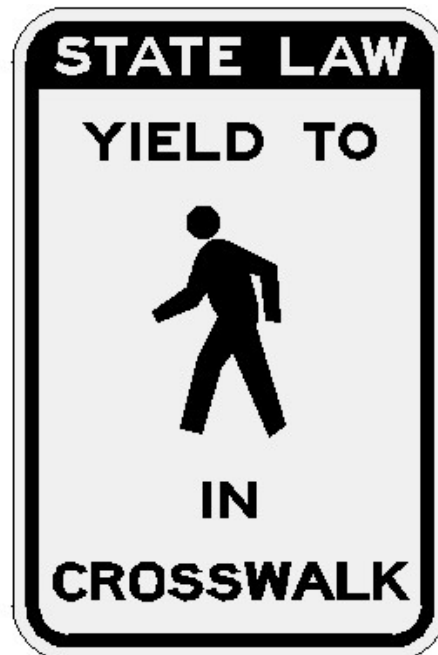


Motorists, Bicyclists and Pedestrians: Sharing the Road Safely

Training Supplement for Driver Improvement Programs



September, 2004

Prepared for
The New York State Department of Transportation

Jeff Olson, Trailblazer / RBA Group

Motorists, Bicyclists and Pedestrians: Sharing the Road Safely

Training Supplement for Driver Improvement Programs

Introduction:

Pedestrian and bicyclist safety is a major issue in New York State. Walking and bicycling are important forms of transportation and recreation in our communities. Unfortunately, pedestrians and bicyclists also represent a high percentage of our State's traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities. These crashes are a tragedy for both victims and drivers, and they are often preventable. This training supplement is provided to trainers in Driver Improvement Programs to encourage motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to safely share the road.

The supplement is divided into two parts: 1) this text document and 2) a set of powerpoint slides and .pdf files. The text provides basic background information for the presenter, identifies the key issues and presents questions and answers for participants. The powerpoint slides can be printed out for display purposes, used with an LCD projector or computer display, and used as handouts. All graphics are public domain and can be reproduced without permission as long as proper credit is noted. All information contained in these files is referenced in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Content from the "*Sharing the Road*" section of the NYS DMV Driver's Manual are provided for reference as an appendix to this document

Background for Instructors:

Teaching the Driver Improvement Program requires experience, training and an understanding of a wide range of topics. After reviewing the current program, additional content has been identified to supplement the current sections on pedestrians and bicyclists. You are encouraged to integrate this information into your training sessions. This information can be presented either as an additional section, integrated into the current format, or a mixture of both. The core message of this content is that in New York State, pedestrians and bicyclists have the legal right to share the road, and that drivers must exercise due care in avoiding crashes with people walking and bicycling on the road. This includes maintaining speed, obeying all traffic controls, and showing respect for others.

Share the Road: Motorists, Bicyclists and Pedestrians



Cultural differences: Sharing the road involves mutual respect by motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Photo Above:

A bicyclist and a motorist on Long Island, NY (photo: J.Olson)

Photo Below: "Rispetta le Biciclette" sign in Italy

(Photo: www.breakingaway.com)

The Definition of Traffic

The Definition of Traffic

New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law

Section 152. Traffic

Pedestrians...vehicles, bicycles and other conveyances either singly or together while using any highway for the purposes of travel.

The definition of "Traffic" in New York State's Vehicle and Traffic Law begins with the word "Pedestrians." When we talk about traffic safety, traffic engineering, traffic crashes and other traffic conditions, we need to acknowledge this definition. Once we understand that we are all pedestrians, motorists and bicyclists – just at different times or different points in our lives, is easier to recognize the need to Share the Road.

Yield to Pedestrians

Effective 1/19/03.

