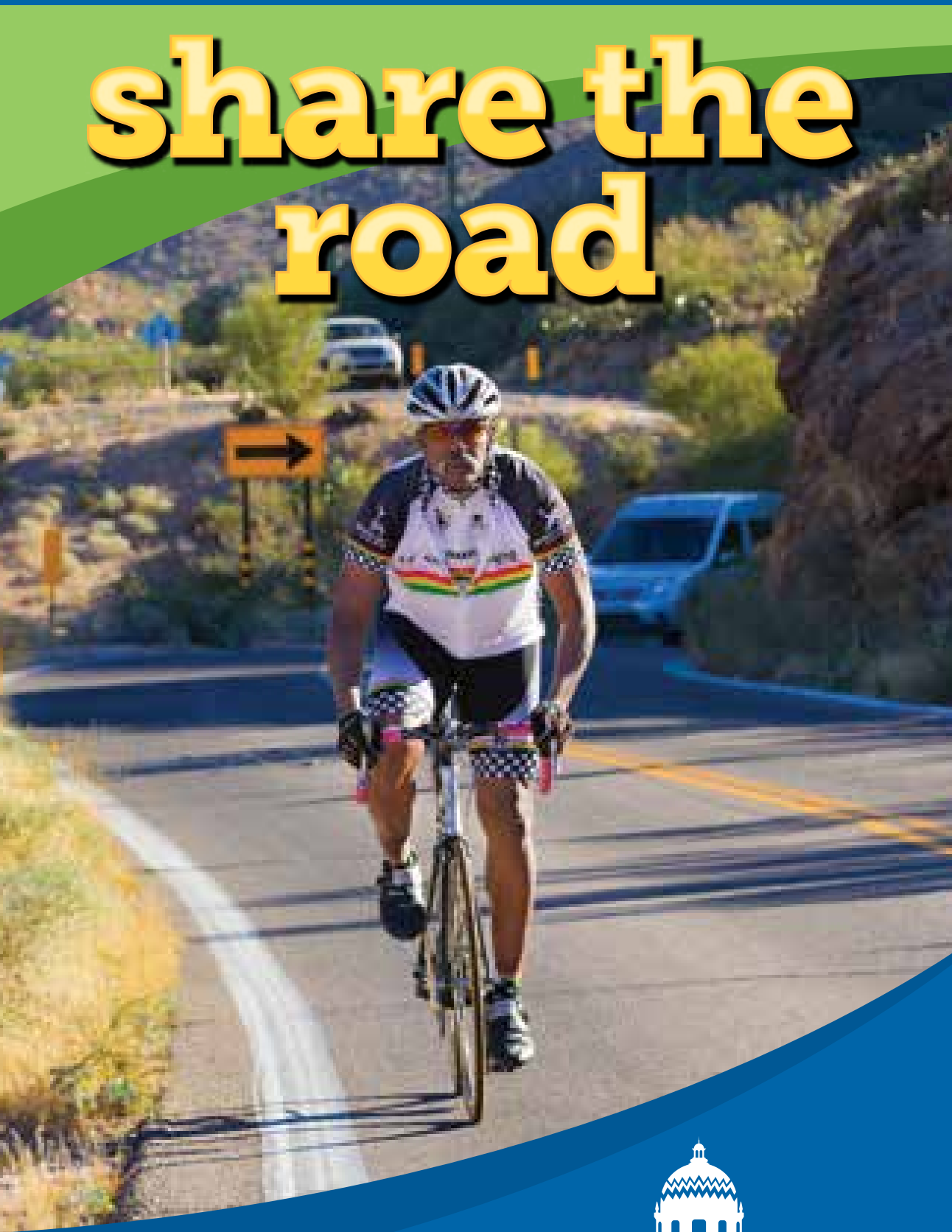
A guide for bicyclists and motorists

share the road



PIMA COUNTY

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

Sharing the Road Legally and Safely

This pocket guide has been prepared to illustrate how bicyclists and motorists can "Share the Road" legally and safely within Pima County.

Please take a moment to read through these safety tips to better understand the other person's view of the road and to learn more about cycling and driving safely in our great region.

The more we understand each other's needs, the better we can respect and cooperate with each other on the streets.

This sixth edition of the bicyclist and motorist pocket guide has been brought to you by the Pima County Department of Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Program.

U.S.Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

PIMA COUNTY
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

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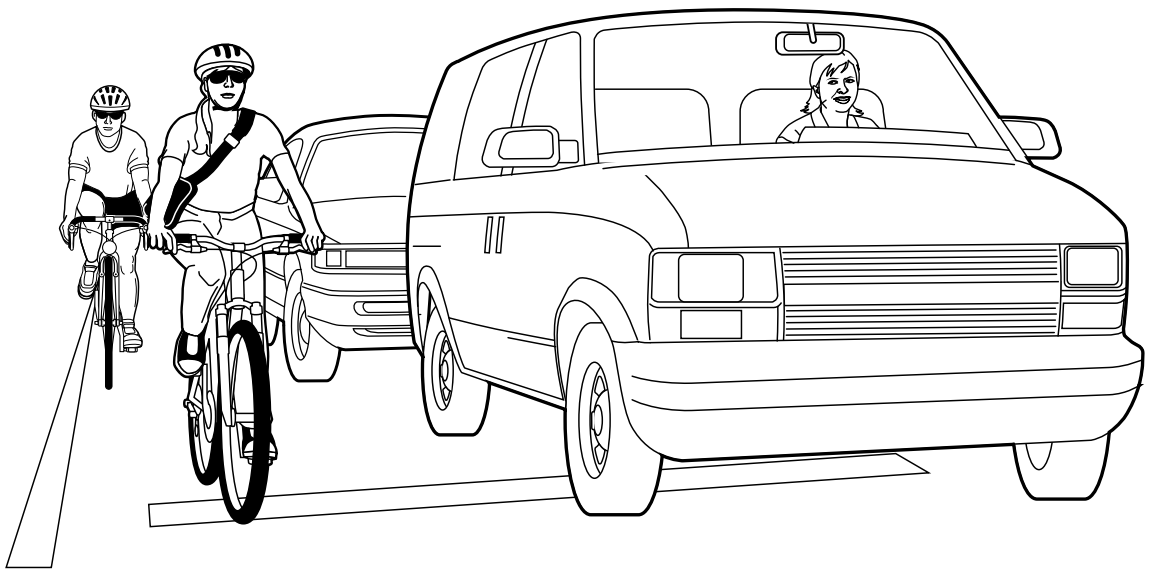
The Pima County Communications Office provided the design, illustration and photography for this guide.

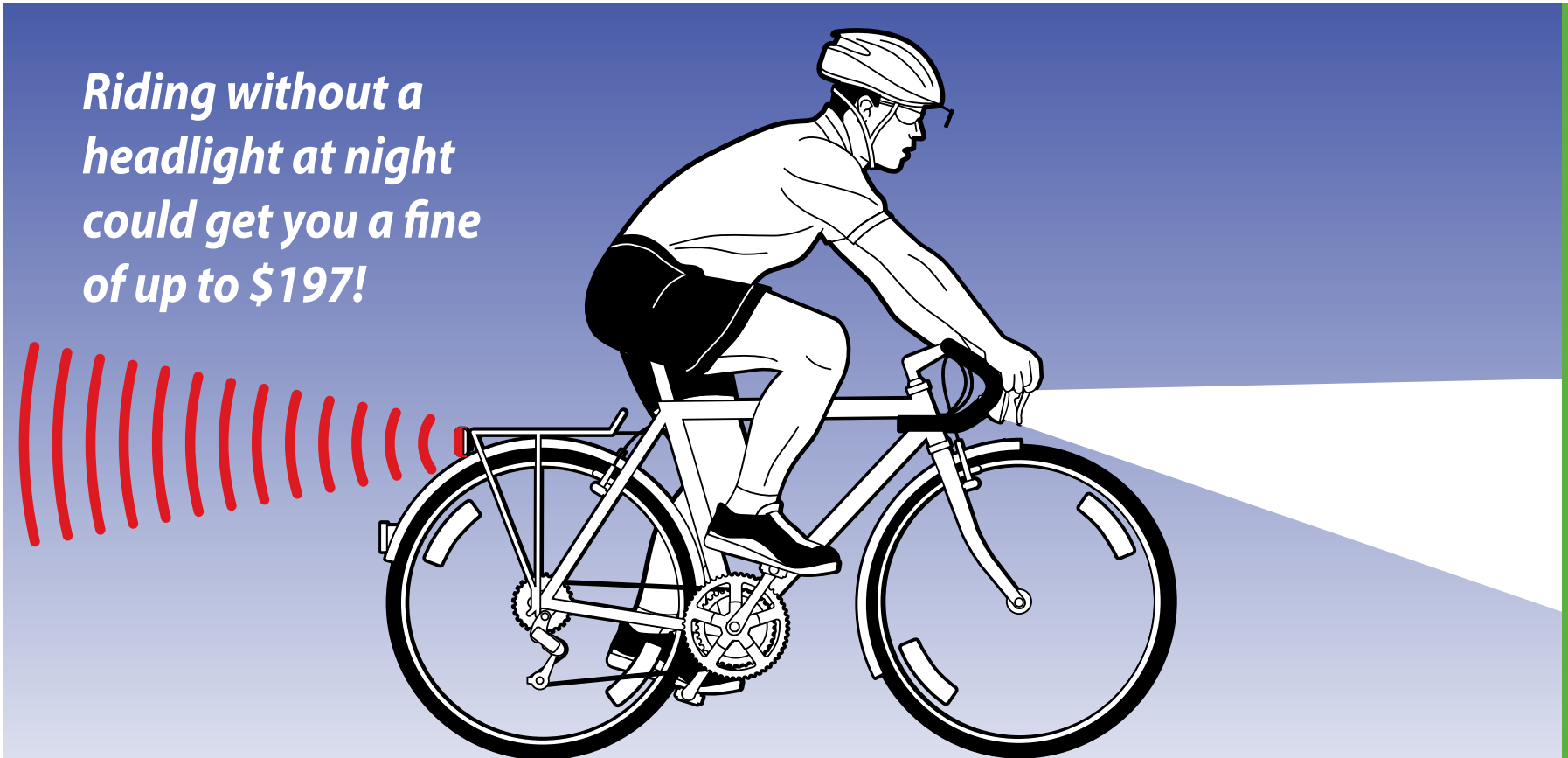
Please refer to pages 42 through 51 for a listing of relevant Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) and local laws pertaining to the operation of bicycles and motor vehicles.

Show respect to others



Be polite and be smart. Show respect for all users of the road and you'll get respect back as a result.

Cyclists and Drivers: Same roads, same rules, same rights and responsibilities.



Wear white or brightly colored shirts and consider reflective clothing for nighttime use. A white front headlight and red rear reflector are required on your bike if you ride at night. (A.R.S. 28-817). You should also use a red rear taillight.

Protect yourself

According to national studies, 85 percent of brain injuries can be prevented by wearing a helmet.

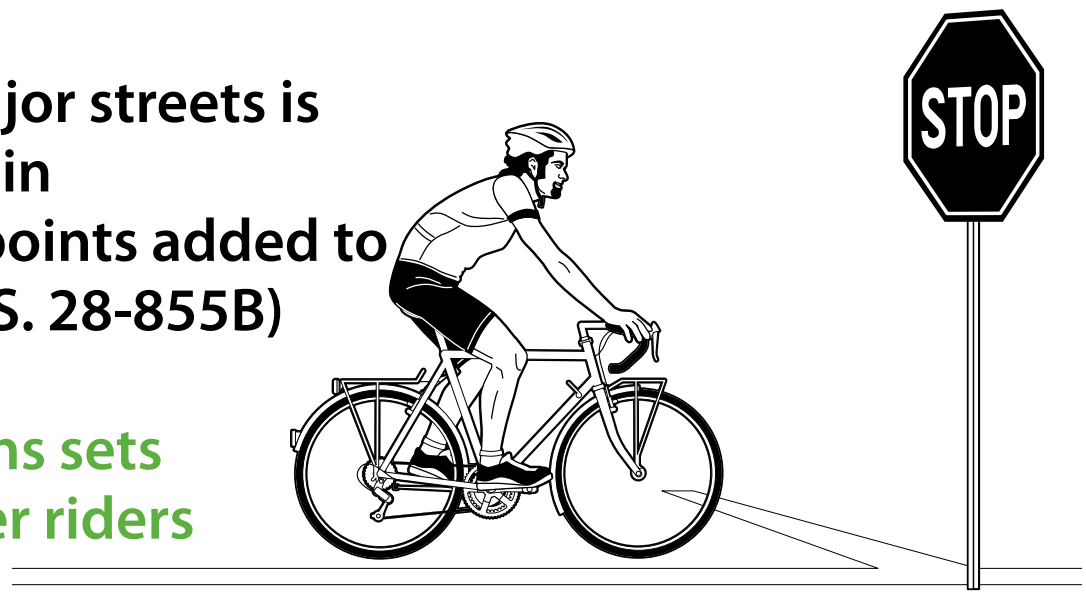
Pima County and City of Tucson laws require all bicyclists under the age of 18 to wear a helmet.

Helmet and bicycle mirrors can improve your overall awareness and allow you to see vehicles behind you. However, all mirrors have blind spots, so always scan over your shoulder before changing your line of travel or before making a left turn.

