

# MOTORISTS: DON'T BE A ROAD HOG



Roads are made for traveling, and bicycles belong on the roads as much as motor vehicles. Bicyclists may not be the fastest road users, but under Georgia law, bicycles are recognized as vehicles, and have a right to use the road. Every user should recognize this right and drive courteously.

### Did you know:

**Bicyclists are required to ride as near to the right in the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing or being passed in the same direction.** However, bicyclists typically must leave the right-hand side when:

- A cyclist is overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
- A cyclist is preparing for a left turn at an intersection or onto a driveway.
- There are unsafe conditions, such as parked vehicles, pedestrians, animals, potholes, drainage grates, metal road work covers, debris, or narrow lanes.

When a bicyclist is changing lanes to make a left turn, for example, he or she follows the same path any other vehicle would take traveling the same direction.

**Bicycles are a legitimate mode of transportation, not toys!** They are pollution free, and put no measurable wear and tear on our roadways. That means lower roadway maintenance costs -- and because bicycles are smaller and cyclists frequently use alternate routes, there's less congestion, too.

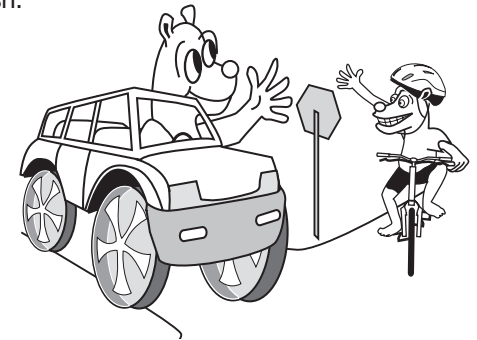
**Sidewalks are made for walking, not biking!** Don't expect bicyclists (except children on bikes) to use sidewalks instead of the road. Sidewalks are made for pedestrians, and are inadequate as bikeways. **SHARE THE ROAD** with cyclists instead!

**Cycling isn't dangerous, at least no more so than driving,** if you obey traffic laws and ride visibly and predictably, according to the League of American Bicyclists. Actually, the regular workout can help give cyclists healthier and longer lives than those who do not exercise.

### The Motorist's Responsibility

**Pass cyclists with care.** Look ahead when you drive; plan and anticipate passing bicyclists quickly and efficiently, providing plenty of room. At least 3 feet of side space is recommended at moderate speed. If the roadway isn't clear for passing, be patient, and wait until it's safe to pass. Respect cyclists' right to use the road.

**Save your horn.** Honking because you see a bicyclist on the roadway is **not** a permitted use of the horn. Some bicyclists are startled by honking; using it improperly could actually cause a serious crash.



**Let's keep Georgia Peachy Clean.** Everyone prefers a well-kept streetscape. Debris and litter can keep bicyclists away from the right side of roadways. Keep it clean, and there'll be more room for all.

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This brochure was prepared by **Southern Bicycle League**, Atlanta, Georgia. Illustrations by W. Giminski. SBL publishes a monthly magazine, *FreeWheelin'*, which includes an extended ride calendar. For more info, see our website at [www.BikeSBL.org](http://www.BikeSBL.org)

For a "SHARE THE ROAD" bumper sticker, send a SASE to SBL, P.O. Box 88550, Atlanta, GA 30356-8550

For more detailed information on bicycles and motorists sharing the road, see *Georgia BikeSense, A Guide for Cyclists & Motorists*, published by Georgia Dept. of Transportation. To obtain a copy, see [www.dot.state.ga.us](http://www.dot.state.ga.us) then click on **Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation**



