

Motorists

- Follow the rules of the road at all times.
- Bicycles are considered vehicles under the *Highway Traffic Act*, so treat them as you would any other vehicle on the road.
- Cyclists generally ride in the right-most through lane, about one metre from the curb or parked cars.
- People who ride bicycles are not obligated to use bike lanes or pathways, and are entitled to cycle on all roads in Ottawa except the Transitway, Highways 416, 417 and Regional Road 174 (to Orléans).
- Motorists are prohibited from driving or parking in all designated bicycle lanes.
- When passing a cyclist, the *Highway Traffic Act* requires that you leave a safe distance between your car and the bicycle. Extra passing distance should be given when slippery road conditions exist.
- Cyclists are entitled to ride in the centre of a lane when they feel it is too narrow for a motor vehicle to pass them, or if they feel their safety is compromised.
- Slow down or avoid puddles when passing cyclists.
- Cyclists can ride on either the paved road, paved shoulder or unpaved shoulder in rural areas.
- Drivers of larger vehicles should be cautious of blasting a cyclist with winds when passing, especially on dusty roads.

For more road safety information go to [Cycling Safety](#)