A Word About Stop Signs

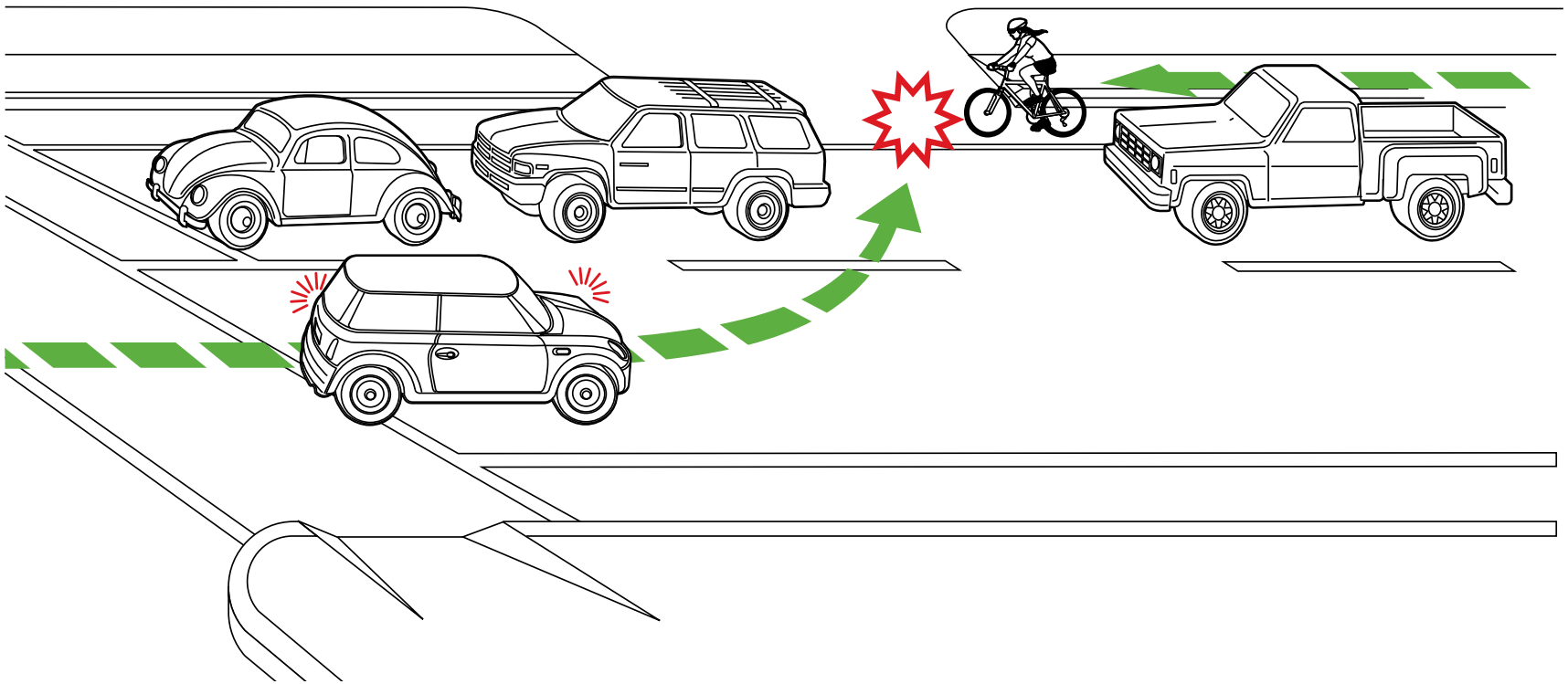
Arizona traffic law defines a stop as, "complete cessation from movement." While bicyclists are required to stop at stop signs, it is not necessary to put your foot on the ground to comply with the law.

Running stop signs on major streets is dangerous and can result in a fine of up to $244 with points added to your driver's license. (A.R.S. 28-855B)



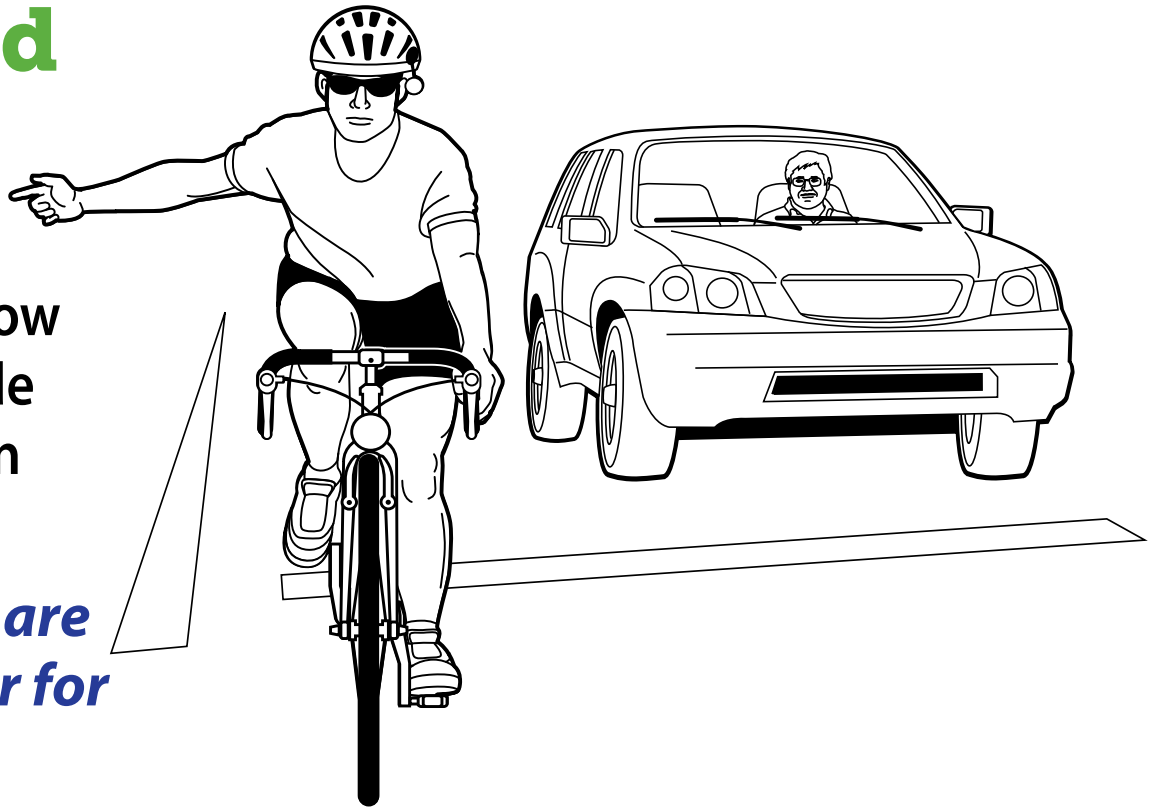
Blowing through stop signs sets a bad example for younger riders and hurts the image of all bicyclists.

Watch for cars turning through gaps



Riding too fast past a line of stopped or moving vehicles can get you clobbered. When passing a line of vehicles **SLOW DOWN AND BE ALERT,** especially near driveway entrances. Motorists often can't see past the line of vehicles and won't know you're there.

Be polite and be smart



Use hand signals to show your intentions and ride in a predictable fashion (A.R.S. 28-756).

Remember, the laws are there to make it safer for everyone.

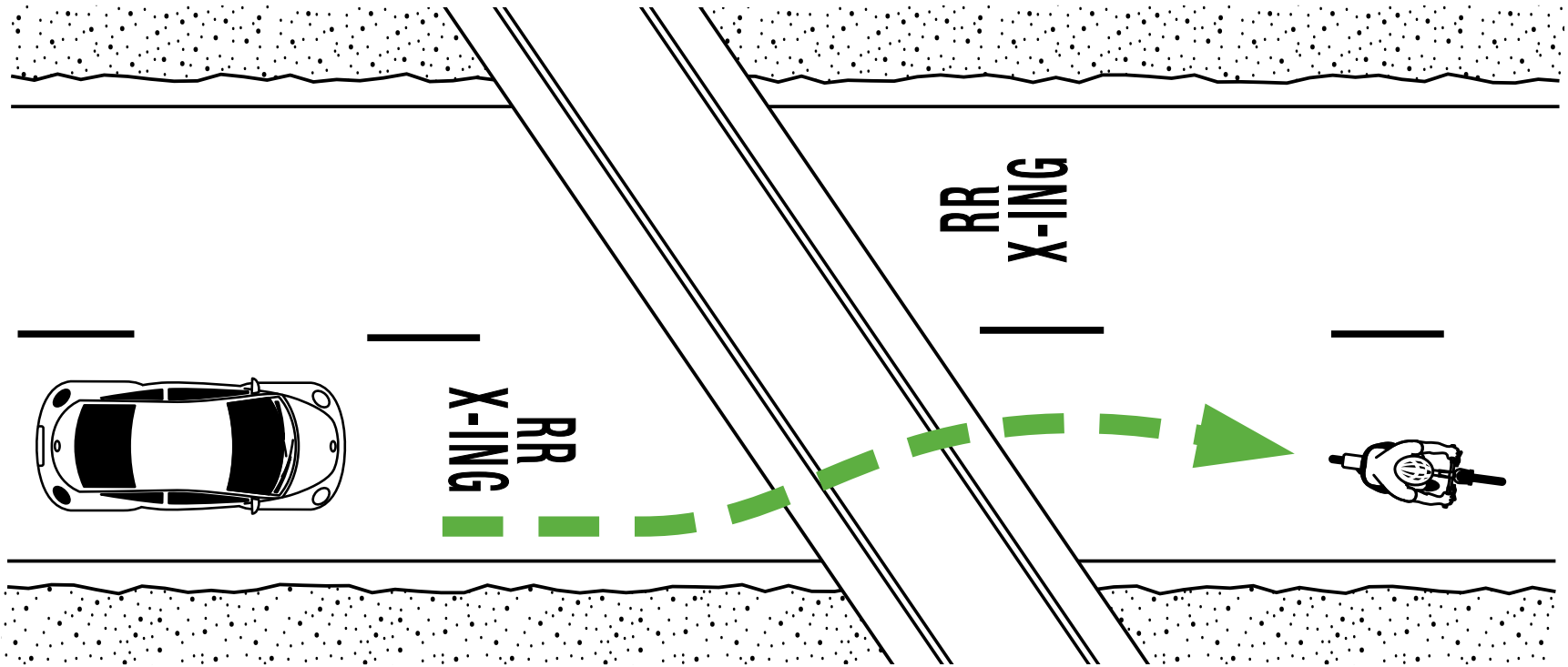
Turning right

OR

Turning left

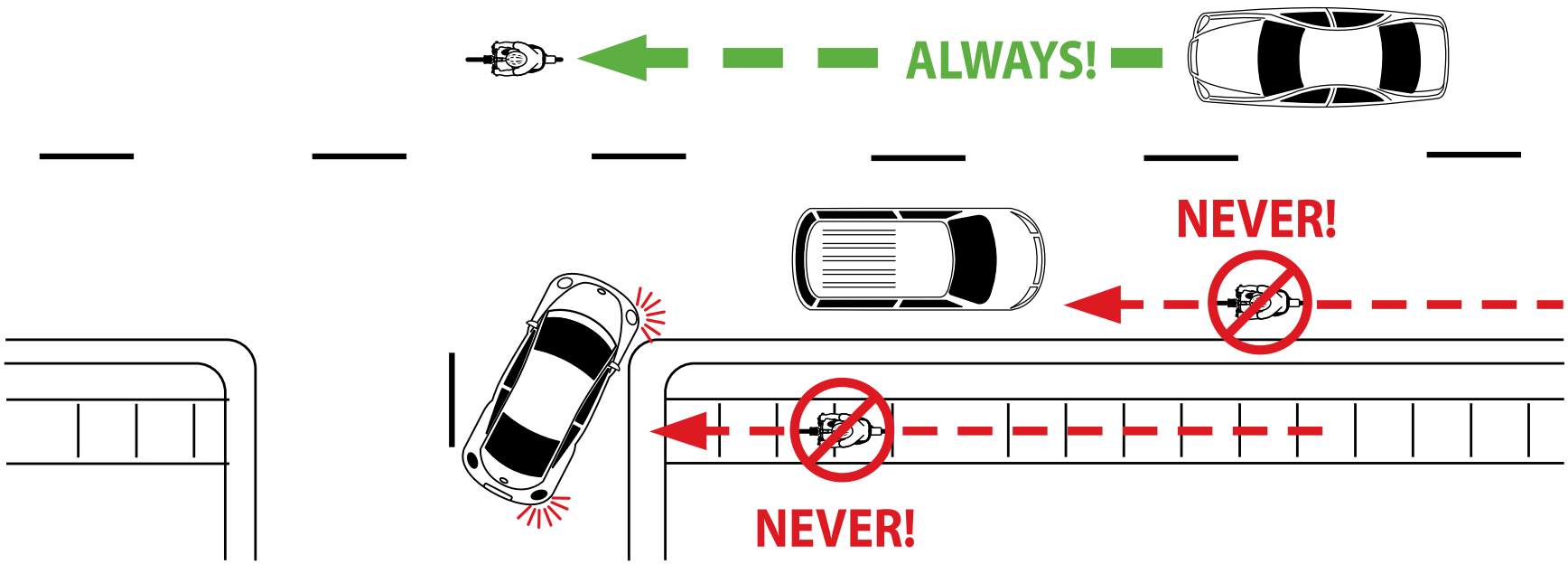
Slowing down

Cross tracks carefully



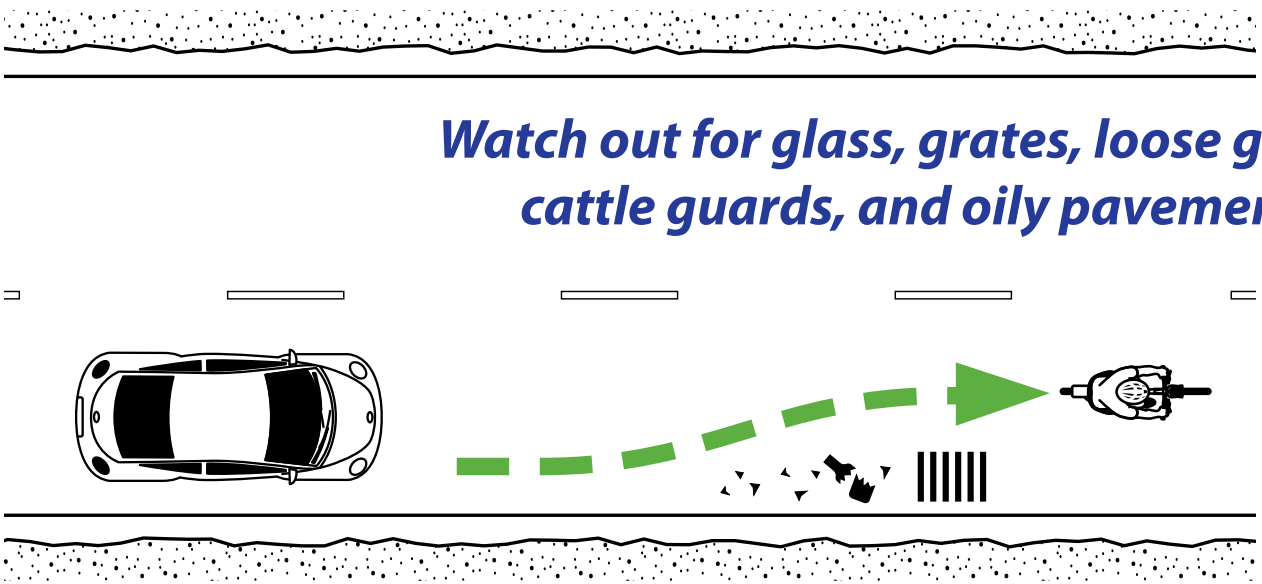
Watch ahead for railroad and streetcar tracks. Look behind you to make sure it's safe, signal, then cross tracks as close to a right angle as possible (A.R.S. 28-815). Also, large cracks or gaps in the roadway can trap your wheels, so cross them at a safe angle as well.