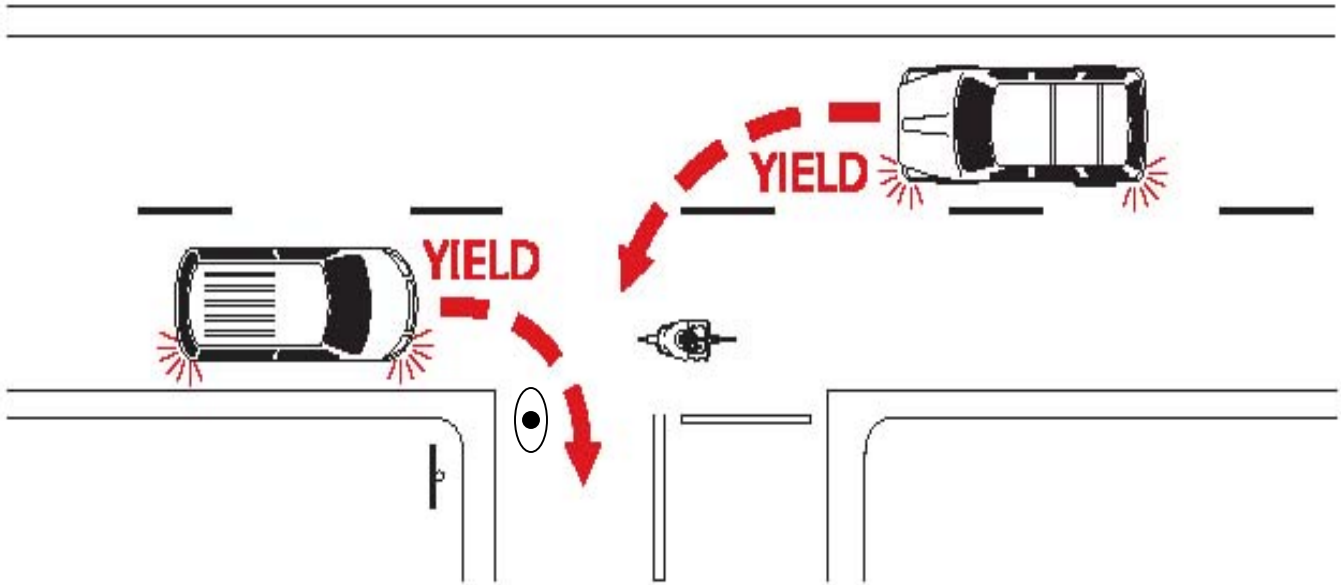


The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians. This law was revised in January, 2003. New signs with this message are in use statewide.

“Sec. 1151. Pedestrians' right of way in crosswalks. (a) *When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk on the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, except that any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overpass has been provided shall yield the right of way to all vehicles.*

(b) **Sec. 1151-a. Pedestrians' right of way on sidewalks.** *The driver of a vehicle emerging from or entering an alleyway, building, private road or driveway shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian approaching on any sidewalk extending across such alleyway, building entrance, road or driveway.”*

Look Before You Turn!



Yielding behavior is critical for safety at intersections. Motorists must yield to other traffic before turning movements.

Note that when making a right turn on red, motorists must come to a complete stop, yield to pedestrians and bicyclists, and then may only proceed when there is no other crossing traffic.

Also note that turning motorists must yield to bicyclists who are proceeding straight through an intersection.

Pedestrians Walk Facing Traffic



“Sec. 1156. Pedestrians on roadways. (a) Where sidewalks are provided and they may be used with safety it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.(b) Where sidewalks are not provided any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall when practicable walk only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic which may approach from the opposite direction. Upon the approach of any vehicle from the opposite direction, such pedestrian shall move as far to the left as is practicable.”

