

DRIVE SMART DRIVE SAFE
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ATTENTION: MOTORISTS

Our streets and highways are becoming more crowded every day. Therefore, it is necessary that you, as a driver, know and practice the rules of the road. You should always be aware of the traffic – vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians – around you and be prepared for emergency situations.

DRIVING TIPS

- Always check the side and rear-view mirrors.
- Check over your shoulder to be certain your blind spot is clear.
- Use your turn signals in advance when changing lanes.
- Bicyclists and pedestrians are especially hard to see when making a turn—remember to watch for these other travelers!
- Always give the proper signal and look before turning to make sure that you can turn safely.



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SHARE THE ROAD

Share the Road: Bicyclists, Motorists, and Pedestrians working together to improve road safety through shared awareness, patience, courtesy, and cooperation.

Whether you are on a mission to get from Point A to Point B on a bicycle, in your car, or on foot, be respectful of everyone's rights on our roads.

Be courteous ... "Share the Road"



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The mission of the
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board is to create a cyclist and pedestrian friendly community through education, promotion, and advocacy



SHARING THE ROAD WITH BICYCLISTS

- In North Carolina, a bicycle has the same legal status as a vehicle.
- Keep a lookout for oncoming bicyclists when turning left and wait for them to clear the intersection before completing your turn.
- After passing a bicyclist on your right, take care not to cut them off by immediately turning right in front of them.
- Slow down when passing a bicyclist to make sure the rider is aware of your presence, pass only when safe, and leave plenty of room between your vehicle and the bicyclist.
- Stay alert for bicyclists who suddenly swerve or turn in front of you.
- Yield to bicyclists as you would for other motor vehicles.
- Respect the right-of-way of bicyclists because they are entitled to share the road with you.

WHEN DRIVING, YOU SHOULD...

- Reduce speed when encountering bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Recognize hazards that bicyclists may face and give them space.
- Avoid talking on your cell phone, texting, or other distractions that may prevent you from seeing cyclists or pedestrians.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Striking a pedestrian in a crosswalk is extremely difficult to defend and can lead to severe liability consequences.
- Most pedestrian collisions happen at places other than intersections and are the result of the action of the pedestrian, such as jaywalking, darting into traffic mid-block, or crossing highways. As a motorist, you should always be aware of your surroundings.
- Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers of motor vehicles.
- To learn more about sharing the road with bicycles and pedestrians, please visit www.ncdot.gov/bikeped.

SHARING THE ROAD WITH PEDESTRIANS

- Motorists must stop for pedestrians in all crosswalks. There are crosswalks at every street intersection—whether they are marked on the pavement or not.
- When making a left turn, a driver is often focused on on-coming traffic. Be careful to look for pedestrians before you make a left turn, especially when crossing multiple lanes.
- When turning right at a red light, be sure to look for pedestrians who are crossing with the “Walk” signal.
- Use caution when passing another vehicle that is stopped at an intersection. They may be stopped for a pedestrian you cannot see.
- When crossing or entering a street, be sure to look for pedestrians on both sides of the sidewalk to your right and left.
- Always drive at or below the speed limit.