Never ride against traffic

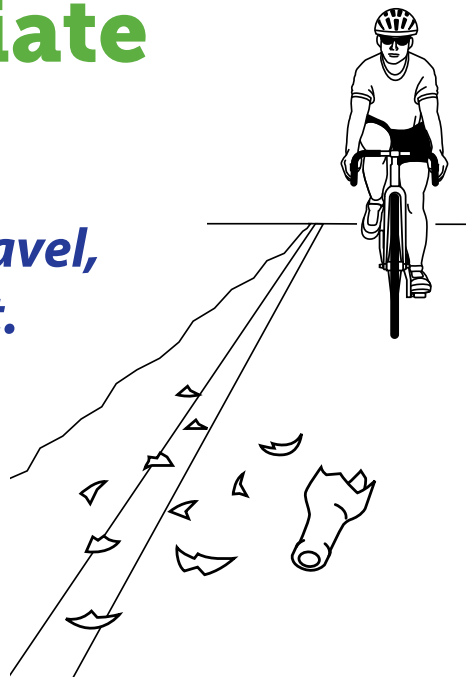


Ride with the flow of traffic—**NEVER ride against traffic on the road, in a bike lane, or on a sidewalk.** Drivers turning from the side cannot see you, and approaching drivers will not expect you to be riding the wrong way (A.R.S. 28-721).

Take the lane when appropriate

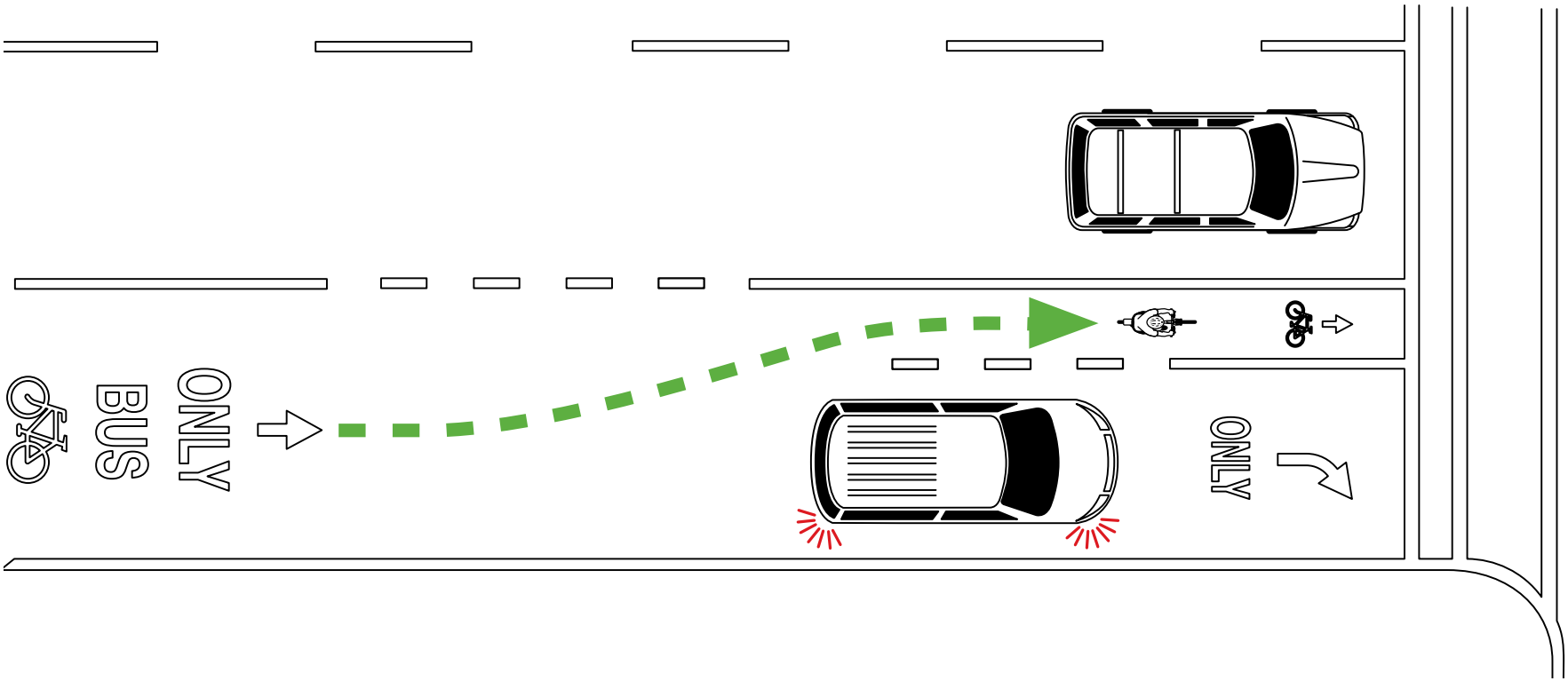


Watch out for glass, grates, loose gravel, cattle guards, and oily pavement.

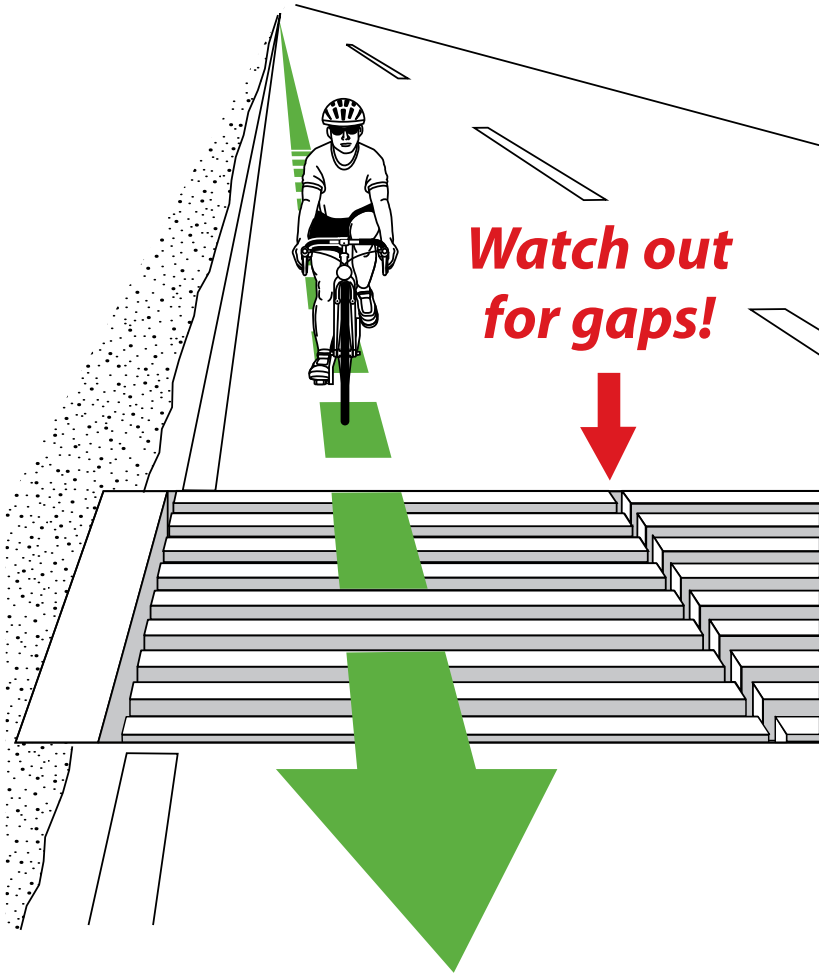


Remember that you may "take the lane" if the lane is not wide enough for both a car and bike to safely share (A.R.S. 28-815). Check behind to make sure it's safe, signal your intentions, and take the lane by riding 1/3 to 1/2 of the way into the lane. If you are unable to move leftward due to overtaking vehicles, you may wish to stop in the bike lane or other safe place out of traffic and then assess when it may be safe to enter the travel lane to get past the problem area.

Riding in bus/bike lanes



When using the bus/bike lanes, ride near the center of the lane to make yourself as visible as possible. When approaching an intersection, move to the left before proceeding through. Bus drivers are required to pass cyclists outside of the bus/bike lane.

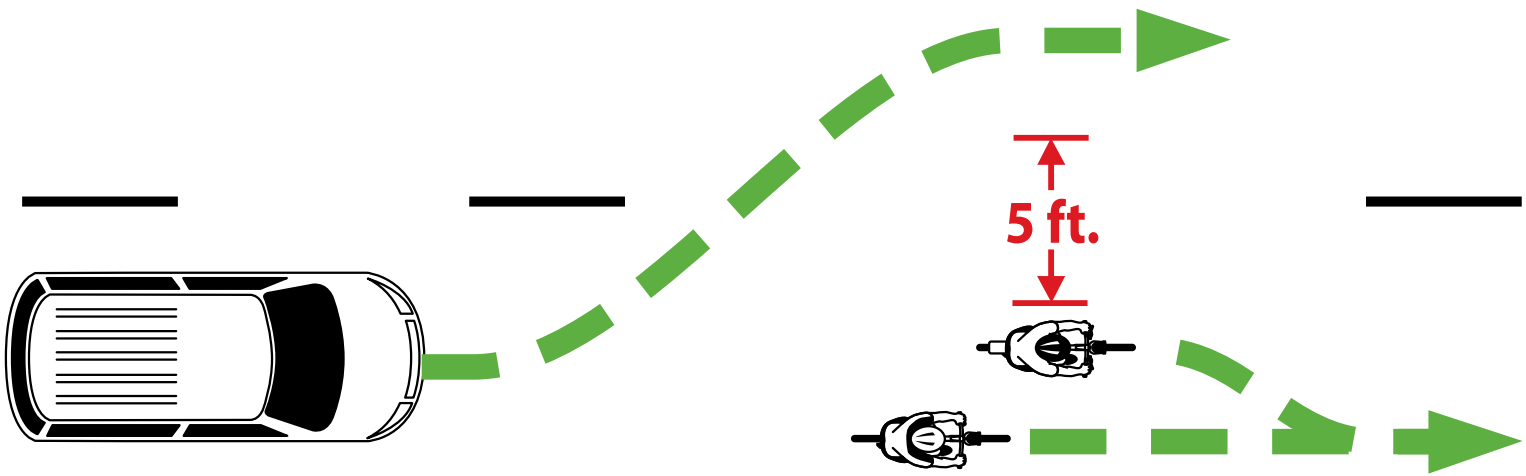


Cross cattleguards carefully

Be sure to watch for gaps between the grates parallel to your direction of travel. These can cause a serious crash. The edge of the cattleguard may also be higher or lower than the road surface.

Be especially careful if the cattleguard is wet and is in a corner or near a stop sign.

Be cautious when riding two abreast



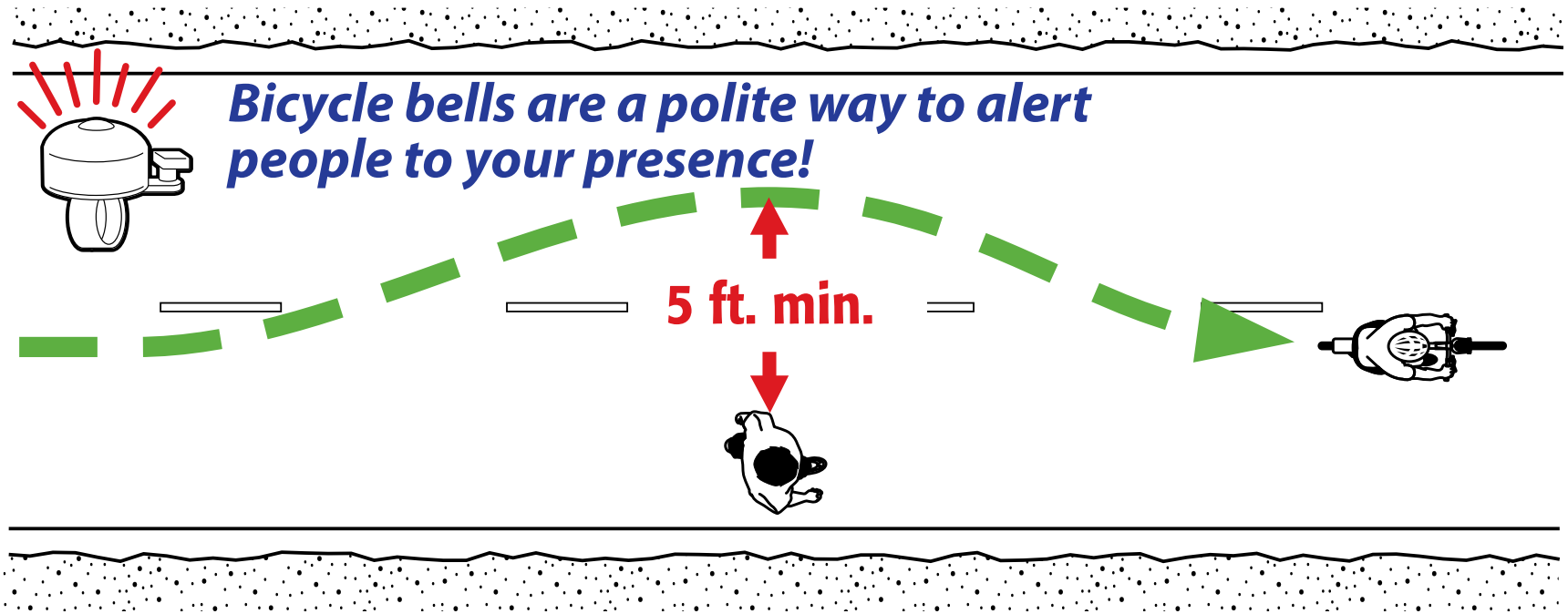
Riding two abreast is permitted by law (A.R.S. 28-815). You can help drivers pass on two-lane roadways without bike lanes by riding single-file when safe to do so (stay at least two to three feet from the edge of the road). It's always nice to give a friendly wave when drivers pass safely.

