

Student Activity: Sharing the Road with Other Road Users



All types of people and vehicles use the roadways to travel from one point to another. When everyone shares responsibility, the transportation system operates more safely and efficiently.

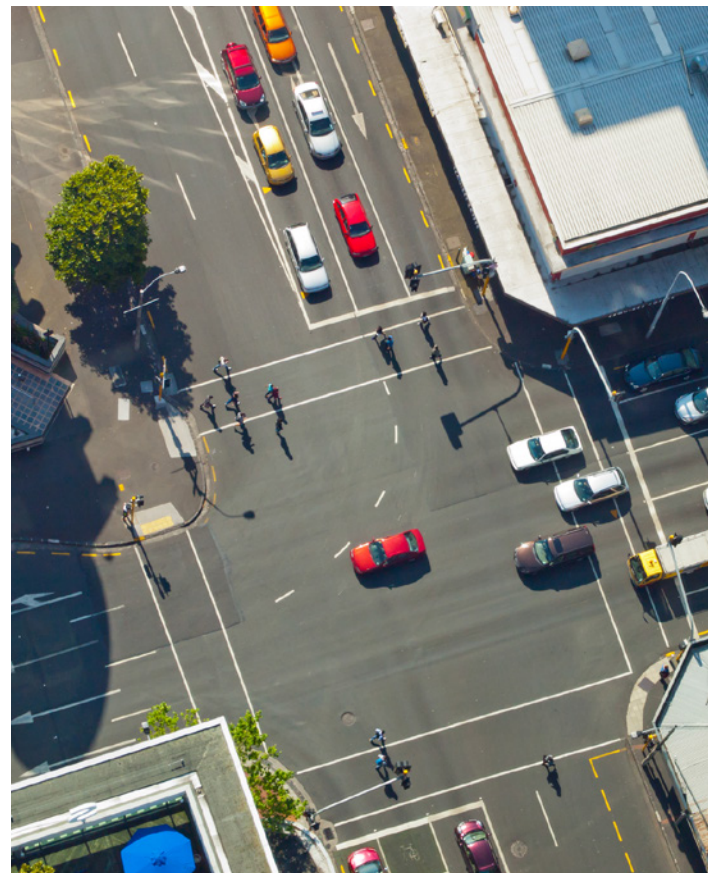
Road users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, micro-mobility users, and motorcyclists are at a greater risk of injury in a crash because of their small size and lack of protection. Staying focused and searching for them on the roadway at all times is essential.

Small vehicles, such as motorcycles, are light and can accelerate quickly. Large trucks, buses, and recreational vehicles (RV's) take a lot of power to accelerate to highway speeds. They also take a long distance to stop. Vehicles of different sizes and power handle differently. A driver needs to be aware of these differences.

Other roadway users include:

- **Pedestrians:** Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks (marked and unmarked) and stop well back from the crosswalk to allow other vehicles to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop too. When turning or backing, check for pedestrians.
 - **Bicyclists:** Yield to at all times. Do not share a lane with a bicyclist; follow the bicyclist and wait until it is safe to pass. When passing, slow down and allow as much space as possible.
 - **Motorcyclists:** Allow for a larger following distance of at least 5-6 seconds. Do not share a lane with a motorcyclist. Always search for motorcyclists and check blind spots. Before turning left, be alert for motorcyclists before proceeding.
 - **Micro-mobility users (scooters, skateboarders):** Remember that they travel at much slower speeds. Give them space and yield to them. Treat them like bicyclists and motorcyclists.
 - **Large vehicles:** Ensure you can see the driver in their mirror(s) when following or before passing. Stay out of blind spots. Do not cut off a large vehicle, long stopping distances may prevent the driver from stopping in time. Anticipate wide turns.
 - **Buses:** Watch for buses that have stopped. They may block your view. You do not have to stop for a transit bus when they drop off or pick up people, like a school bus, unless you are behind them. Always follow the law for stopping school buses. Search for people getting on and off the bus.
- **Construction vehicles and work zones:** Watch the traffic around you and react by reducing your speed, preparing to stop, obeying signs and flaggers, and increasing your following distance. Expect delays, plan for them, and leave early to reach your destination on time.
 - **Emergency vehicles:** When you hear a siren or see a vehicle approaching with flashing lights, pull over to the right side of the road and stop to allow the vehicle to pass. Slow down or change lanes when approaching a roadside incident or vehicle on the shoulder.
 - **Law enforcement:** Pull off the roadway as soon as safe to do so. Turn off the engine and any audio devices. Stay in your vehicle. Keep your hands on the steering wheel. Follow instructions given by law enforcement.

Drivers must always share the road with other users. Every roadway user has a right to the roadway. All roadway users should be mutually courteous and civil. Crashes can be avoided by identifying and sharing the road with other users.



PART 1

Driver Action or Behavior	True	False
If a pedestrian is in a crosswalk, you do not have to yield to them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When you have a green light, yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians in the intersection.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not attempt to share a lane with a cyclist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you are about to make a right turn and there is a bicyclist in the bike lane next to you, pass the bicyclist immediately before the turn.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You can share a lane with a motorcyclist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When following a motorcyclist, increase your following distance to at least 5-6 seconds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When driving behind a large vehicle, position yourself so you can see the vehicle's side mirrors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a large truck is approaching an intersection and the truck swings to the left, it is safe to pass the large truck on the right.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When approaching an emergency vehicle stopped on the shoulder of the road, move to the left lane or slow down and move over as far as possible from the emergency vehicle if a lane is not available.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If pulled over by law enforcement, turn off the engine once you have stopped.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART 2

For the safety of everyone on the roadway, drivers and passengers need to know how to interact with all types of roadway users. Break into groups of four. Read the following situations, discuss and write down how to interact with the roadway users in the situation and then role-play your responses with your group.

1. You are at an intersection, and you are turning left. There is an oncoming motorcyclist and a pedestrian crossing the street where you want to turn.
2. A vehicle has been pulled over by law enforcement. You are in the right lane on a multiple lane road.
3. A large truck is traveling in the right lane as it approaches an intersection. The large truck swings to the left.
4. You are turning right at an approaching intersection. In the bike lane next to you there is a bicycle. The bicycle is going straight.
5. There is a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk. It seems like the vehicle is stopped for no reason.

TIPS FOR SHARING THE ROAD WITH OTHER USERS

- Look for other road users
- Leave space when passing
- Keep a large following distance
- Thoroughly search for other road users when turning, changing lanes, and passing
- Check your blind spots
- Protect yourself, your passengers and all the people you encounter on or near the roadway
- Obey traffic laws, signs, signals, and roadway markings
- Use your turn signals
- Yield "right-of-way" as appropriate
- Be prepared to make adjustments to avoid collisions or crashes
- Use your vehicle's technology to assist you, but do not depend on it.



BE MINDFUL OF OTHER VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS WHEN DRIVING