



City of Thornton

Transportation Plan

Sharing the Road

Rights and Responsibilities

Have you noticed an increase in the number of bicycles on the road? Colorado currently has 1.5 million active cyclists plus more than 699,000 bicycling tourists who boost our economy. To ensure safe roads, both motorists and cyclists need to understand and respect each other's rights and responsibilities.

Per Colorado law:

- ◆ Every person riding a bicycle shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle.
- ◆ Cyclists must obey traffic laws and can be penalized for violating these laws.
- ◆ Unless expressly prohibited, cyclists have the right to use all the roads in Colorado.



Tips for sharing the road

Motorists:

- ◆ Slow down when encountering cyclists.
- ◆ Scan for cyclists before making turns and make sure the road is clear before proceeding.
- ◆ Leave at least three feet between your car and a cyclist.
- ◆ Although cyclists should not unnecessarily impede traffic, recognize that cyclists have the right to move into the flow of traffic, in front of your vehicle, when conditions make it unsafe or impractical to stay to the far right of the road.

Cyclists:

- ◆ To be respected as a vehicle, act like a vehicle.
- ◆ Obey traffic laws, signs, and signals.
- ◆ Ride predictably and use hand signals.
- ◆ Ride on the right, except when passing another vehicle, preparing for a left turn or avoiding hazards.
- ◆ Ride on paved shoulders and bike lanes when present and free of hazards.
- ◆ Ride no more than two abreast, returning to single-file if riding two abreast would impede the flow of traffic.
- ◆ Use a headlight, taillight, and reflectors at night.
- ◆ Make eye contact with drivers.