Photo: J.Olson

Bicyclists have Legal Rights

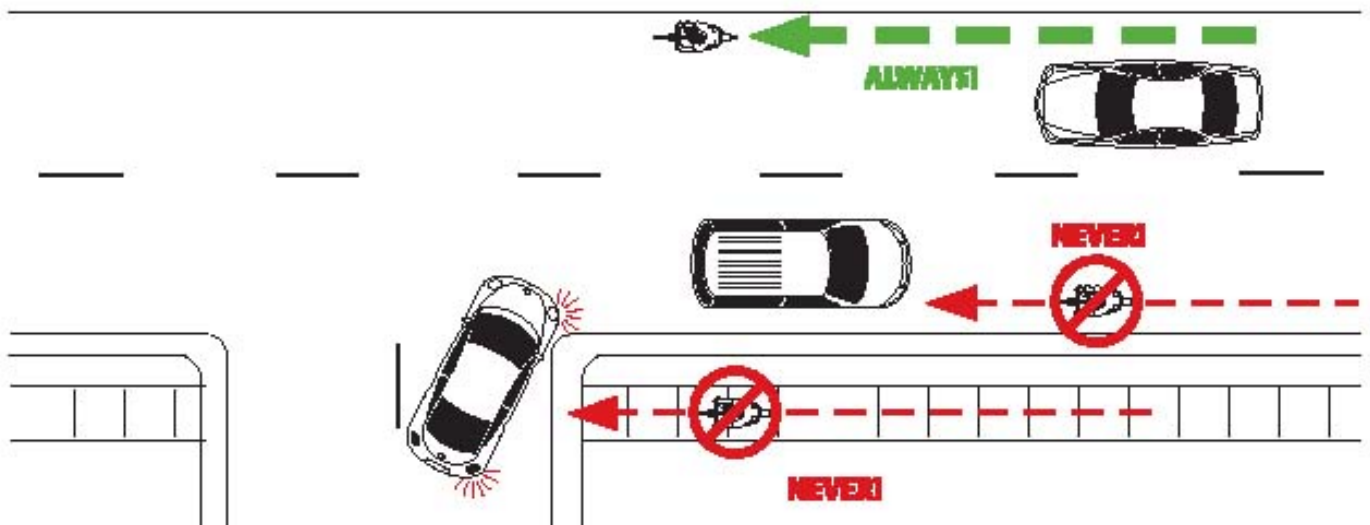


“Section 1231. Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles or skating or gliding on in-line skates. Every person riding a bicycle or skating or gliding on in-line skates upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this title, except as to special regulations in this article and except as to those provisions of this title which by their nature can have no application.”

This section of law clearly defines the legal rights of bicyclists and in-line skaters to use the road. Bicyclists have the legal right to ride on all roads in New York State, unless posted otherwise. They also are required to obey traffic signals, signs, and the rules of the road.

The ‘Share the Road’ signs shown above are legal for uses defined in the NYS Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Bicyclists Ride on the Right



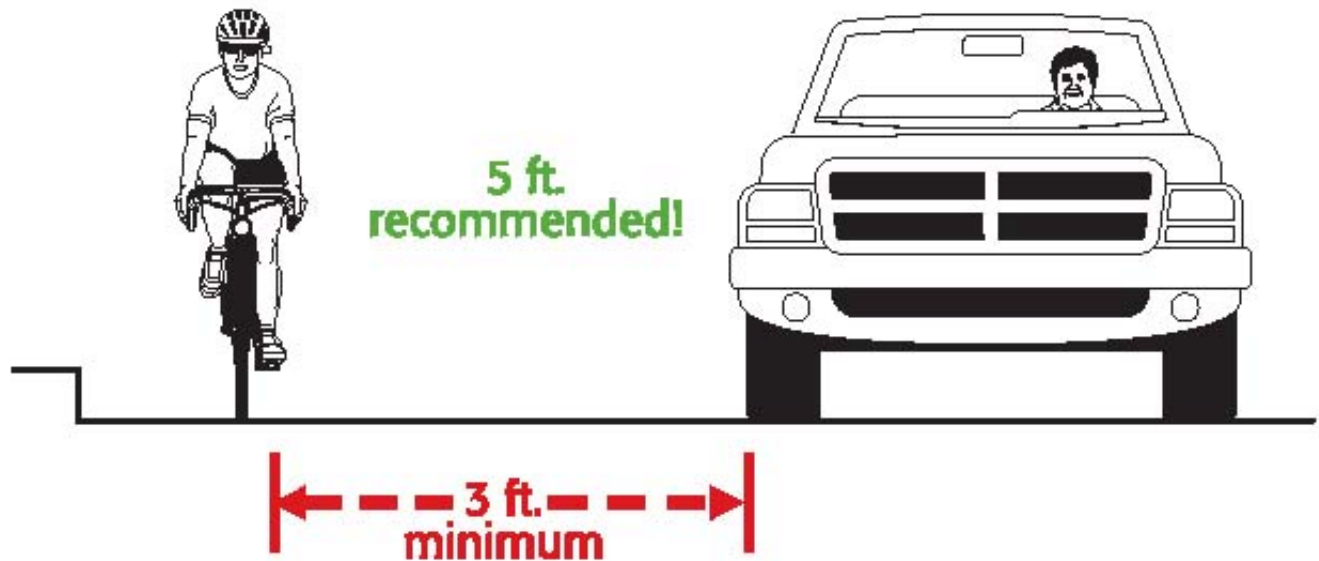
Bicyclists legally are required to ride on the right with the flow of traffic (NYS V&T Law, Sec.1234a)

Adult bicyclists should not ride against traffic on the road. Approaching drivers should expect bicyclists to be riding in the same direction as motor vehicles.

