

# SHARING THE ROAD

## What Every Motorist Must Know



### It's the Law - Bicycles are Vehicles

*New Hampshire law says bicyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers of motor vehicles. (RSA 265:143) Motorists must yield to bicyclists when turning, merging into bicycle lanes, and opening doors. (RSA 265:96)*



NH 125, Epping

## Make Room for Bicyclists

Every driver of a vehicle, when approaching a bicyclist, shall insure the safety and protection of the bicyclist and shall exercise due care by leaving a reasonable and prudent distance between the vehicle and the bicycle. The distance shall be presumed to be reasonable and prudent if it is at least 3 feet when the vehicle is traveling at 30 mph or less, with one additional foot of clearance required for every 10 mph above 30 mph. (RSA 265:143-a)

Bicycles may require the full lane in order to make a left turn or prepare to make a left turn at an intersection or into a driveway. Expect bicycles to move away from the right side of the road when overtaking and passing another bicycle or any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction, when proceeding straight in a place where right turns are permitted, when necessary to avoid hazardous conditions, including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, broken pavement, glass, sand, puddles, ice or opening of doors of parked vehicles. (RSA 265:144-XI)

## You Can Prevent Crashes

- Expect bicyclists to use designated turn lanes and to move away from the right edge of the road to avoid hazards. (RSA 265:144-XI (d))
- Before turning right, slow and merge behind a bicyclist ahead of you.
- When turning left, yield to on-coming bicyclists or any other vehicle. (RSA 265:29) Don't underestimate the speed of a bicyclist.
- A stop sign means you must stop and wait until no traffic, whether bicycle or car, is close enough to be a danger. (RSA 265:30-I)
- A yield sign means you must wait for traffic, bicyclists included. (RSA 265:31) This may require you to stop.
- Signal well in advance of turns (at least 100 feet), so that bicyclists and other vehicles know your intentions. (RSA 265:45-II)
- Every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or any person propelling a human-powered vehicle. (RSA 265:37)



NHDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program - [www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/index.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/index.htm)

Bike Walk Alliance of NH - [www.bwanh.org](http://www.bwanh.org)



*Alerts road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way*