

BICYCLISTS

Bicyclists have all the rights and are subject to all the responsibilities of motorists [CVC 21200 (a)].

Bicyclists on public roads must follow the same laws as motorists, including riding on the right side of the roadway, yielding appropriately at intersections and driveways and observing all traffic control pavement markings, signs and signals.

Be Visible

- Use lights at night [CVC 21201 (d)] and at day
- Use defensive lane position [CVC 21202 (a)].

Be Predictable

- Look ahead for hazards and adjust lane position early
- Ride with the flow of traffic (CVC 21650.1).
- Make early use of lane position to avoid conflicts when turning

Control When Motorists Pass

- When riding in narrow lanes of multi lane roads control the lane to discourage unsafe passing.
- When riding on roads with narrow lanes and blind turns control the lane to discourage unsafe passing.

Be Polite

- Take your turn at stop signs (CVC 21802)
- Let vehicles pass when it is safe (CVC 21656)

Watch for Hazards

- Ride 5' from parked cars to avoid colliding with an opening door or pedestrians or objects emerging from between the cars *(even if you have to ride outside a bike lane that is next to parked cars)*.

-Use a central lane position to see and be seen at driveways and intersections, especially if the view of intersecting vehicles is obstructed.

Laws

- Don't use a headset [CVC 27400(a)].
- If you are under 18 years old wear a helmet (CVC 21212).

Electric Bicycles

Greater speed requires greater awareness of hazards

Class 1 - pedal assist 20 mph maximum

Class 2 - throttle 20 mph maximum

Class 3 – pedal assist 28 mph maximum. Rider must be 16 years min, wear a helmet and not carry passengers.

Shared Lane Marking (“Sharrow”)

This pavement marking is intended to assist bicyclists with lateral positioning on streets in lanes too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to share side by side.

NOTE: These markings are sometimes placed incorrectly and should not be followed if they are near the right edge or in the door zone.



Bikes May Use Full Lane Sign

This sign may be used on roadways where travel lanes are too narrow for bicyclists and motor vehicles to share safely side by side.



MOTORISTS

Pass bicyclists with 3' clearance from any part of the vehicle to any part of the bicycle or bicyclist. If there is no free lane or oncoming traffic slow down and only pass the cyclist when it's safe to change lanes or to cross the centerline in order to give the cyclist 3' of clearance [CVC 21760 (c)].

Sometimes 3' isn't enough. Pass bicyclists at a safe distance considering the size and speed of the motor vehicle, the speed of the bicyclist, traffic conditions, weather, visibility, and the surface and width of the highway. Large vehicles and fast-moving vehicles are more deadly when they collide with a bicyclist [CVC 21760 (b)].

Change lanes to pass a bicyclist on a multi-lane road with narrow lanes. If there is no free lane slow down and only pass the cyclist when it's safe to change lanes [CVC 21760 (c)].

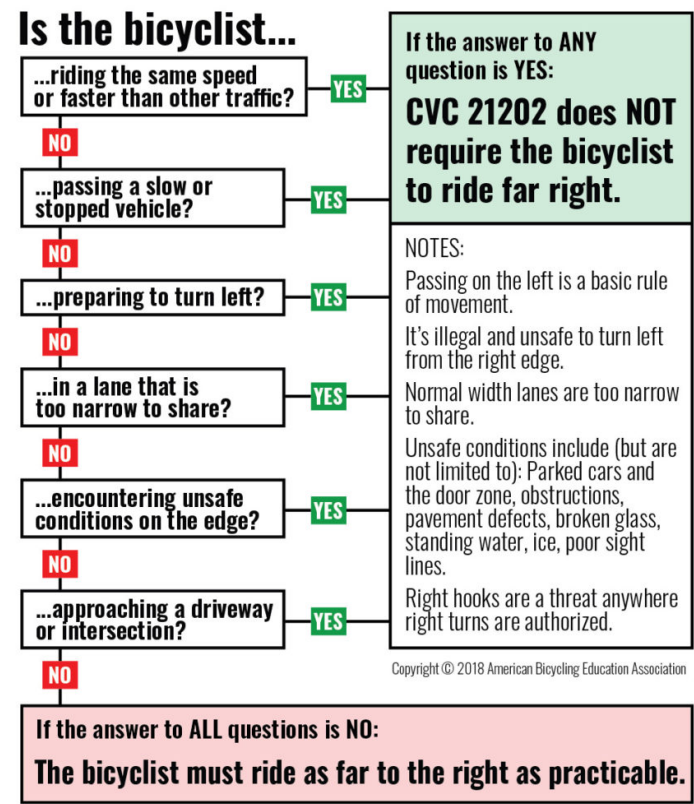
Do not pass a cyclist on a single lane road with narrow lanes until you can see far enough ahead to assure that there is no oncoming traffic (CVC 21751)