Watch for car doors in the bike lane

Motorists in parked vehicles may be unaware that you're coming up on them from behind. If they open their door suddenly you could be injured.

You could be forced into the streetcar tracks where you could catch your wheels. Always slow down in congested areas and watch for people sitting in cars who might suddenly exit the car.

Respect pedestrians



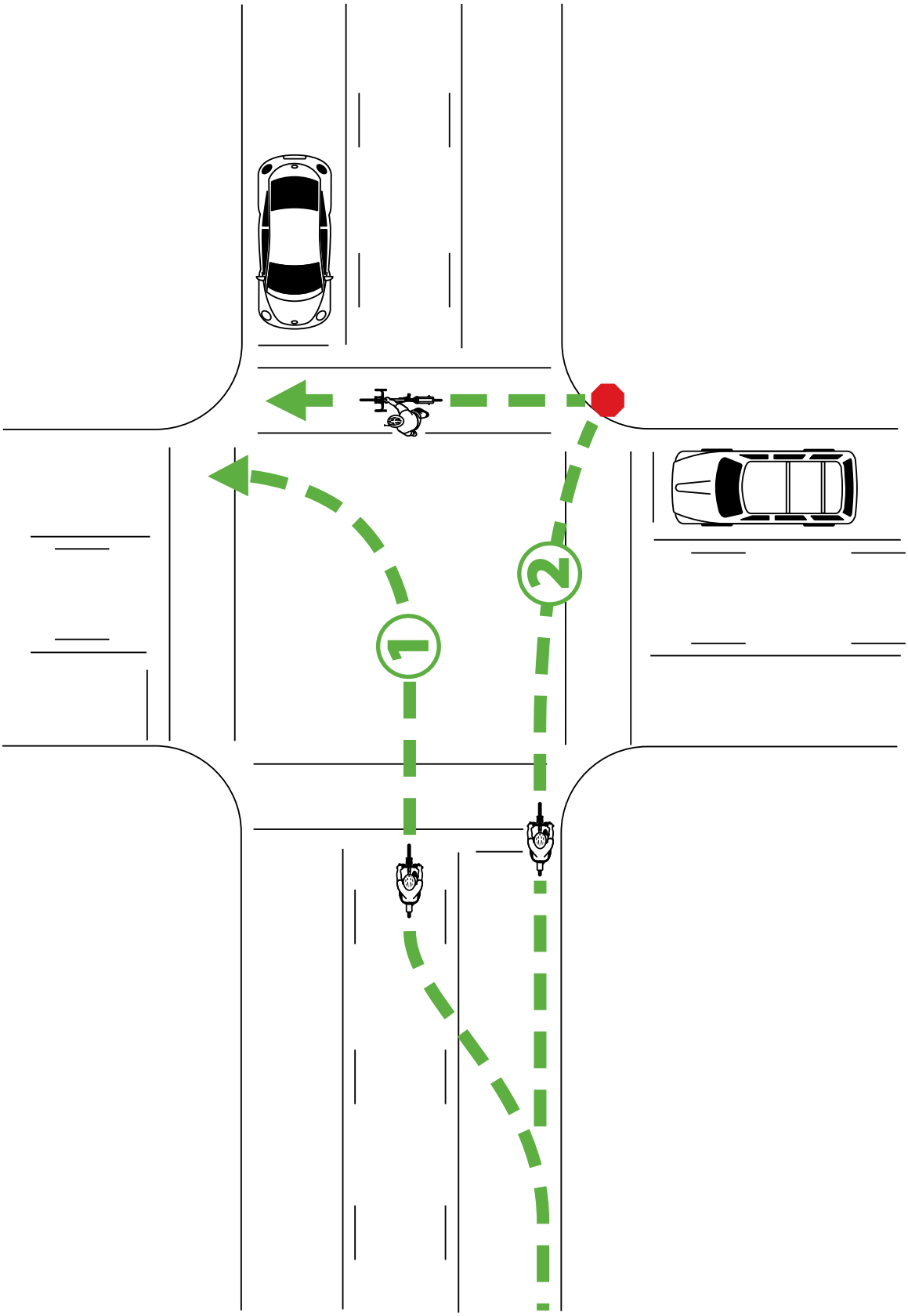
On a shared pathway, reduce speeds when approaching pedestrians, give a verbal warning such as "Passing!" or ring a bell when you're about to pass, and provide at least five feet of passing clearance. Remember: The pedestrian you treat well on the pathway may be the driver who treats you well when you're riding on the roadway.

Two legal ways to turn left

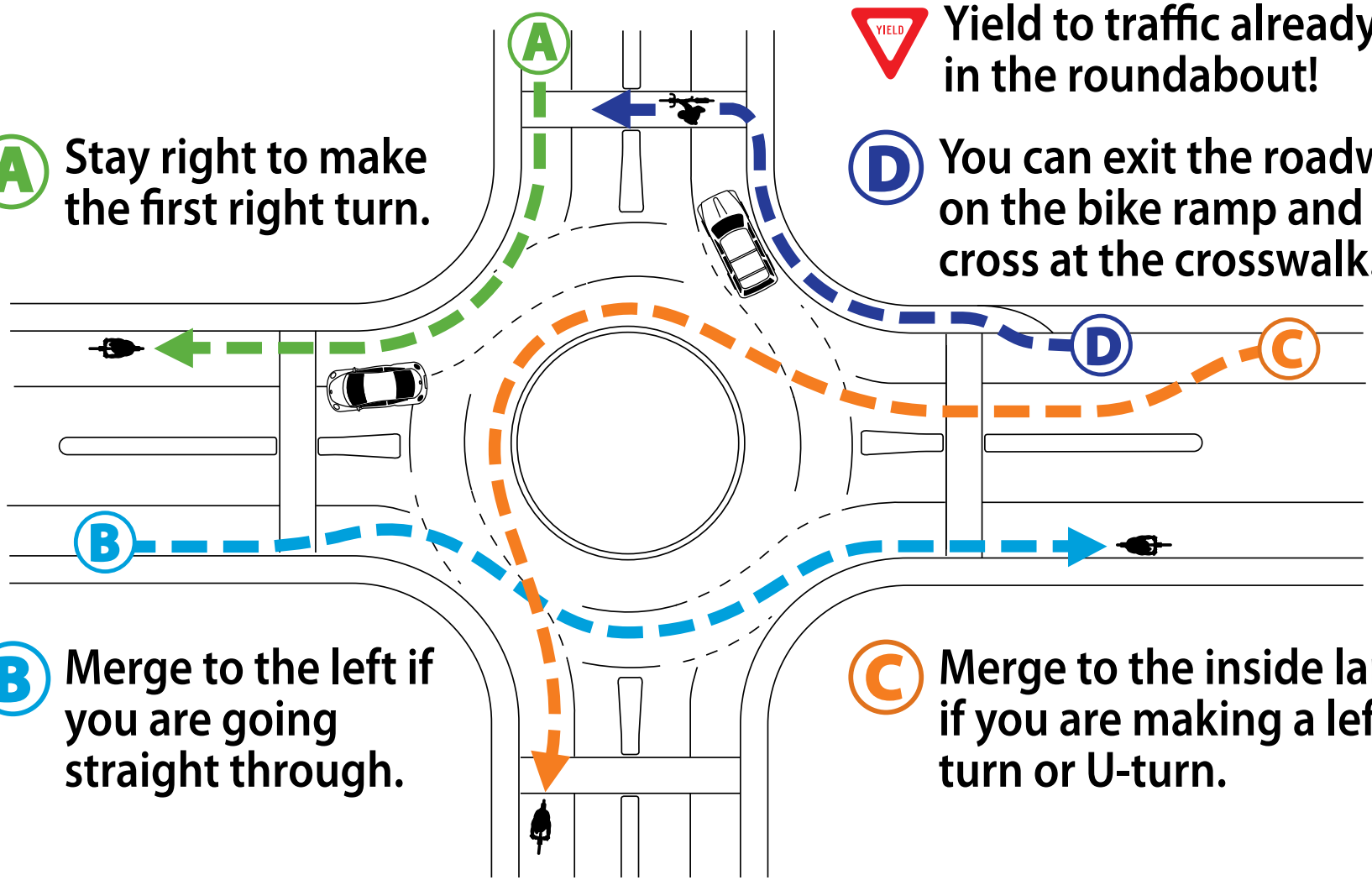
1 You may make a left turn like a driver by looking over your shoulder, signaling and moving into the left turn lane when it's safe (A.R.S. 28-815).

You may wish to slow and wait in advance of the intersection in order to get a sufficient gap in traffic to make a safe left turn.

2 You may make a left turn by going to the far side of the intersection, turning your bike and using the crosswalk. Be very aware of right-turning cars coming from the cross street.


1
2

Ways to ride a roundabout



A Stay right to make the first right turn.

B Merge to the left if you are going straight through.

C Merge to the inside lane if you are making a left turn or U-turn.

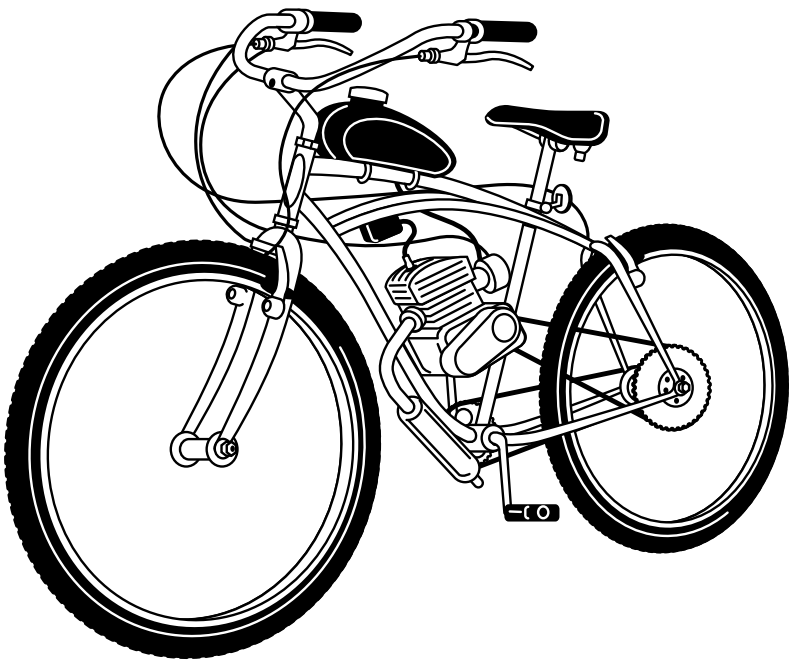
D You can exit the roadway on the bike ramp and cross at the crosswalk.

YIELD Yield to traffic already in the roundabout!

Motorized bikes and the law

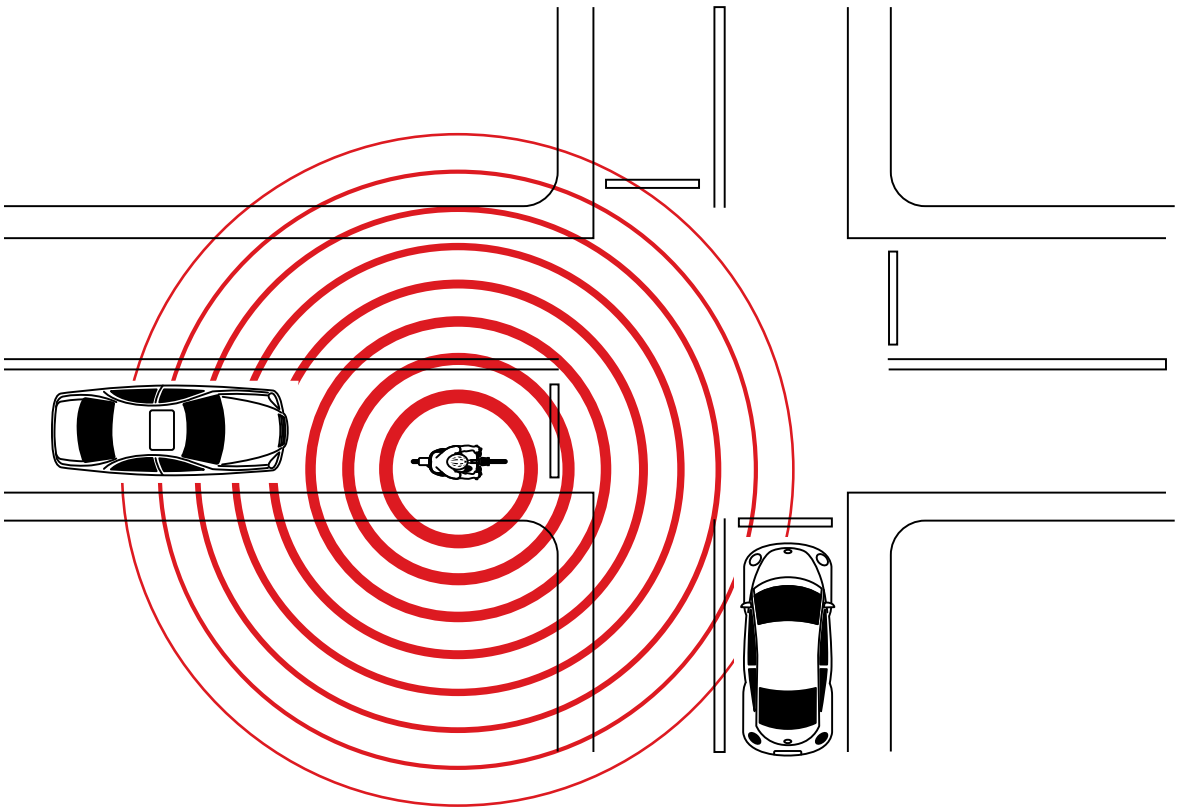
All of the laws that apply to bicycles also apply to motorized bikes, which can be either gas powered or electric. Motorized bikes may have a motor that has a maximum size of 48cc. You must be at least 16 years old to drive a motorized bicycle. Riders and passengers under the age of 18 are required to wear a certified helmet.

