



**Royal Oak
Safe Cycling
Guide**

What Royal Oak Drivers Should Know About Bicycle Lanes



Bike Lanes and Shared Lanes

Do you know the difference?

Bike Lane

A bike lane is the portion of a roadway that has been designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists.

Motorists should never drive in a bike lane.



A variant of a conventional bicycle lane is a buffered bicycle lane. This type of bicycle lane is accompanied by a designated buffer space, separating the bicycle lane from the adjacent motor vehicle travel lane.

Bike lanes are often accompanied by this sign.



Shared Lane

Sharrows are found in locations where there is insufficient width to provide a designated bike lane.

The markings alert drivers to share the road with bicyclists.



Sharrows indicate a shared lane. Motorists and bicyclists may both ride in this joint lane.

Shared lanes are often accompanied by this sign.



How do Motorists Make Right Turns when a Bicycle Lane is Present?

When turning right, a motorist should always yield to bicyclists going straight. **Never move into the bike lane to make your turn.** Never pass a bicyclist and then “hook” them by making a turn immediately in front of them.

Once the bicyclist passes through the intersection, the motorist should then begin their right turn.

Only after the bicyclist clears the intersection or driveway should the motorist complete their turn.



Bike Lane Quiz

1. True or false? A lane marked with a sharrow alerts drivers to share the road with cyclists.
2. True or false? It is OK to move into a bike lane to make a right turn.
3. True or false? The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code permits bicycling on all roadways.

Crash Facts

Bicyclists are involved in less than 1 percent of all traffic crashes. Proportionally, they represent a greater number of fatalities than any other group of roadway users. This is why it is especially important for drivers to pass bicyclists at a safe distance and to always yield to them before making

1. True. Shared lanes are used by cyclists and motorists. They are marked by “sharrows” (bike symbols with chevrons) and signs.
2. False. Motorists should never drive in bike lanes.
3. True. Bikes are allowed on all roadways unless explicitly prohibited, such as limited access highways.

Bike Lane Quiz Answers:

What Every Bicyclist

Should Know About Riding in Royal Oak



The Royal Oak Police Department

Ride On Royal Oak!

Whether you're a savvy cyclist or relatively new to biking, here is information you can use for getting around on two wheels in Royal Oak.

- Pedestrians always have the right of way, period.
- Bikers riding on sidewalks or in crosswalks should not travel at a speed faster than pedestrians.
- Always give an audible sound to let pedestrians know you are there.
- Ride on the right side on roadways and follow traffic laws.
- Red means stop, even for bicyclists.
- Use front and rear lights when travelling after dark.
- Keep clear of parked cars to prevent being doored.
- Make yourself visible at intersections. Make eye contact with drivers and stay out of blind spots.
- Although the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code does not require helmets, it strongly recommends wearing one to prevent brain injuries.



While the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code permits bicycling on all roadways and sidewalks, [riding a bike on the sidewalk in downtown Royal Oak is explicitly prohibited by City Code 650-3.](#)

If you are cycling in downtown Royal Oak you must walk your bike on the sidewalk or ride it in the street.

Let Drivers, pedestrians and other bicyclist know where you are headed



Michigan Bicycling Law Quiz

1. True or false? Under the law, a bicyclist has to signal their turns.
2. True or false? On roadways, a bicyclist has to ride with the direction of traffic.
3. True or false? It is legal for bikes to ride between lanes.
4. True or false? Bicyclists must ride single file.
5. True or false? Bicyclists are required to wear helmets.
6. True or false? Bicyclist have to stop at lights.
7. True or false? It is illegal to operate a cellphone in your hand while riding a bike.
8. True or false? Texting while cycling is prohibited.

Bike Parking in Downtown Royal Oak

Cyclists can find circle-frame bike racks on parking meters poles throughout the downtown area. Each frame can safely secure two bikes. The meter bicycle racks are located near the following establishments:

- Hamlin Corner
- Bean & Leaf
- Leo's Coney Island
- Mr B's
- Sweet Earth / La Feast
- Astoria Pastry
- Gamestop / BD's
- Funky7 / Jimmy Johns
- BlackFinn
- The Morrie



In addition, two on-street bike corrals, which can accommodate 10 bikes each, are located near Third and Main Streets and Fourth and Washington Avenue.

Answers:

1. True: The hand signals for a left turn, right turn and slowing down are found on the front of this flyer.
2. True
3. False
4. False: Although riding single file is often safest, bicyclists are allowed to ride two-abreast on roads.
5. False: Although the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code does not require helmets, it is strongly recommends wearing one to prevent brain injuries.
6. True
7. True: Cellphones operated in hands-free mode are permitted.
8. True

What Every Child

Should Know About

Biking in Royal Oak



Why Cycle?

It's is Fun, Healthy & Good for the Environment!



Get Outdoors & Cycle

To help lead the nation toward active living, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends bicycling for transportation and recreation.

Wear a Helmet When You Ride

- Choose a helmet that is bright in color and fits snugly
- Helmets shouldn't wobble or fall off when you shake your head
- Always buckle helmet straps
- If your helmet is damaged or is more than five years old, consider getting a new one

Your helmet should sit flat on your head — make sure it is level and is not tilted back or forward. The front of the helmet should sit low — about two finger widths above your eyebrows to protect your forehead. The straps on each side of your head should form a "Y" over your ears, with one part of the strap in front of your ear, and one behind — just below your earlobes. If the helmet leans forward, adjust the rear straps. If it tilts backward, tighten the front straps. Buckle the chinstrap securely at your throat so that the helmet feels snug on your head and does not move up and down or from side to side.