Do not make a right turn across the path of a cyclist when making a right turn. Where there is a bike lane merge into bike lane before the turn. (CVC 21717).

A person who drives a vehicle upon a highway in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving. Reckless driving can be unintentional or intentional (CVC 23103)

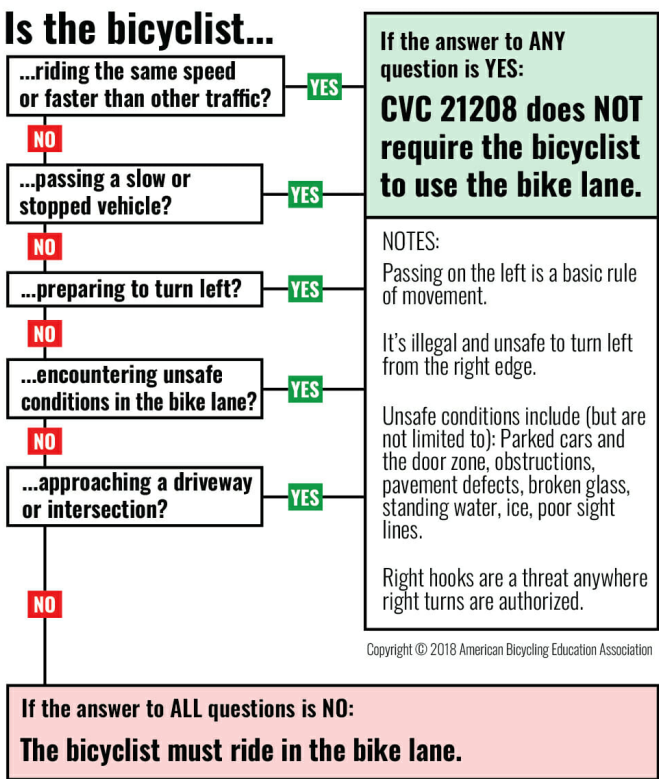
The willful targeting or threatening of a cyclist with a vehicle is assault (Penal Code Section 245)

Roadway Position [CVC 21202 (a)] Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic... shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except under any of the following situations... (see flowchart below)



Comment: “As far right as practicable” means “as far right as reasonable and safe,” not “as far right as possible.” While California law requires bicyclists traveling slower than other traffic to ride as far right as practicable, it also provides several exceptions, and at least one usually applies. This CVC 21202 flowchart outlines the exceptions, any of which authorizes bicyclists to use the full lane.

Bike Lanes [CVC 21208 (a)] Whenever a bicycle lane has been established on a roadway... any person operating a bicycle upon the roadway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic... shall ride within the bicycle lane, except that the person may move out of the lane under any of the following situations... (see flowchart below for exceptions)



Comment: While California law requires bicyclists traveling slower than other traffic to use provided bike lanes (called Class 2 Bikeways), it also provides several exceptions to this requirement. The CVC 21208 flowchart above outlines these exceptions, any of which permits bicyclists to use the general travel lane instead of the bike lane.

Graphics Courtesy of: cyclingsavvy.org

San Mateo County

Sheriff's Office



Bicycle Safety