Motorized bicycles may be ridden in bike lanes as long as the motorized bicycle operates at a maximum allowable speed of 19 miles per hour.



Gas powered bikes are not allowed on paved shared use pathways such as The Loop in Pima County.

Be a defensive bike 'driver'



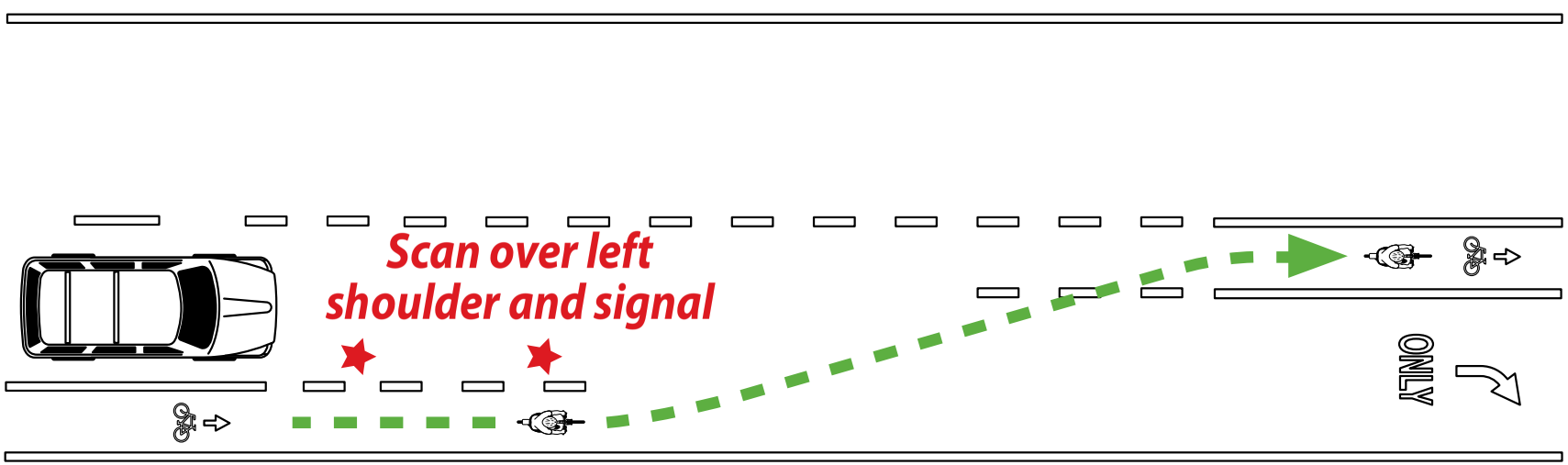
Be aware of your surroundings and especially of turning and side traffic. Make eye contact with drivers and be sure to get their attention.

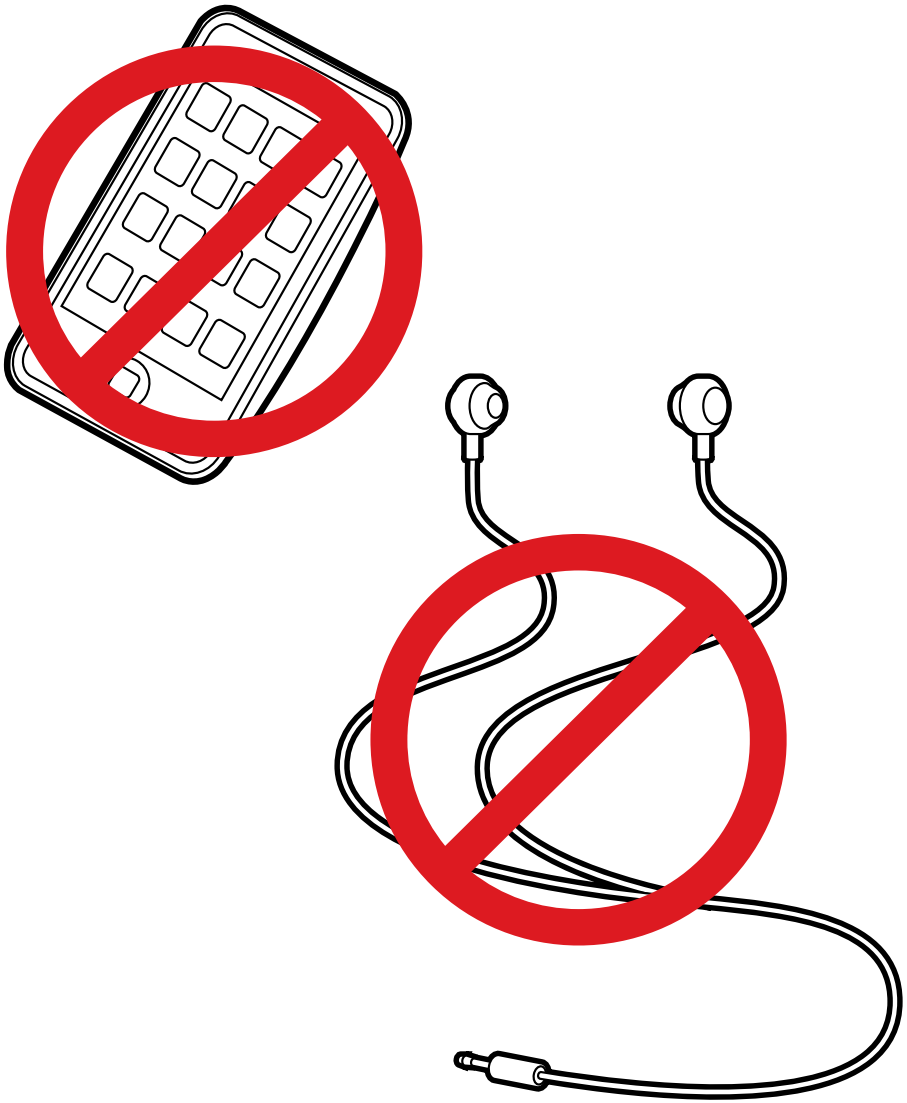
Even with eye contact the person may not really see you or realize the speed you are going, so be prepared!

When a bike lane merges

Use extreme caution when merging across right turn only/drop lanes. These lanes can be challenging for bicyclists. Well before the intersection, scan over your left shoulder and signal your intentions to merge left across the lane.

Always watch for fast-moving drivers who may not see you.



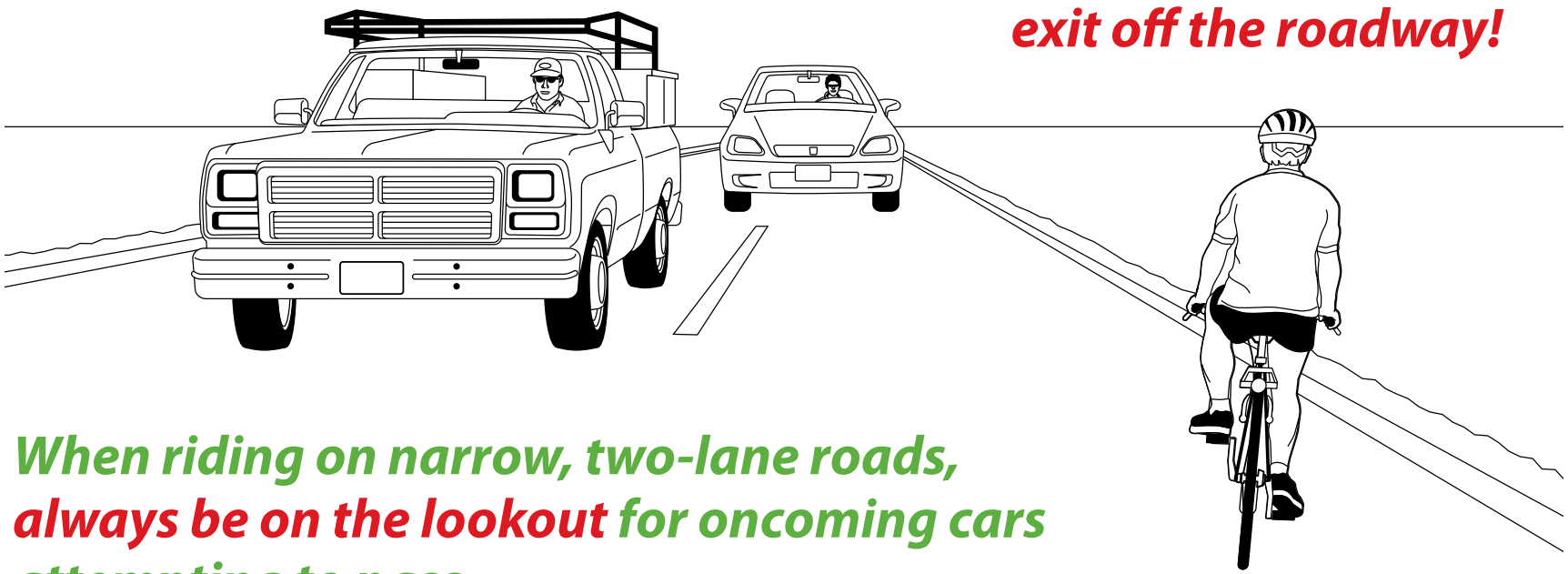


Pay attention

Headphones and cell phones cause distraction and reduce your ability to hear traffic, which could cost you your life.

Don't use any kind of headphones or a cell phone when riding your bike.

Watch for oncoming cars



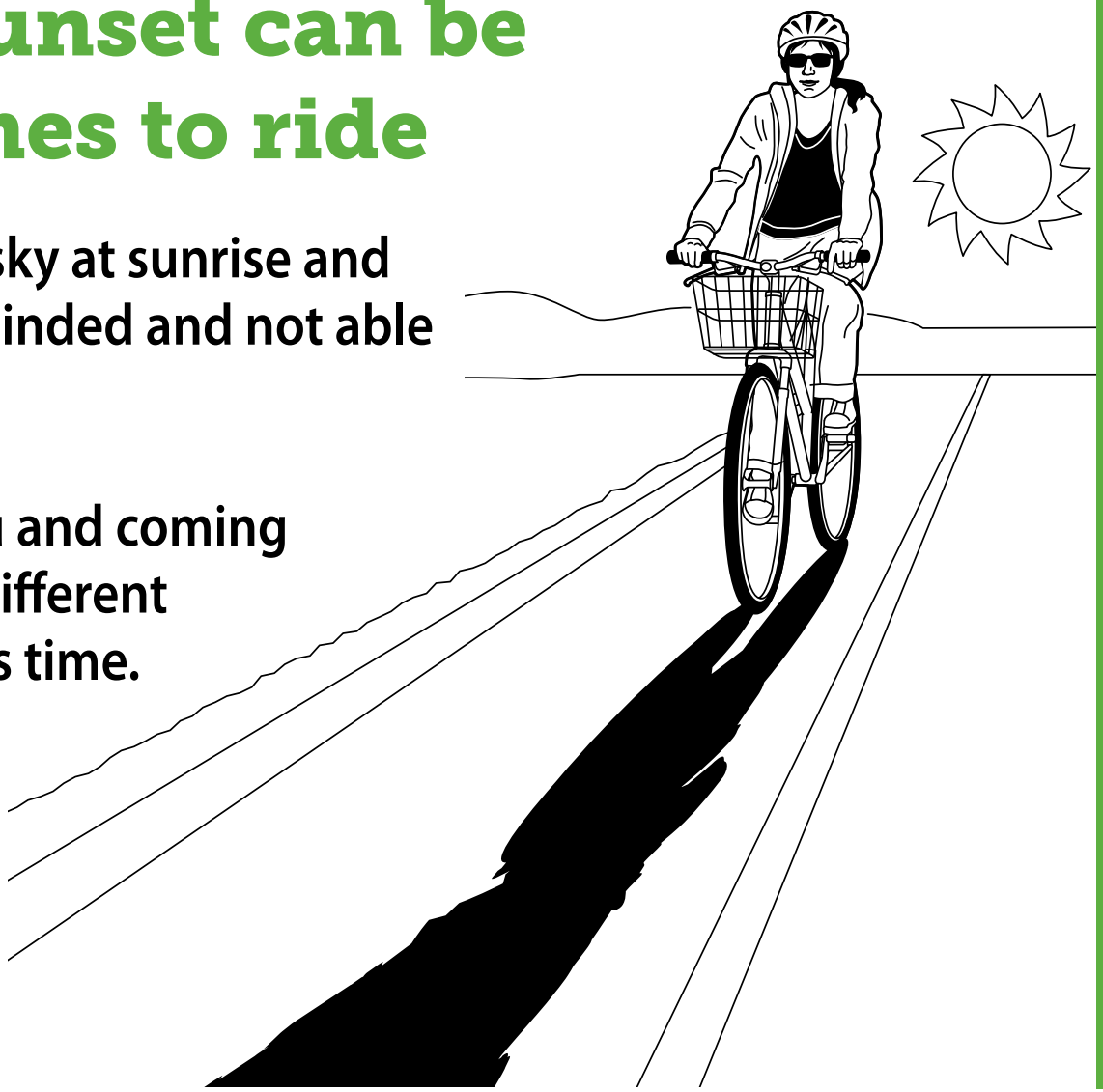
When riding on narrow, two-lane roads, always be on the lookout for oncoming cars attempting to pass.

Ride in a highly visible position in the roadway, not too close to the edge, and alert the motorists to your presence by waving your left arm. Be ready to exit the roadway if necessary.

Sunrise and sunset can be dangerous times to ride

When the sun is low in the sky at sunrise and sunset, motorists may be blinded and not able to see you as you ride.

Watch for cars ahead of you and coming up from behind. Consider different routes if you can during this time. Prepare yourself for cars pulling out unexpectedly into your path.



