

# Road and Lane Positioning

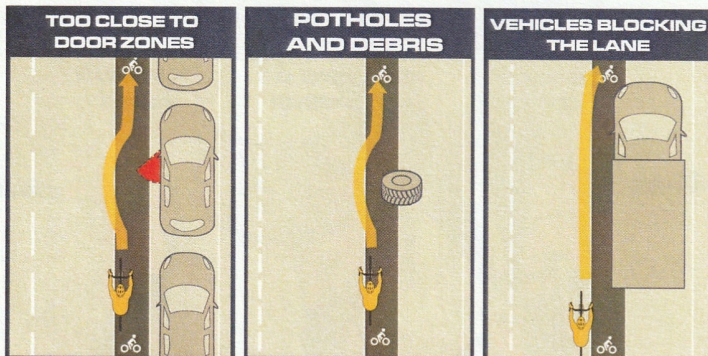
## The Basics

- Ride as far to the right as is safe and practical in the direction you are headed
- Ride fully in the lane when it is the safest place to be
  - When the lane is narrow and it is unsafe for you to share the lane with a car next to you
  - When there is no shoulder or bike lane
  - When the shoulder or bike lane is obstructed by objects, cars or debris
  - When there is only a narrow shoulder with a curb or guard rail
- Scan and signal for any change in position
- When you know a car is coming, hold your line and ride single file and predictably
- When you approach a traffic control device be fully in the lane so that all cars see you and your signals
  - Stop sign
  - Traffic light

## ROAD POSITION

A guiding principle of traffic law is that slower traffic must keep to the right except in certain conditions.

**Bicyclists must use the bike lane if it is available and safe to do so. Sometimes bike lanes are not safe. Below are a few reasons why.**



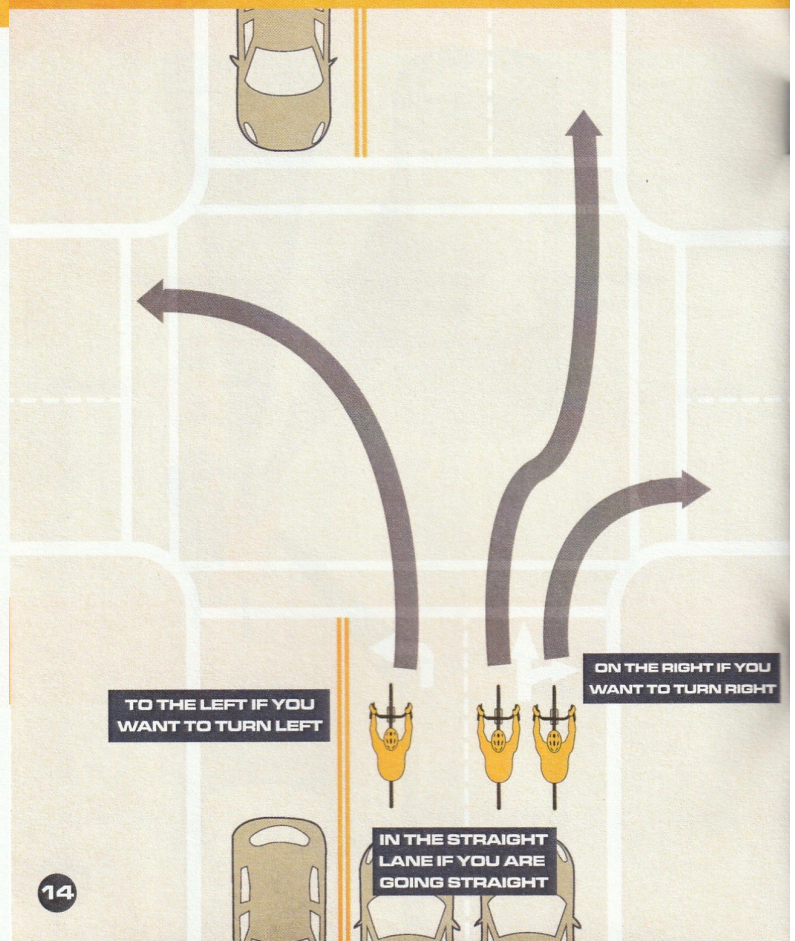
If no safe bike lane is available, bicycles should be operated on the shoulder or as far right as is practical. Conditions that make it unsafe to ride far to the right include:

- Lane too narrow to share safely
- Surface hazards such as debris or potholes

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## LANE POSITIONING

Position yourself in the lane with respect to your destination direction.



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**Your position on the road helps you to control the traffic around you.**

**Your position can make you MORE visible.**

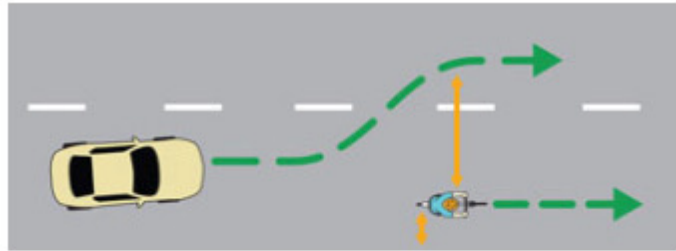
**Your position can force a driver to need to cautiously cross the center line to pass you, keeping you and the driver safer.**



## A little more on the subject . . .

### Lane Positioning to Avoid Hazards & "Squeezing"

Stay to the right, but don't hug the curb. By riding away from the curb in the right wheel track of vehicles, usually a minimum of 24 inches away from the road edge, you discourage drivers from "squeezing" you by passing too closely in the same travel lane.



### When to Share the Lane

Bikes can share the same lane with other drivers under certain conditions. If a lane is wide enough to share with another vehicle (at least 14 feet), ride at least two feet from the road edge to avoid debris and hazards.

Frequently, travel lanes are not wide enough to share (usually less than 14 feet). If you deem a vehicle can not safely pass you (with a minimum of 3 feet) in the lane, you can "take the lane" to signal to traffic that they must pass you in the other lane. This protects you from drivers passing too closely. Position yourself as if you were a car by riding in the right wheel track of motorized traffic or the center of the lane in a narrow lane. This places you within motorists' fields of vision sooner and allows them more time to prepare to pass. This positioning also allows you space to move away from traffic to avoid debris, hazards such as car doors opening when parallel parking is present, and "crowding" by other vehicles. Riding here also properly prepares you to make left turns or to pass other road users.

### Intersection Positioning

At intersections, follow the rules of the road as any other driver would. At intersections, there is a certain position drivers need to place themselves:

- One Lane: When approaching an intersection with one lane, position yourself in the lane with respect to your destination direction. (*Diagram A*)
- Multi-Lane: When coming up to an intersection with multiple lanes, place yourself in the rightmost lane that is traveling in the direction you're going. (*Diagram B*)
- Multiple Left Turn Lanes: When turning left on a road with multiple left turn lanes, select the rightmost lane that serves your destination. (*Diagram C*)
- One-Way Streets with Two or More Lanes: When you make a left turn from a one-way street onto another one-way street, it's easiest to turn from the left-most lane. (*Diagram D*)

