stop for people walking in all crosswalks, marked or unmarked

9-24-030, 9-24-050, 9-40-120

Turning vehicles must yield to people walking and biking.

9-8-020 (a), 9-16-020 (e,f)

Motorists cannot park, stop or drive in bike lanes

9-40-060

It is illegal to use a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle or bicycle

9-52-110



CHICAGOCOMPLETESTREETS.ORG

VISIONZEROCHICAGO.ORG

Tips for Motorists

Chicago: It's up to **you** to make our streets safer for **everyone**.

SLOW DOWN 

HIGH SPEEDS = SERIOUS INJURIES

20 MPH = 95% Survival

30 MPH = 55% Survival

40 MPH = 15% Survival

GIVE 3 FEET

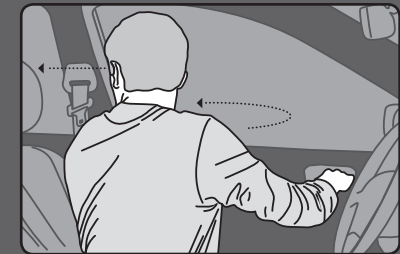
PASS CYCLISTS WITH THREE FEET OF CLEAR SPACE



FOR PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS

LOOK BEHIND YOU WHEN OPENING CAR DOORS

USE YOUR RIGHT HAND, LOOK FOR BIKES



Using your right hand to open the car door will force your upper body to turn and look behind for oncoming cyclists

DON'T



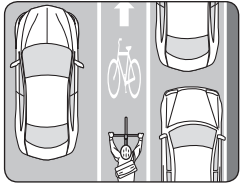
TEXT OR TALK WHILE DRIVING



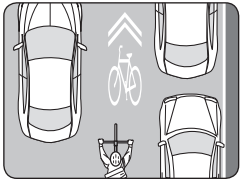
DRIVE OR PARK IN BIKE LANES

Know Your Bike Lanes

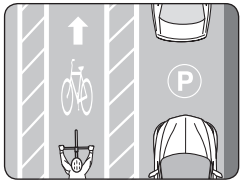
Bike lanes encourage people to travel by bicycle by giving them a designated space on the street.



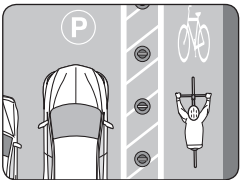
BIKE LANES are striped, on-street lanes with a bicycle symbol and an arrow. Bike lanes can also be painted green.



MARKED SHARED LANES are not striped but show the bicycle symbol and a chevron (double arrows).



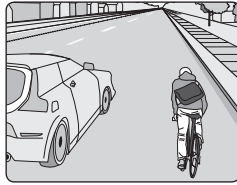
BUFFER-PROTECTED BIKE LANES are similar to conventional bike lanes, with extra space to keep cyclists further from parked vehicles and opening doors.



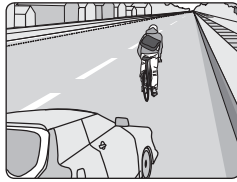
BARRIER-PROTECTED BIKE LANES use physical barriers between cyclists and moving cars. Cars park between the bike lane and car travel lane.

Share the Road with Cyclists

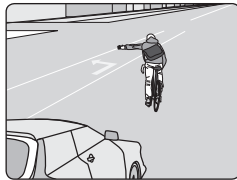
Drivers want to get where they're going, and cyclists do too. Know what to expect and learn why cyclists ride where they do.



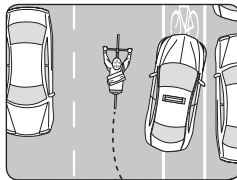
ON WIDE ROADS: Look for "shared lane" markings on the road and give at least three feet of space.



ON NARROW ROADS: By law, cyclists may legally ride in the center of the lane. Wait until oncoming traffic is clear and then pass in another lane.



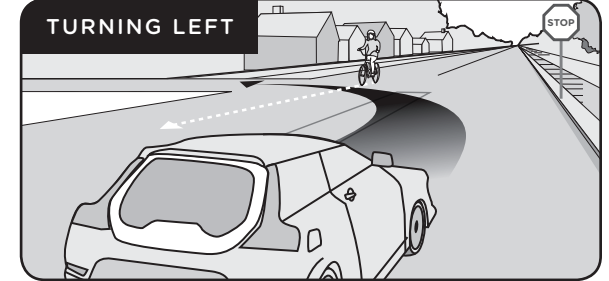
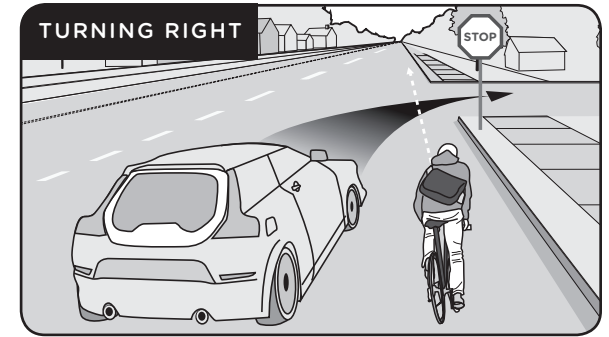
IN A LEFT/CENTER TURN LANE: The law says bicyclists may use the left lane to turn. Check over your left shoulder for bicyclists.



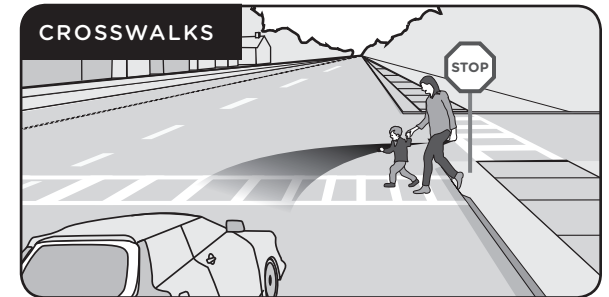
WHEN VEHICLES PARK IN BIKE LANES: Slow down and give three feet of space. *Bicyclists are often forced to merge, slow down and give them three feet of space.*

Approach Intersections Safely

Most crashes occur near intersections. Know who has the right of way and how to avoid a collision.



Turning in front of an oncoming cyclist is illegal and could cause a serious crash. *MCC 9-16-020 (e,f)*



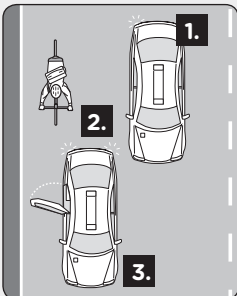
TURNING INTO CROSSWALKS: When proceeding through ANY crosswalk, always STOP for any pedestrian. Use extreme caution when turning.

KIDS RIDING ON SIDEWALKS: When you see kids on bikes nearing a crosswalk or intersection, get ready to stop for them. People age 12 and over must ride on the street.

Sec. 5-11-903

Tips for Dropping off Passengers

ALWAYS YIELD TO CYCLISTS



1. Before you pull over, put on your **turn signal**, then look over your shoulder to check for bicyclists. If you see any, let them pass before you pull over.
2. When you stop temporarily, put on your **hazard lights** so bicyclists know what to expect.
3. Before you pull out, check your mirror and look over your left shoulder for bicyclists in your **blind spot**.

LETTING PASSENGERS OUT SAFELY: AVOID A DOORING

Pull your car as far over to the curb as possible. Warn passengers to look behind for bicyclists before opening the door. If they see a bicyclist, they should keep the door closed until the bicyclist passes.

