



Driving is a big responsibility. You're not just responsible for yourself and your passengers, but also for the safety of other people getting around on our roadways who are walking, biking, and rolling.

What should you know ?

Here are just **some** of the key laws to know that will help you navigate the roadway as a new driver!

Drivers:

- **MUST** give at least 4ft of space when passing bikers and anyone not in a vehicle (known as “vulnerable users” on the road). Drivers can cross a double yellow to provide enough space, but if it's unsafe the driver must wait until it is safe to pass
- **MUST** yield to oncoming bicyclists when making left turns, including yielding to bikers riding to the right of other traffic, where they may be more difficult for drivers to see
- **MUST** check for passing bikers before opening their door (this is also the law for passengers too!)
 - **MUST NOT** make abrupt right turns (“right hooks”) at intersections and driveways after passing a biker

Bikers:

- **ARE ALLOWED** on any public road, street, or bikeway in the Commonwealth, except limited access or express state highways where signs specifically prohibiting bikes have been posted
- **MUST** obey all traffic laws and regulations of the Commonwealth
- **MUST** use hand signals for stopping and turning, **UNLESS** taking a hand off the handlebars would endanger the bike rider
- **ARE ALLOWED** to use the full travel lane, and allowed to ride two bikers side by side
- **ARE ALLOWED** to pass drivers on the right

Things to remember !

Your vehicle protects you, but as a driver, you are responsible for the safety of everyone on the road who are not in cars. Patience and empathy are key when you're behind the wheel. Remember, everyone on the road is a person. By being patient and having empathy, you make our roads safer for everyone! Sometimes other people on the road don't obey the law—it is your job to be better than that!



Infrastructure

Some of the types of bike lanes you might see while driving.

Shared Lane (Sharrow):

There is no separate space for bikes, so drivers and bikers are sharing the lane. Drivers must be patient and stay behind if there is not 4-ft to pass.



Painted:

Bike lanes separated by paint are usually white or green. These are right next to travel lanes, and bicyclists are not required to stay in bike lanes.

Flexpost Separated:

Plastic posts create a visible barrier between vehicle traffic and a bike lane.



Contraflow:

A legal way for bikes to travel the opposite direction on a one-way street, so bicyclists and drivers are head-on.

Curb Protected:

The bike lane is completely separated from vehicle traffic. Be aware that the bike lane could merge into the street, especially at intersections.

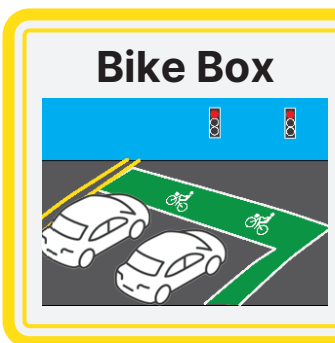


Parking Protected:

Creates a physical separation between car traffic and people on bikes. Parked cars may make it hard for drivers to see if someone is in the bike lane.

Cycletrack:

A separated and protected 2-way space for people biking. These may merge into traffic at intersections or if the bike lane ends.



Bike Box:

These allow people on bikes to get ahead of vehicles at an intersection, so that drivers can see them. Bike boxes can also help bikers turn left more safely.

REMEMBER: Infrastructure changes! Always be on the lookout for pavement markings to help indicate where people will likely be biking. When in doubt, drive slow and scan the street for wheels and feet!