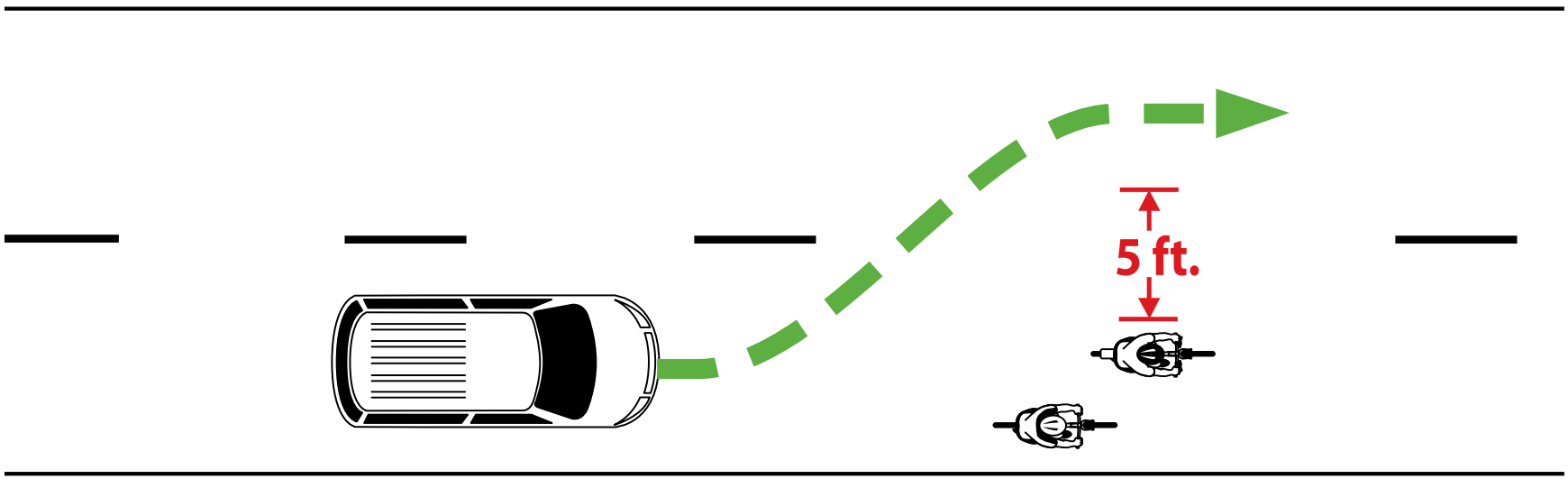
Bicyclists must follow traffic laws in school zones

Bicyclists, just like drivers, must not go faster than 15 miles per hour in a school zone when temporary signs are in place.

In addition, a cyclist cannot pass a motor vehicle going in the same direction when in a school zone. This applies even when the cyclist is in a bike lane.

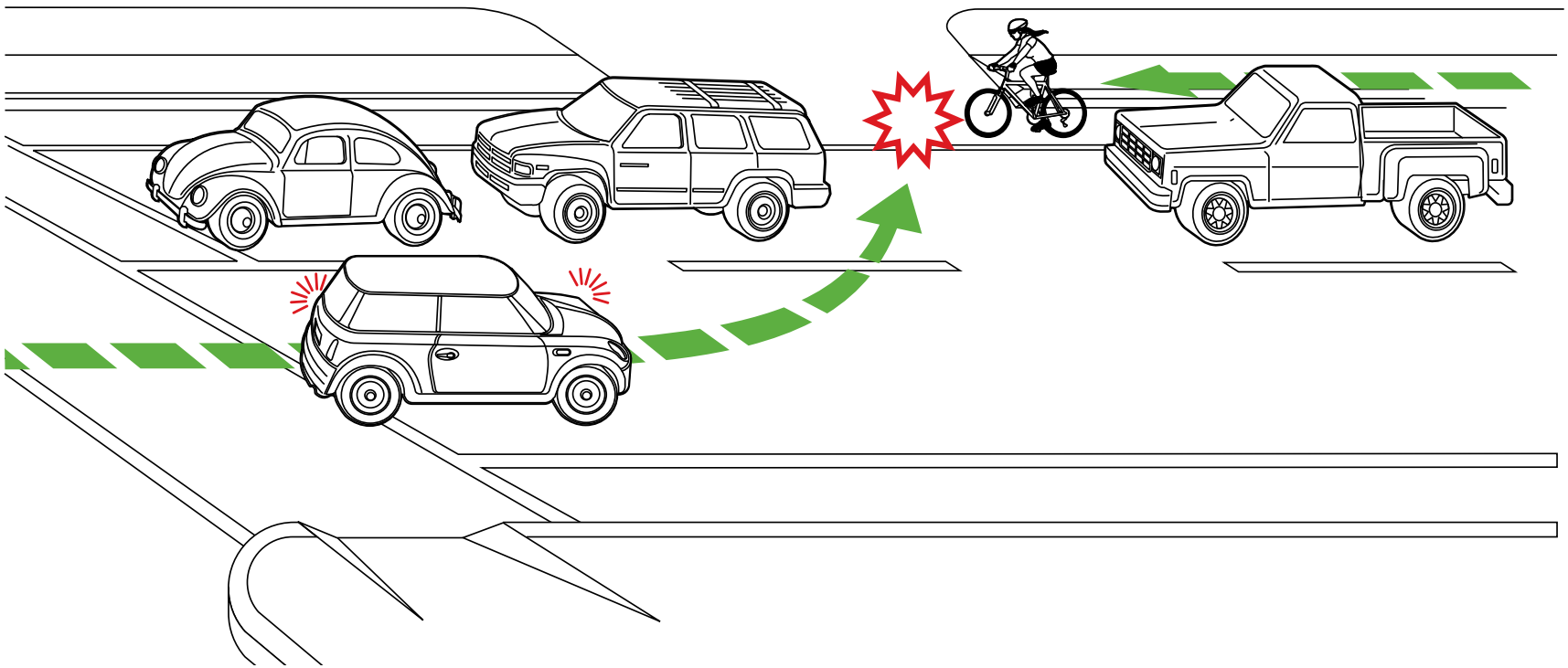
Following school zone laws can keep you from getting a ticket of up to $657.

Be aware of bikes



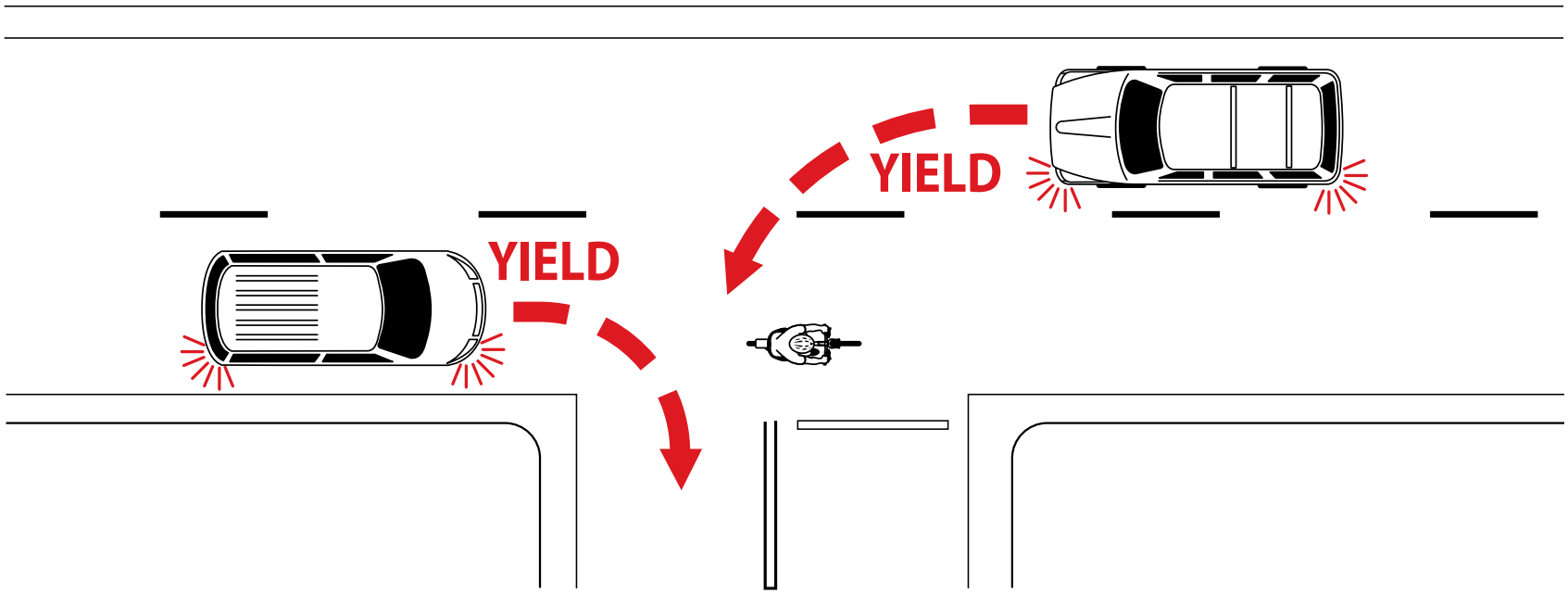
Cyclists have the same legal right to use the road as motorists. Same roads, same rules, same rights and responsibilities. Cyclists can legally ride two abreast on the roadway and in many circumstances cyclists can use the entire travel lane (A.R.S. 28-815).

Yield to bikes when turning through gaps



A situation when a motorist allows another car to make a left turn through a line of cars can be hazardous to cyclists. Make your turn with extreme caution and yield to bicyclists.

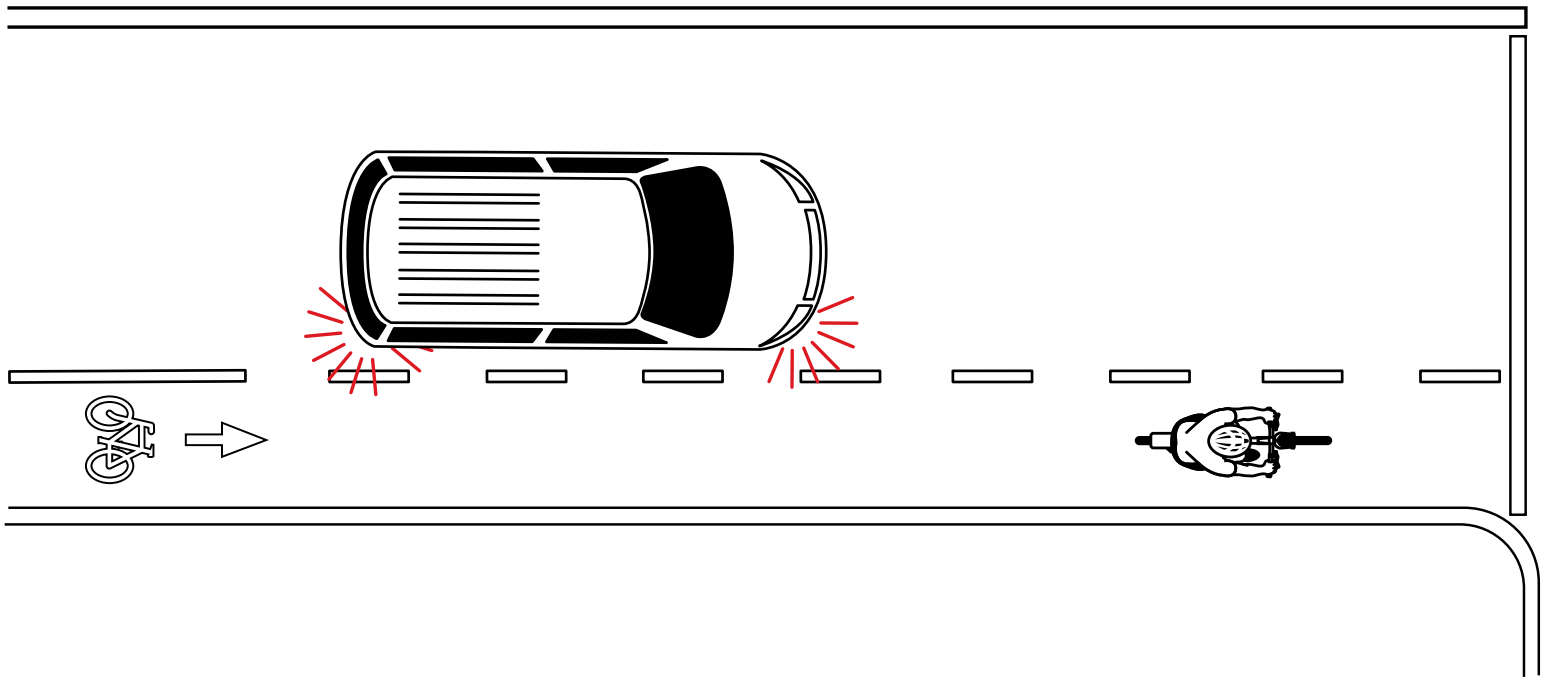
Be watchful at intersections



When changing lanes, turning left or right, or pulling out from a driveway, be aware of cyclists and yield to them just as you would with motorists.

Cyclists may be travelling faster than you expect, so exercise due caution.

