

BICYCLE AND MOTORCYCLE/SCOOTER SAFETY

Tips for Riders AND Drivers

PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

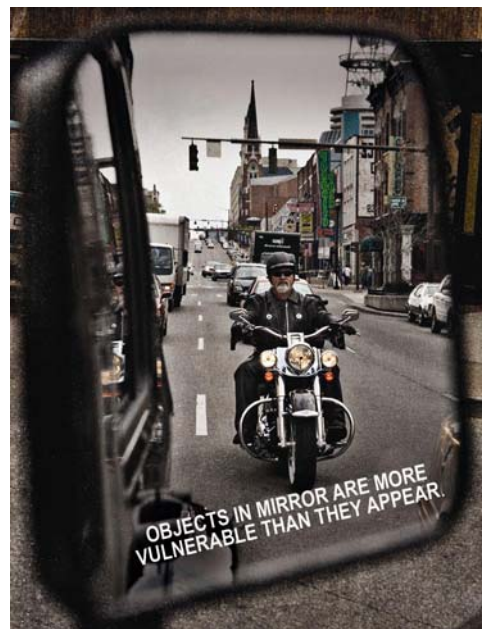
April 2009 Safety Topic



With warmer weather and higher gas prices, more bicycles, motorcycles and scooters will be out on the roads. Both vehicle drivers and cycle/scooter riders need to be constantly alert to one another to prevent accidents and injuries. Whether you are driving or riding to work or around your neighborhood, here are some helpful tips to ensure safe travel!

For Drivers:

1. Because of their small size, bikes, motorcycles and scooters can easily be hidden in a blind spots (door/roof pillars) or objects outside a car. They also they may look farther away than they really are. Take an extra moment to look for them when you're changing lanes, turning at intersections and backing.
2. Motorcyclists often slow by down-shifting or backing off the throttle, thus not tripping the brake light. Increase your following distance to 3 or 4 seconds when behind a motorcycle.
3. Cyclists often adjust position within a lane to be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of road debris, wind and passing vehicles.
4. Recognize situations and obstacles that may be hazardous to riders and cyclists, such as potholes, debris and drain grates. Give riders adequate space to maneuver.
5. Don't honk right next to a rider. This can startle the rider and cause an accident.
6. When passing, be sure to clear the cyclist before moving back into your lane.
7. Make sure to yield to oncoming bikes as you would an oncoming motorist.
8. Do not pass bicyclists if you will be making a right turn immediately afterward. Always assume cyclists are traveling through unless they signal otherwise.
9. Before opening your car door, look for bicyclists who may be approaching.



For Riders/Cyclists

1. Follow traffic rules as if you are driving an auto. Ride with traffic, not against it.
2. Be alert. Always think that a motorist might not see you and react accordingly.
3. Watch for potential hazards ahead. Scan the road at least 100 feet ahead for hazards.
4. Signal your intentions—use hand signals to indicate turns and stops. If on a motorcycle, please remember to turn off your turn signal after a turn.
5. Use your mirrors. This allows you to be aware of traffic approaching from behind.
6. Almost 40% of bicycle-motor vehicle crashes occurred during low-light conditions. Headlights and a red taillight are required when riding at night. Reflective clothing is recommended.
7. Ride as near to the right-hand side of the road as practical, while avoiding road hazards that could cause you to swerve into traffic.
8. Be predictable. Do not weave in and out of traffic or parked cars.
9. Just like any vehicle, maintain and regularly inspect your equipment and safety gear.

For more information, see: <http://www.forcardrivers.com/> or www.considerbiking.org