However, many adults have not received proper education about the rules of the road. Motorists should be aware of bicyclists who may behave in unpredictable ways.

Only children and seniors should ride on the sidewalk.

Safe Passing



Give at least 3 feet of clearance when you pass a bicyclist. Slow down and don't pass until it is safe to do so.

When possible, please give 5 feet of clearance when you pass.

Don't blow your horn unless it's necessary as a warning.

Allow bicyclists room to move around obstacles and hazards along the edge of the roadway.

Do not drive on the shoulder – this is not only illegal, but it is probably also the place where people are walking or bicycling.

New Safety Sign Color



W5-1



W5-3



W6-1



Strong Yellow-Green Fluorescent is replacing yellow as the color for pedestrian, bicyclist and school safety signs. This color has high visibility in all lighting conditions, and can also be made in reflective material. This color is intended to make motorists more aware of other road users along the road and at crossing locations.

Motorists Responsibility

Section 1146. Drivers to exercise due care.

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicyclist, pedestrian or domestic animal upon any roadway...

This section of law should be self explanatory.

Driving is a privilege, not a right.

Your worst fear as a motorist should be that you could hit a person with your car.

Drive in control, drive the speed limit, share the road.

Ten Tips for Sharing the Road Safely:

- 1. The definition of "Traffic" in New York State's Vehicle and Traffic Law begins with the words "Pedestrians" and "Bicyclists."**
- 2. The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.**
- 3. Motorists must yield to other traffic before turning movements, especially when making a right turn on red.**
- 4. Where sidewalks are not provided pedestrians should walk on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic.**
- 5. Bicyclists and In-Line skaters have the legal right to use all roads in New York State, unless specifically prohibited.**
- 6. Bicyclists legally are required to ride on the right side of the road and in the same direction as motorized traffic.**
- 7. When possible, please give 5 feet of clearance when you pass a bicyclist.**
- 8. Strong Yellow-Green Fluorescent is replacing yellow as the color for pedestrian, bicyclist and school safety signs.**
- 9. The law says that *"every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicyclist, pedestrian or domestic animal upon any roadway."***
- 10. Remember that we are all motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians at different times of the day and at different times in our lives. We all share the same road.**

Conclusion:

Using the information contained in this supplement, participants in the Driver Improvement Program should be able to answer the following questions:

- 1. Do bicyclists legally have the right to ride on all roads in New York State unless posted otherwise?** YES, THEY CAN RIDE ON ALL ROADS, NOT JUST DESIGNATED BIKE ROUTES OR PATHS. INTERSTATES AND MOST LIMITED ACCESS ROADS GENERALLY PROHIBIT BICYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS.
- 2. Which direction should a pedestrian walk on a road without sidewalks?** FACING TRAFFIC
- 3. Are motorists required to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks?** YES
- 4. How much room should you allow when passing a bicyclist?** 5'
- 5. What color are new pedestrian and bicyclist warning signs?** STRONG YELLOW GREEN FLUORESCENT
- 6. When motorists are making a right turn on red, are they required to stop for pedestrians before turning?** YES
- 7. A motorist and a bicyclist arrive at a four way stop sign from opposite directions. The motorist is turning left, the cyclist is going straight. Who has the right of way?** THE BICYCLIST

For Additional Information:

If you would like additional information, please contact:

NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee www.nysgtsc.state.ny.us

New York Bicycling Coalition www.nybc.net

Thank You:

This document was produced as part of the Long Island Non-Motorized Transportation Plan with funding from the New York State Department of Transportation. Review and comments were provided by Dave Glass of NYSDOT, Dennis Sellin and Jackson Wandres of RBA Group, Mark Kulewicz of AAA New York, Lois Chaplin of Cornell / NYBC, and Louis Rossi. Graphics on pages 6, 9 and 10 were provided with permission from "*Share the Road – A Guide for Bicyclists and Motorists*," by the Tucson and Pima County Bicycle & Pedestrian Programs, in cooperation with the Pima Association of Governments. Other signage graphics are from the New York State Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), 2001, or as noted in the text.