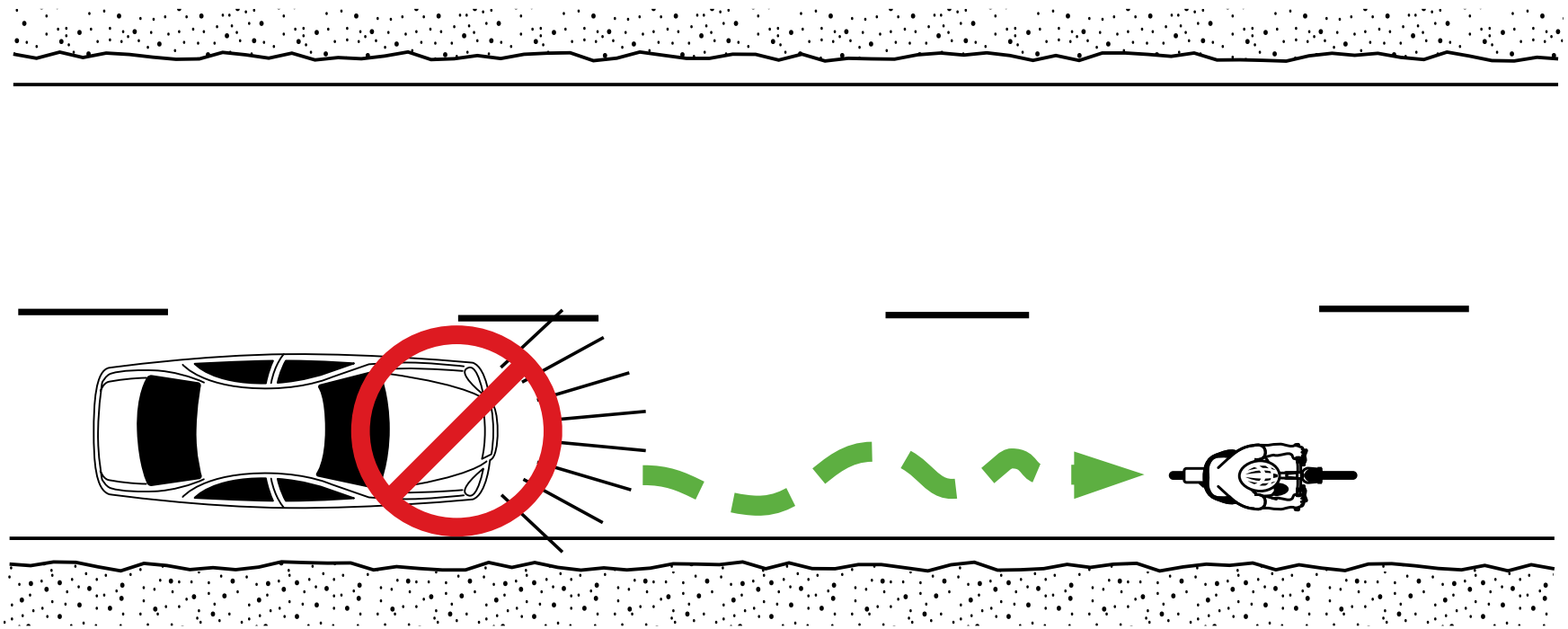
Bike lanes are for bikes



Do not drive or park in bike lanes or on paved shoulders. When turning right, wait and allow the cyclist to go through the intersection first.

Be predictable and always signal your intentions. Be careful not to turn in front of cyclists (A.R.S. 28-815).

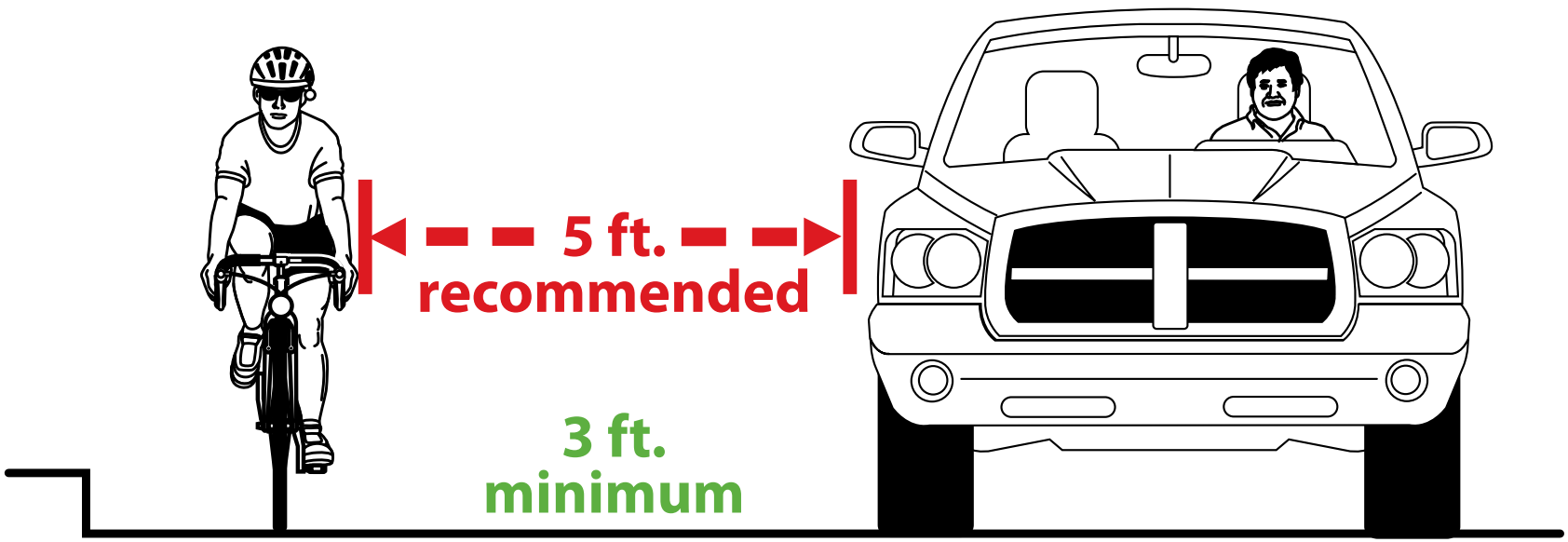
Horns don't help



Do not use your horn when following a cyclist. A sudden loud blast from a horn may startle the cyclist and cause him or her to swerve into traffic. The driver can be cited for causing a crash.

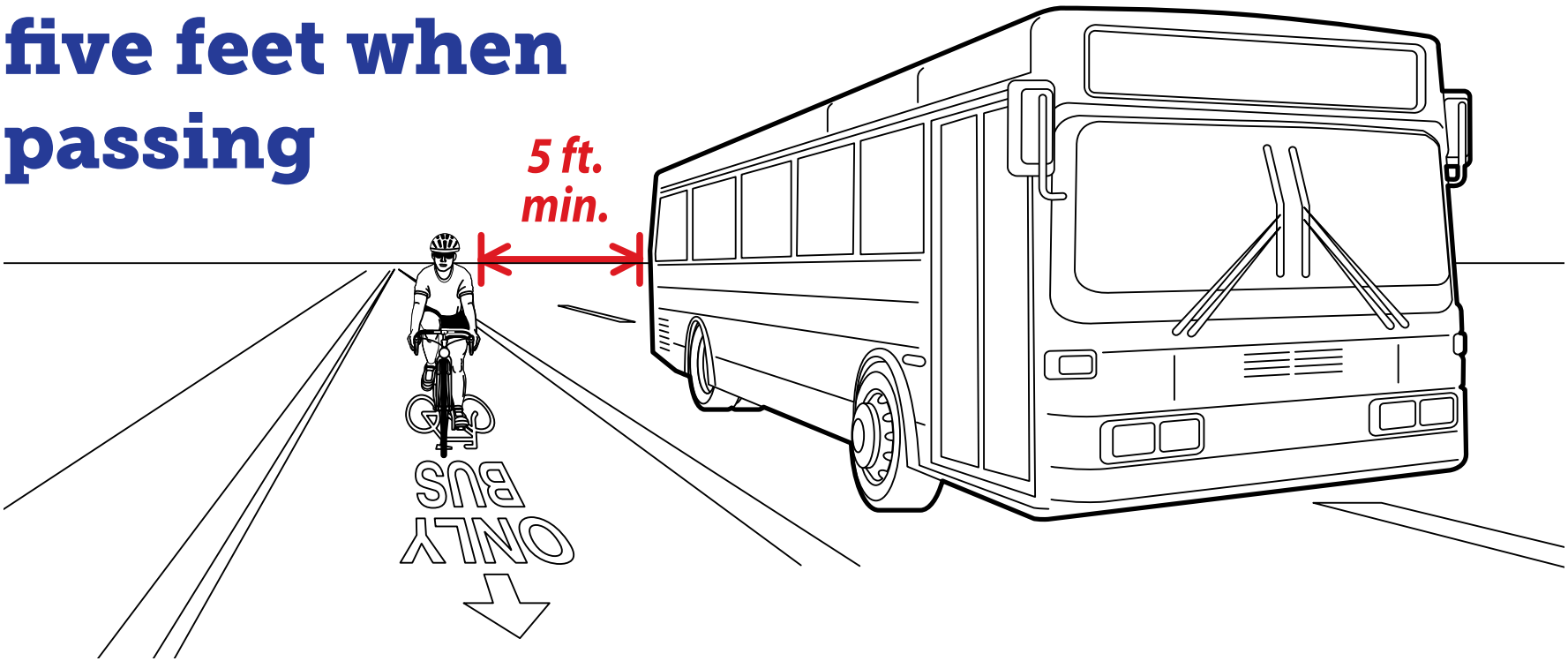
Safe passing is the law

Unsafe passing can result in a fine of up to $1,920!



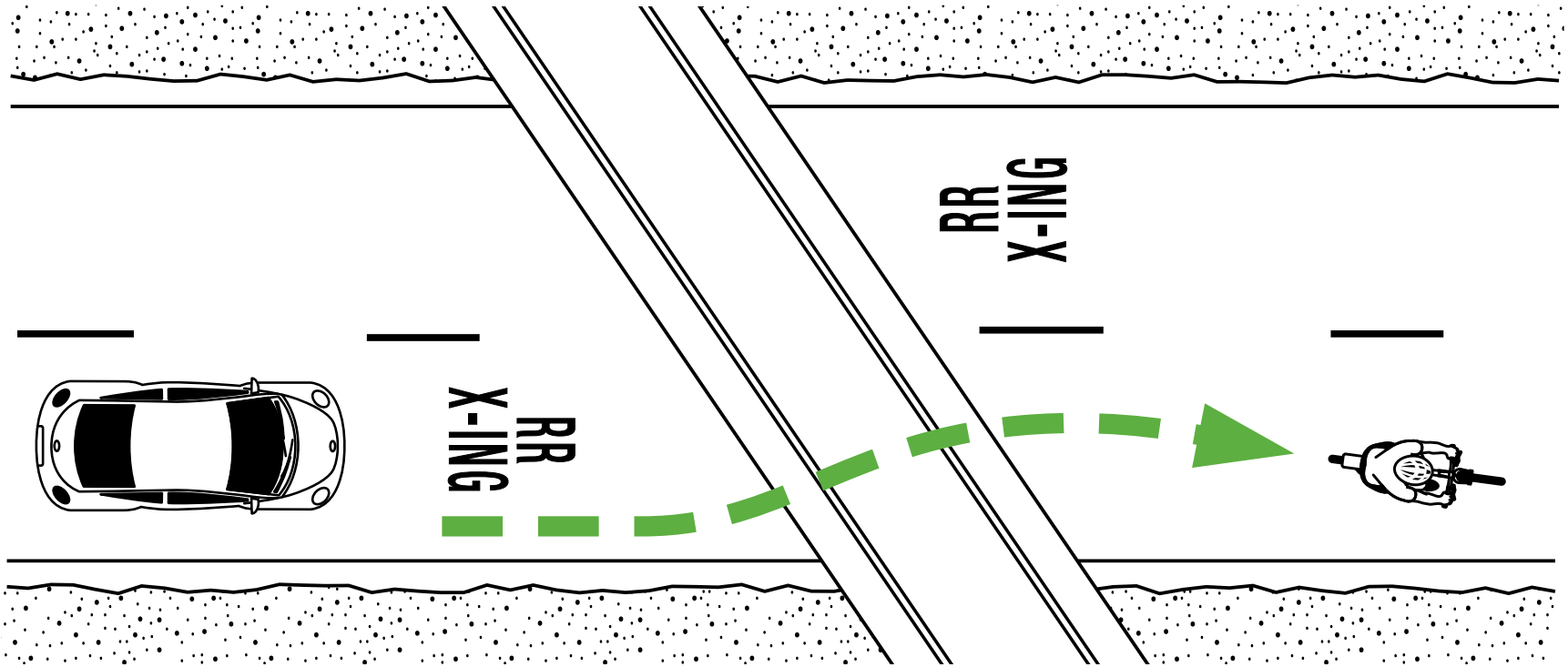
The law requires that you give at least three feet of clearance when you pass a cyclist (A.R.S. 28-735). Slow down and don't pass a cyclist until safe to do so. When possible, please give at least five feet of clearance.

Buses need to allow five feet when passing



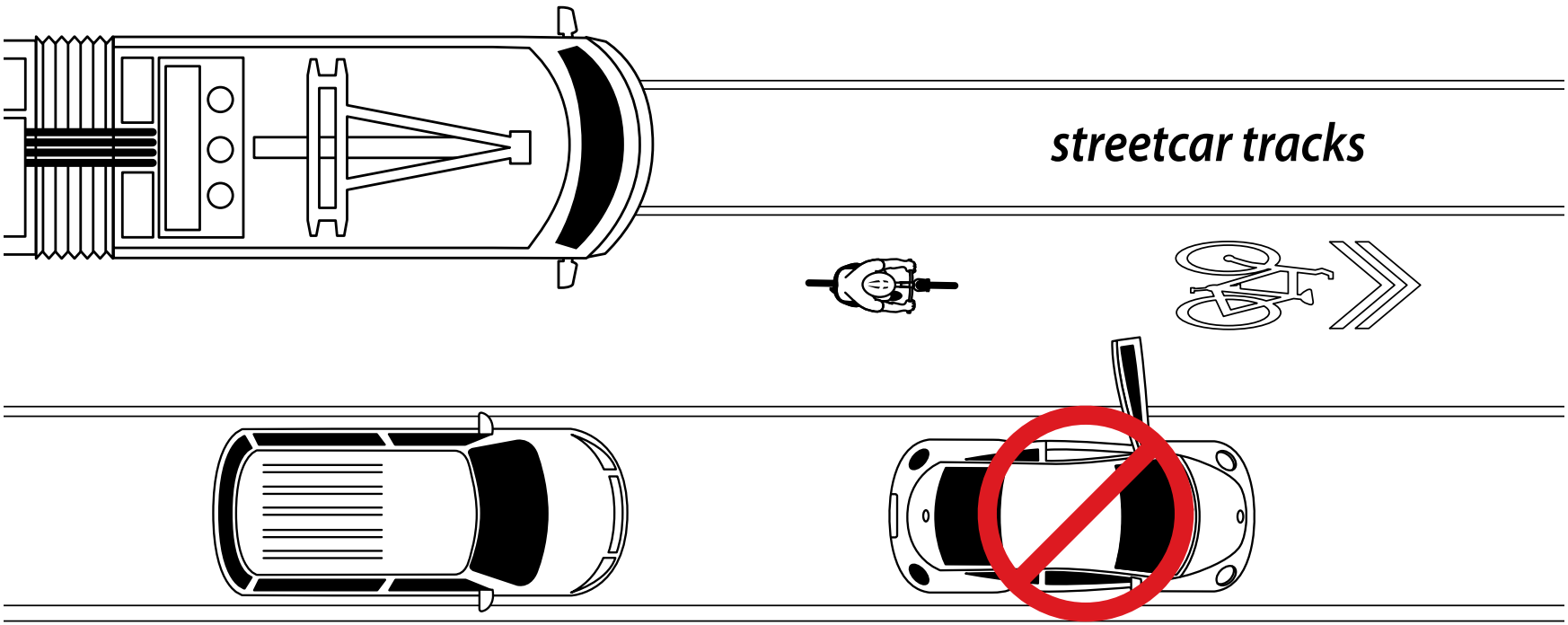
When on roadways with bus/bike lanes, bus drivers need to pass cyclists completely out of the lane. The wind draft caused by the bus can startle cyclists or even knock them sideways. Because the engine is in the rear, cyclists may not hear the bus approaching from behind.