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention



“Bicycle riding is fun, healthy, and a great way to be independent.

But it is important to remember that a bicycle is not a toy; it's a vehicle!

Be cool – follow some basic safety tips when you ride. “

- US Department of Transportation

Safe Riding Tips

Before riding your bike, make sure it is ready to ride. You should always look it over to make sure all parts are working and remember to:

Protect your brain by wearing a bike helmet that fits.

Adjust Your bike to fit. Stand over your bicycle. There should be 1 to 2 inches between you and the top bar if using a road bike and 3 to 4 inches if a mountain bicycle. The seat should be level front to back. The seat height should be adjusted to allow a slight bend at the knee when the leg is fully extended. The handlebar height should be at the same level with the seat.

Check your brakes and tires before riding.

Wear bright colors when riding day or night. Also wear something that reflects light, such as reflective tape or markings, or flashing lights. Remember, just because you can see a driver doesn't mean the driver can see you.

Always ride with both hands on the handlebars. Carry books and other items in a bicycle carrier or backpack.

Watch out! Broken glass, gravel, puddles, leaves, and dogs can all cause a crash. If you are riding with friends and you are in the lead, yell out and point to the danger to riders behind you.

Try not to ride at night. It is far more dangerous to ride at night than during the day because you are harder for others to see. If you have to ride at night, wear something that makes you more easily seen by others. Make sure you have reflectors on the front and rear of your bicycle in addition to reflectors on your tires, so others can see you.

Many bicycle-related crashes are associated with the biker's behavior, including such things as not wearing a bicycle helmet, riding into a street without stopping, turning left or swerving into traffic that is coming from behind, running a stop sign, and riding the wrong way in traffic. **Be safe! Wear a helmet AND follow the rules of the road.**

Source: US Department of Transportation

Sidewalk versus Street Riding

The US Department of Transportation says children less than 10 years old are better off riding on the sidewalk.

Children riding on the sidewalk should remember to:

- Watch for vehicles coming out of or turning into driveways.
- Stop at corners of sidewalks and streets to look for cars and to make sure the drivers see you before crossing.
- Enter a street at a corner and not between parked cars. Alert anyone walking



Understanding

Motorist/Bicyclist Crashes in Royal Oak



The City of Royal Oak is committed to making its roadways safe for motorists and bicyclists

In 2015, there were 26 collisions in Royal Oak that involved bicyclists. Fortunately, none of the crashes in Royal Oak resulted in death and there was only one incident in which the bicyclist suffered a serious injury.

More than half of motorist/bicyclist crashes in Royal Oak occurred in a crosswalk. In most cases, both the bicyclist and the motorist's actions contributed to the incident.

Let's Review Crosswalk Law

Drivers and bikers are both legally required to follow Michigan law regarding traffic control areas. Drivers are obligated to stop for both bicyclists and pedestrians in crosswalks.

Bicyclists on the road must not pass vehicles stopped at crosswalks, as they may be allowing a pedestrian to cross the street. Individuals operating a bicycle in a crosswalk must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and should give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian. Bikers should never travel at a speed faster than pedestrians in crosswalks.

Although the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code (MVC) does not require bicyclists to wear helmets, it strongly recommends wearing one, because it can prevent a vast majority of brain injuries.

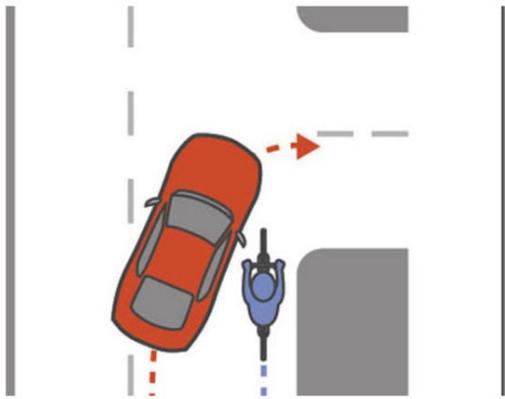


The 5 Most Common Bike/Car Collisions

Both motorists and bicyclists should take precautions on the road to avoid conflicts. *Bicycling.com* recommends drivers and bikers use caution in the following situations:

Left Cross: A motorist fails to see a cyclist and makes a left turn -- it accounts for almost half of all bike-car crashes, according to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC).

Right Hook: A motorist passes a cyclist on the left and turns right into the bike's path.



Avoid the Right Hook

Motorists should always be particularly cautious when making a right turn that passes over a bike lane.

Remember, drivers are never allowed to travel in a bike lane—even to make a right turn.

Bicyclists should also exercise caution and assume a car that passes you may

Source: *Biking.com*

Doored: A cyclist traveling next to parked cars lined up on the street strikes a car door opened by the driver.

Driveway Conflicts: A motorist exits a driveway or parking lot into the path of a bicyclist.

The Overtaking: A motorist hits a cyclist from behind. Bicyclists should try to be as visible as possible and ride predictably to avoid being hit by drivers.

Crash Facts

Bicyclists are involved in less than 1 percent of all traffic crashes. Proportionally, they represent a greater number of fatalities than any other group of roadway users. This is why it is especially important for drivers to pass bicyclists at a safe distance and to always yield to them before making turns.



Ride on



For more information, please visit romi.gov/rideon
or call 248-246-3201.