



Delaware is a place with lots of activities and lots of folks out taking advantage of the many opportunities. Bus Operators can make a big difference in the safety of bicyclists by following a few simple guidelines:

- *Give Space*
- *Be Patient*
- *Don't Honk Your Horn*
- *Expect the Unexpected*
- *Look Twice When Turning*
- *Pre-Check Signals Every Day*

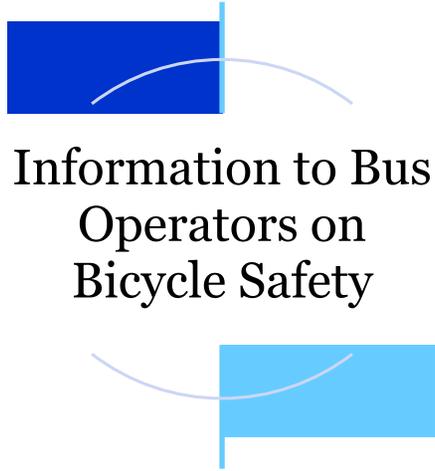
Your help in making Delaware a safe place for bicycling is appreciated. Have an enjoyable ride!



**Delaware Department of
Transportation
Statewide and Regional Planning**

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Information to Bus Operators on Bicycle Safety



*Delaware Department of
Transportation— Statewide and
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Bicycles and Buses Are Similar Transportation Choices



Bus travel and bicycle travel both accomplish the goal of providing alternative forms of transportation. Both are more environmentally friendly modes of travel and both provide travel options to Delaware residents who would rather choose a mode other than traveling by automobile. Both modes of travel are also expected to share the same facilities on state routes and in Delaware towns and the accommodation of both modes is the purpose of this document.

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Bus Drivers Should Keep in Mind That:

Bicyclists:

- Are very vulnerable. They are not surrounded by the body of a bus.
- Can be seriously injured in an accident.
- Can be difficult to see, especially if alongside a bus or not wearing bright clothing.
- May not realize they could be in a bus driver's blind spot.
- Often feel threatened when a bus travels too close to them, especially at speed.

Bicyclists are trained to ride away from the curb's edge to:

- Avoid drains and debris
- Be seen more easily
- Discourage bus drivers (or automobile drivers) from squeezing them to the curb
- Avoid road surfaces (potholes), rain, wind and poor visibility make it harder to steer in a straight line

Keys to Coexistence

There are five simple rules to keep in mind to coexist with bicyclists on the roadway. These rules will enable both you and the bicyclists to travel more safely and more effectively.



1. Give Space

Try to maintain at least 5 feet of separation between you and the bicyclist as you pass or ride alongside. Assume the next lane when passing - don't try to share the lane.

2. Be Patient

Bicyclists can not start as quickly as a bus can. Typically a bicyclist will clear an intersection before moving over to yield to automobile traffic.

3. Don't Honk Your Horn

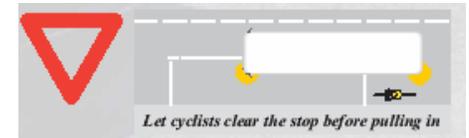
Often drivers will honk their horn to let bicyclists know that they are passing. This can be an unexpected earful to a bicyclists and may cause erratic or unsafe riding.

4. Expect the Unexpected

Bicyclists are harder to see on the roadway than automobiles. Often a bicyclist has to react quickly to a car pulling out of a driveway or moving in front of them. Expect the unexpected and take steps to be prepared.

5. Look Twice When Turning

Intersections are difficult for all modes of travel and this holds true for bicyclists. Look twice to the side, in front and behind you to be sure that a bicyclist isn't in an unsafe position before turning.



6. Pre-Check Bus Every Day

Bicyclists rely on reading bus signal lights to figure out when a bus is stopping or turning. Be sure to inspect brake lights and turn signals to insure they are working properly. Also, check mirrors to be sure that blind spots are minimized.

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