Appendix 1: NYSDMV Driver's Manual – Sharing the Road, Chapter 11

Source: <http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/dmanual/chapter11-manual.htm>

Note: The following sections from the NYSDMV Driver's Manual are provided both as a reference and for comparison with the proposed content presented in the prior sections. The two documents can be seen as complimentary, with the proposed supplemental content providing important new details and emphasis to encourage community safety. Providing both sections allows trainers and educators the option to utilize these resources as appropriate for their audience.

NYS DMV Internet Office - New Driver Study Guide
Driver's Manual

Chapter 11 **Sharing the Road**

Chapters: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) **[11](#)** [12](#) [Signs](#)
[<<](#) [Contents](#) [>>](#)

Topics:

- [Pedestrians](#)
- [Bicyclists, In-Line Skaters, and Non-motorized Scooters](#)
- [Motorcyclists](#)
- [Moped Operators](#)
- [Large Vehicles](#)
- [Slow Moving Vehicles](#)
- [Horseback Riders](#)

- [Practice Quiz](#)



Note: Practice quizzes are available only for those sections of the manual covering rules of the road (Chapters 4 through 11 and Road Signs).

You must learn to safely share the road with large vehicles, motorcycles, mopeds, pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters, roller skaters, slow moving vehicles and horseback riders. These other highway users face special problems, and they pose special problems for car and truck drivers. You should know how to safely deal with these problems and understand the special rules that apply to other highway users.

PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians are the highway users most at risk in traffic. As a driver, you must use extra caution to avoid colliding with pedestrians. Regardless of the rules of the road or right-of-way, the law specifically requires you to exercise great care to avoid striking pedestrians.

Children are often the least predictable pedestrians and the most difficult to see. Take extra care to look out for children, especially near schools, bus stops, playgrounds, parks and frozen desert vehicles such as ice cream trucks.

When backing your vehicle, remember to look through your rear window for pedestrians. Do not rely only on rearview mirrors. Before backing into, or out of, a driveway when children are near, get out of the vehicle and check behind it.

Pedestrians are supposed to walk on the side of the road facing traffic, so they should be on your right. Be especially watchful for pedestrians when you make a right turn.

Remember also that pedestrians legally crossing at intersections always have the right-of-way. Do not pull in front of or behind them or to "hurry them along" - wait until they are out of the intersection. Elderly and disabled pedestrians may require extra time to complete their crossings.

There is a special right-of-way law for blind pedestrians crossing the road with a guide dog or a white or metallic cane. You must always give them the right-of-way, even if the traffic signals or other right-of-way rules are not in their favor.

Remember to keep your eyes moving as you drive. Glance to either side every few seconds. This defensive driving rule will help you spot pedestrians near or approaching the roadway.

The law gives pedestrians some responsibilities too. They must:

- Obey traffic and pedestrian signals and traffic officers.
- Use sidewalks when available, or walk facing traffic, as far to the left as possible.
- Never stand in the road to hitchhike or conduct business with passing motorists.

BICYCLISTS, IN-LINE SKATERS, AND NON-MOTORIZED SCOOTERS

Bicyclists, in-line skaters, and operators of non-motorized scooters have the right to share the road and travel in the same direction as motor vehicles. Like pedestrians, these roadway users are often difficult to notice in traffic, and have little protection from a traffic crash. When driving a motor vehicle, be sure to check your vehicle's "blind spots" before you parallel park, or open a driver's side door, or leave a curb. Don't rely only on your rearview mirrors - turn your head to look for bicyclists and in-line skaters that may be alongside or approaching.

When driving, approach bicyclists, in-line skaters, and non-motorized scooters with extreme caution. Give them room and slow down as you pass them. Air pressure from a quickly passing vehicle can throw them off balance.

Be aware that the bicyclist, in-line skater or non-motorized scooter near or in front of you may react to road hazards just as a motorcyclist would and suddenly change speed, direction, or lane position.

The rules of the road and right-of-way apply to, and protect, bicyclists, in-line skaters, and non-motorized scooters. You must yield the right-of-way to them just as you would to another vehicle. Bicyclists and in-line skaters must obey the rules of the road, just as vehicle drivers do.

