

## Sharing the Road for Motorists, Pedestrians and Cyclists

When we look at roadway safety much of the concern is for vehicle safety. However, in many cases a vehicle must share the road with pedestrians and cyclists due to the absence of the necessary infrastructure for them. Many local roads do not have adequate width for separate travel areas for all users, which is a safety concern. The FHWA has identified both pedestrians and cyclists as vulnerable road users, and Connecticut has a “Share the Road” program aimed at improving the knowledge of all users, to minimize crashes and their severity. Guidance is given for how each user can help in sharing the road.

Whether you are driving your car, truck, SUV, riding your bike, or merely walking, your safety depends on sharing the road safely with other vehicles and users.

### ***“Three Feet” Passing Rule – IT’S THE LAW!***

Connecticut General Statute Section 14-232, effective October 1, 2008, requires Connecticut motorists to allow at least three feet of separation when overtaking and passing cyclists. Failure to do so could cause motorists to receive a fine under the motor vehicle code “failure to grant the right of way to a bicycle” (14-242). Because of the large disparities in size, weight and speed between bicycles and motor vehicles, cyclists are at a tremendous disadvantage in the result of a collision with a car or truck. This law strives to increase motorist awareness of bicycles, and to make conditions safer by preventing collisions.



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## ***Yield to Pedestrians - IT'S THE LAW!***

Connecticut General Statute Section 14- 300 requires Connecticut motorists to grant the right-of-way to pedestrians at marked or unmarked crosswalk locations. At intersections, a crosswalk is the continuation of the pedestrian path, whether marked or unmarked.

Mid-block crosswalks are required to be marked. In 2021, legislation was passed requiring vehicles to stop for any pedestrian who signals their intent to cross at a crosswalk location. At any other location pedestrians must yield the right-of-way to vehicles.

### ***TIPS FOR MOTORISTS***

#### **Be Safe:**

- Speed Kills! Obey speed limits and reduce speed when encountering vulnerable road users.
- Stop at STOP signs and red signals.
- Don't drive distracted or under the influence.

#### **Be Aware:**

- Look for vulnerable road users.
- Expect the unexpected.

Watch for Cyclists and Pedestrians at ALL Times - Share the Road!

### ***TIPS FOR PEDESTRIANS***

#### **Be Safe:**

- Use sidewalks where available
- If walking along the shoulder or roadway, walk facing oncoming traffic.
- Obey all traffic control devices.

#### **Be Aware:**

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Don't walk distracted.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Don't assume drivers can see you.

#### **Be Visible:**

- Use a flashlight, wear reflective gear, walk and cross in a well lit areas.

### ***TIPS FOR CYCLISTS***

#### **Be Safe:**

- Follow the same rules of the road as vehicles.
- Obey all traffic control devices.
- Wear a properly fitted helmet.

#### **Be Aware:**

- Pay attention to your surroundings and look for road hazards.
- Watch out for other vulnerable road users.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Don't assume that drivers can see you.
- Be Visible:
  - Wear reflective gear.
  - Use reflectors and lights on your bicycle.
  - Signal at all turns.

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We all share the responsibility to keep our roadways safe. To save lives, we have to watch out for each other.

Watch for Me CT has developed an educational brochure you can print or post on your website/social media outlets. You can access the “Share the Road” brochure at:

<https://www.cti.uconn.edu/Document.asp?DocID=14553>

***Online Resources:***

**Connecticut DOT Share the Road Program:** [Share the Road CT](#)

**Connecticut DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Resources:** [BikePed Dashboard \(ct.gov\)](#)

**Connecticut DOT Safe Routes to School:** [SRTS - Home \(ct.gov\)](#)

**Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board:** <http://www.ctbikepedboard.org/>

**Watch For Me CT:** <https://watchformect.org/>

**Bike Walk CT:** [bike-walk-ct \(bikewalkct.org\)](http://bike-walk-ct.org)

**League of American Cyclists:** <https://bikeleague.org/>

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**For other Road Safety Briefs or more information about the  
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