

## THERE'S ROOM FOR EVERYONE

### NEARLY 250,000 MOTORCYCLES AND MOPEDS ARE REGISTERED IN WISCONSIN

Check out your friends, relatives, and neighbors. More of them have taken to riding motorcycles than ever before. And there are thousands of vacationers who ride motorcycles through Wisconsin each year. So, it's more important than ever that other motorists remember and watch for motorcycles and mopeds—we all have to share the road.

### MOTORCYCLISTS HAVE TO BE SEEN BY OTHER MOTORISTS

Many crashes involving motorcycles occur because the driver of the other vehicle simply "did not see the motorcycle." In fact, investigating officers report that the most common cause of a vehicle/cycle crash is the vehicle driver turning left in front of a motorcycle because he or she didn't see it.

Drivers also tend to underestimate the speed of on-coming motorcycles. When a crash occurs, motorcycle and moped riders rarely escape injury. Too often they are killed.

### EQUAL SAFETY, EQUAL RIGHTS

Many motorcycle crashes could be avoided if other vehicle drivers watched more carefully for motorcycles and gave them equal rights on the road. This brochure is dedicated to that cause and offers rules and recommendations for sharing the road.



## SHARE THIS BROCHURE



The information in this brochure is intended for riders AND drivers. It can make a difference in keeping the roads safe for everyone. Share this brochure so that others will share the road.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For a listing of highway safety films or a free leaflet "Get Trained" which describes rider training programs available in Wisconsin, contact:



Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Transportation Safety  
Motorcycle Safety Program  
P. O. Box 7936, Madison, WI 53707-7936  
1-800-368-9677 or 1-800-DOT-WMSP

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/modes/motorcycles.htm>



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# Share The Road

Wisconsin Motorcycle Safety Program



RIDE RIGHT



## EQUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



All drivers, including those on motorcycles and mopeds have...

### EQUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- At intersections
- To parking spaces
- When turning
- In traffic
- For following distances



### SIZE DOESN'T DICTATE WHO HAS A RIGHT TO GO FIRST

#### Rules of the road

At four-way stops, the vehicle that arrives first normally proceeds first. At uncontrolled intersections, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right. All drivers must yield to pedestrians in marked or unmarked crosswalks.

#### Recommendations

When stopped at intersections, double-check traffic before proceeding into the intersection. Taking a second look specifically for motorcycles and mopeds will lessen the danger of pulling out in front of them.

### MOST MOTORCYCLE AND MOPED CRASHES OCCUR WHEN ANOTHER DRIVER TURNS IN FRONT OF THEM

#### Rules of the road

Motorcycles and mopeds have equal rights when turning.

#### Recommendations

Look for motorcycles and mopeds before turning. Then look again. Use your turn signals to warn cyclists before turning. Use extra caution when entering a major thoroughfare from a side street, driveway or parking lot.

*Although motorcycles have shorter stopping distances than cars, an inexperienced rider may panic and skid if you turn in front of him or her.*

When changing lanes, make a visual check for motorcycles in addition to looking in the rear-view mirror. The motorcycle's size allows it to easily tuck into your blind spots and become invisible.

### MOTORCYCLES AND MOPEDS ARE ENTITLED BY LAW TO A FULL TRAFFIC LANE

#### Rules of the road

Drivers who crowd or cut off motorcycles or mopeds when passing are not only breaking the law, they're also endangering human lives.

#### Recommendations

Remember the old rule of returning to your lane only when you can see the passed vehicle's headlights? It works just as well with motorcycles as it does with other vehicles. Check in your rear-view mirror and turn your head to look over your right shoulder before returning to the right-hand lane.

### DON'T "TAILGATE" A MOTORCYCLE OR MOPED

#### Rules of the road

The law prescribes that drivers keep a "reasonable and prudent" distance between vehicles, taking into account the speed limit, the volume of traffic and the weather.

#### Recommendations

The "four second" following rule is a recommended way to judge the correct distance when following a motorcycle. Note when the motorcycle passes a stationary object or mark on the highway. If your vehicle passes the same mark before you have counted "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three, one-thousand-four," you are following too closely for safety.

*Don't use high beams when following any vehicle, including motorcycles and mopeds.*

### MOTORCYCLES AND MOPEDS ARE LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLES, AND ARE ENTITLED TO A FULL PARKING SPACE

#### Rules of the road

Up to three motorcycles can be parked in a single space. If the meter expires when they're parked there, all may receive citations. Mopeds may be parked on sidewalks where permitted, if they do not interfere with pedestrian traffic.

### CYCLE RIDERS FACE HAZARDS THAT WOULDN'T AFFECT FOUR-WHEELED VEHICLES

Railroad crossings, potholes and other places where the road's smoothness is affected have to be ridden over with care. Drivers

behind motorcycles should be prepared to let them slow down and change lane positions sufficiently for maximum safety. Also, crashes with four-wheeled vehicles are a major threat to the motorcycle rider's life. In the event of a vehicle/cycle crash, the cyclist is more likely to be killed or injured than the other driver.

### ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE RIDE MOTORCYCLES

Many cyclists wonder why some people drive their vehicles as if cyclists were annoyances. Really, cyclists and motorists aren't that different. Businessmen and women, teachers, doctors, lawyers, students, homemakers, construction workers, office workers and farmers are only a few of the people who ride motorcycles.

There are many good reasons to ride a motorcycle. For many riders, the main reason is pure pleasure. But motorcycles also get great gas mileage and take up less space in urban areas, relieving congestion just a bit.

## TRAINING PROGRAMS

### YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE

Rider training programs—provided mainly by the Wisconsin Technical College system—are available throughout Wisconsin. Free films are also available for programs through church groups, civic or service clubs, or other groups.

Whatever kind of vehicle you drive, always remember the Golden Rule of driving:

**COURTESY RULES THE ROAD.**