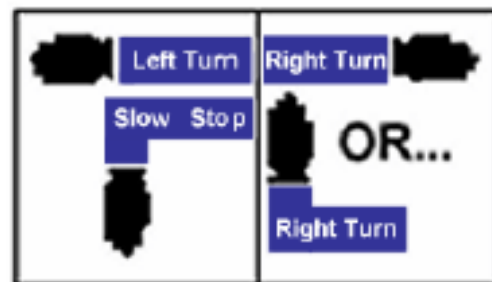
Bicyclists and in-line skaters must:

- Ride in a bicycle lane, if a usable one is available. Where there is none, the bicyclist must ride near the right curb or edge of the road, or on a usable right shoulder of the road, to avoid undue interference with other traffic. The rule of staying to the right does not apply when a bicyclist or in-line skater is preparing for a left turn or must move left to avoid hazards.
- Come to a full stop before entering a roadway from a driveway, alley or over a curb.
- Never travel with more than two abreast in a single lane.
- Never ride on a sidewalk if local laws prohibit it.

Bicyclists and non-motorized scooter operators, and their passengers, and in-line skaters must wear an approved helmet if age one through 13 years old and obey any local laws or regulations concerning helmet use for adults.

Bicyclists also must:

- Signal turns, lane changes and stops using the hand signals shown. A bicyclist may signal a right turn by extending the right arm straight out to the right, instead of using the standard signal for car drivers. Never carry an infant under a year old as a passenger. It is against the law. Child passengers one through four years old must ride in securely attached bicycle safety seats.



- Never carry a passenger unless the bicycle has a passenger seat.
- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times, and not carry anything which interferes with proper control of the bicycle.
- Any bicycle crash that results in death or serious injury must be reported to DMV within 10 days of the incident. Bicycle accident report forms (MV104C) are available at any motor vehicle office.

A bicycle driven on public highways must be equipped with adequate brakes and a horn or bell that can be heard at least 100 feet (30 m) away. A bicycle used at night must have a headlight visible from at least 500 feet (150 m) ahead and a red taillight visible from at least 300 feet (90 m) behind. One of these lights must also be visible from at least 200 feet (60 m) away on each side. A bicycle sold by a dealer must have wide-angle, spoke-mounted reflectors or reflective tires, a wide-angle rear reflector and pedal reflectors.

For more information on bicycle and in-line skating regulations and safety, see the publication *Sharing the Road Safely (C-77)*, available at any motor vehicle office and by request from a DMV Call Center.

Chapter 11 Sharing the Road

[Return to Chapter](#) | [Table of Contents](#)



Practice Quiz

Please note! - This quiz is intended to help you prepare for the types of questions you will be asked on the written test. The questions on the actual test may vary.

A blind person legally has the right-of-way when crossing the street when he is

- Wearing light-colored clothing.
- Led by a guide dog, or using a white or metallic cane.
- Helped by another person.
- Wearing dark-colored glasses.

A bicyclist differs from a motorist in that he isn't required to

- Obey the same traffic laws.
- Signal all turns.
- Report accidents resulting in serious injury.
- Insure the bicycle.

On a road which has no sidewalks a pedestrian should walk on the

- Side of the road which has the lightest traffic.
- Same side of the road in which traffic is moving.
- Side of the road facing oncoming traffic.
- Side of the road which has the heaviest traffic.

A motorist should know that a bicyclist operating on a roadway must

- Ride on the right side of the road.
- Ride on the side of the road facing traffic.
- Ride on either side of the road.

What does a “slow moving vehicle” emblem look like

- A square red sign.
- A round green sign.
- A diamond-shaped yellow sign.
- A triangular orange sign.

Motorists should be aware that all bicycles used after dark must have

- Reflective handlebar grips.
- Front headlight and red taillight.
- White reflectors on the front and rear fenders.
- Brake lights.

A motorist approaching a bicyclist should

- Speed up to pass him.
- Proceed as usual.
- Swerve into the opposite lane.
- Exercise extreme caution.

You want to back out of your driveway. You see children playing nearby. Before you start to move your car you should

- Race your motor to warn the children that you are moving.
- Sound your horn so the children will hear you.
- Walk to the back of the car to be sure the way is clear.
- Tell the children to stay away from the driveway.

Grade Me