Give extra room near hazards



Slow down and pass cyclists carefully at railroad crossings and cattleguards, in construction zones, and in poor weather conditions (A.R.S. 28-735). Watch for cyclists signaling and moving to the left briefly in order to safely cross railroad tracks (A.R.S. 28-815).

Look before opening your door



Opening your car door in a crowded area can be disastrous to a cyclist riding alongside parked cars. Drivers are legally required to make sure it's safe before opening a car door into the roadway.

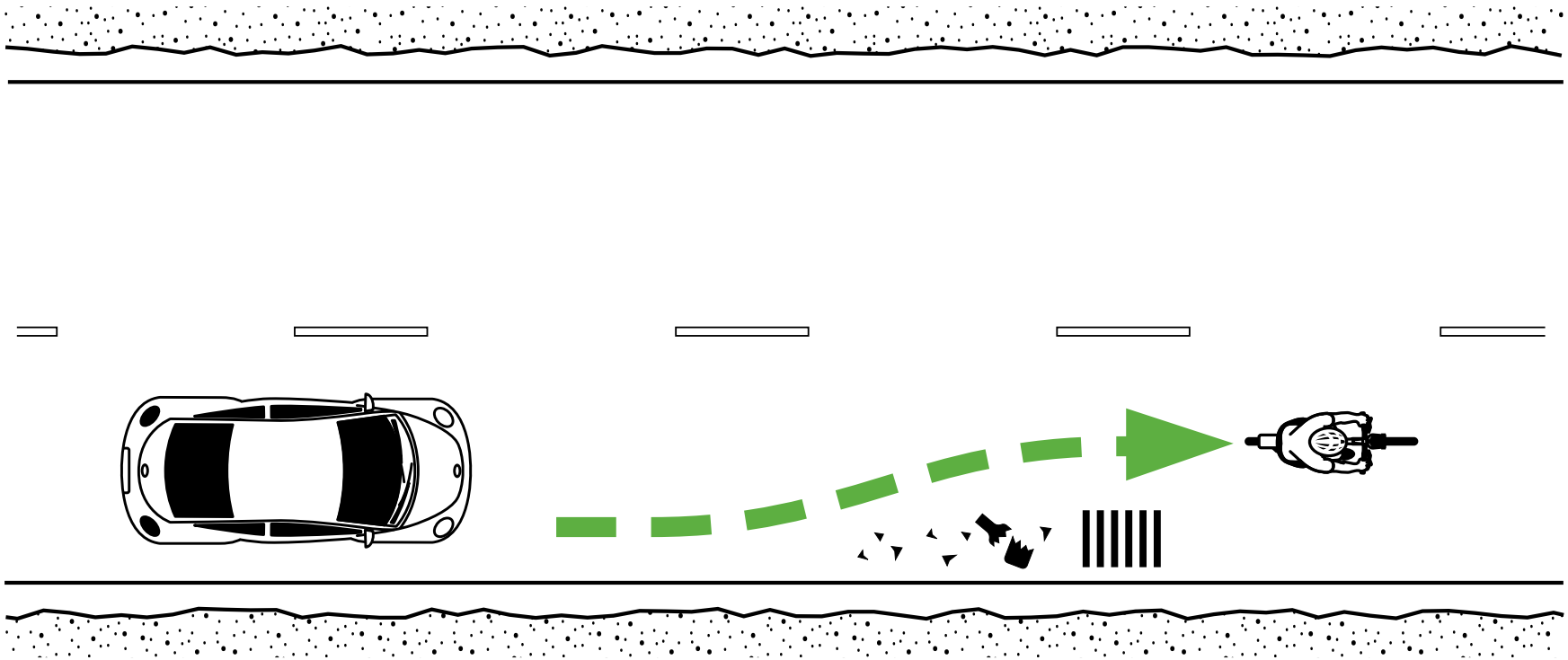
Streetcar drivers are not legally able to pass cyclists unless there is sufficient safe area to pass with a minimum of three feet of clearance.

Pay attention to the road, not to your phone

According to national research, you are four times more likely to have an automobile crash if you use a cell phone while driving.

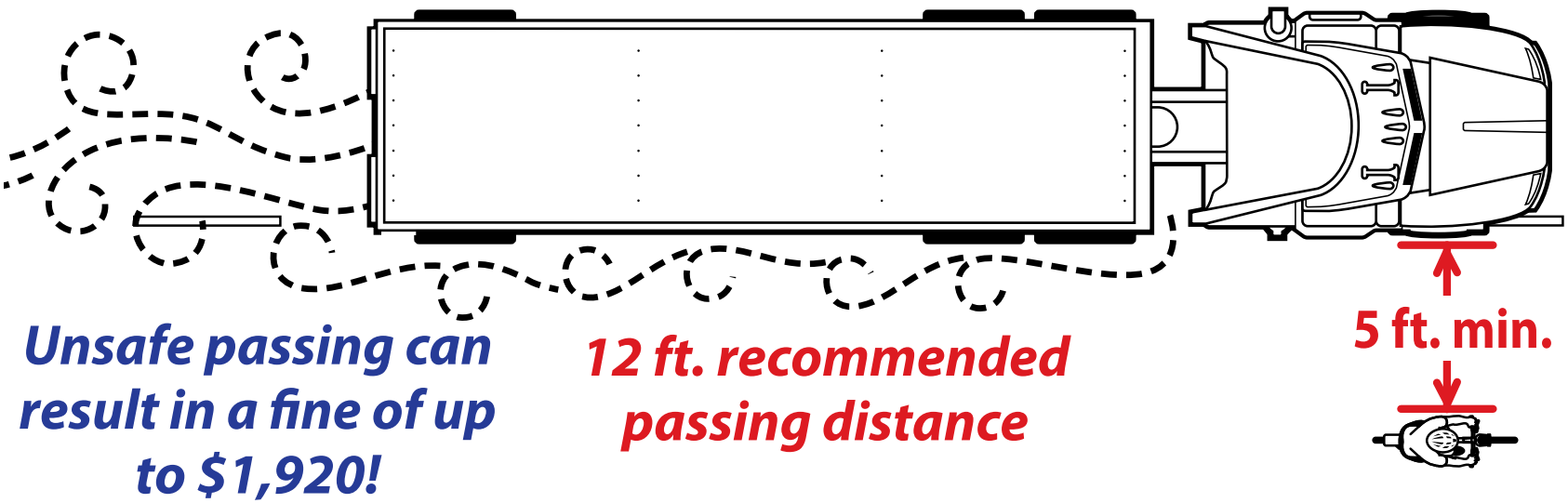
For everyone's safety, pull over to a safe location off the road to use your cell phone.

Give a cyclist room to maneuver



Assume there is a good reason for a cyclist's position in the road and give them adequate room to maneuver. **Cyclists can move further into the travel lane due to hazards, to be more visible to drivers, or if the lane is too narrow to safely share with a vehicle. (A.R.S. 28-815).**

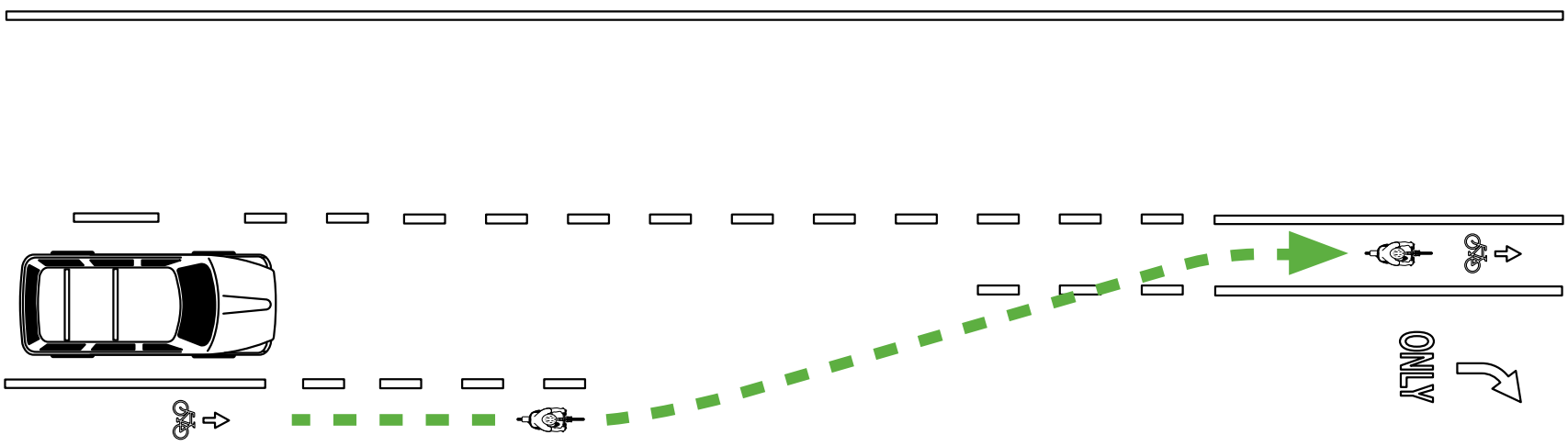
Give extra room when passing



If you are driving a large vehicle such as a truck, RV or bus, the wind pushed out from the side can cause a cyclist to crash. Slow down and whenever possible give a full lane width of clearance. (A.R.S. 28-723, A.R.S. 28-735).

Bike lane merging across right turn only lane

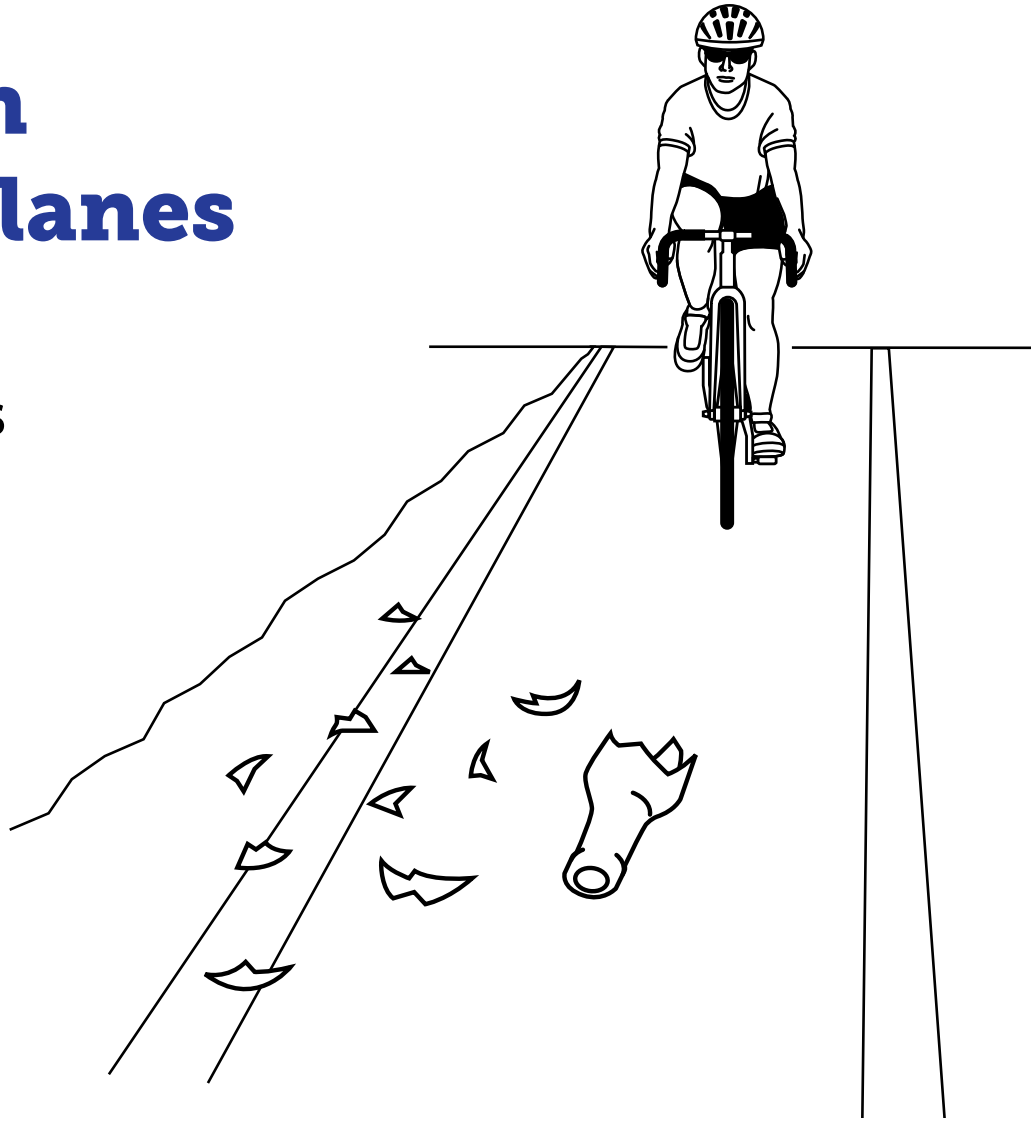
As a motorist, you should slow and use care as you come up behind cyclists who are approaching right turn only/drop lanes. Watch for cyclists as they merge leftward in advance of the right turn only lane.



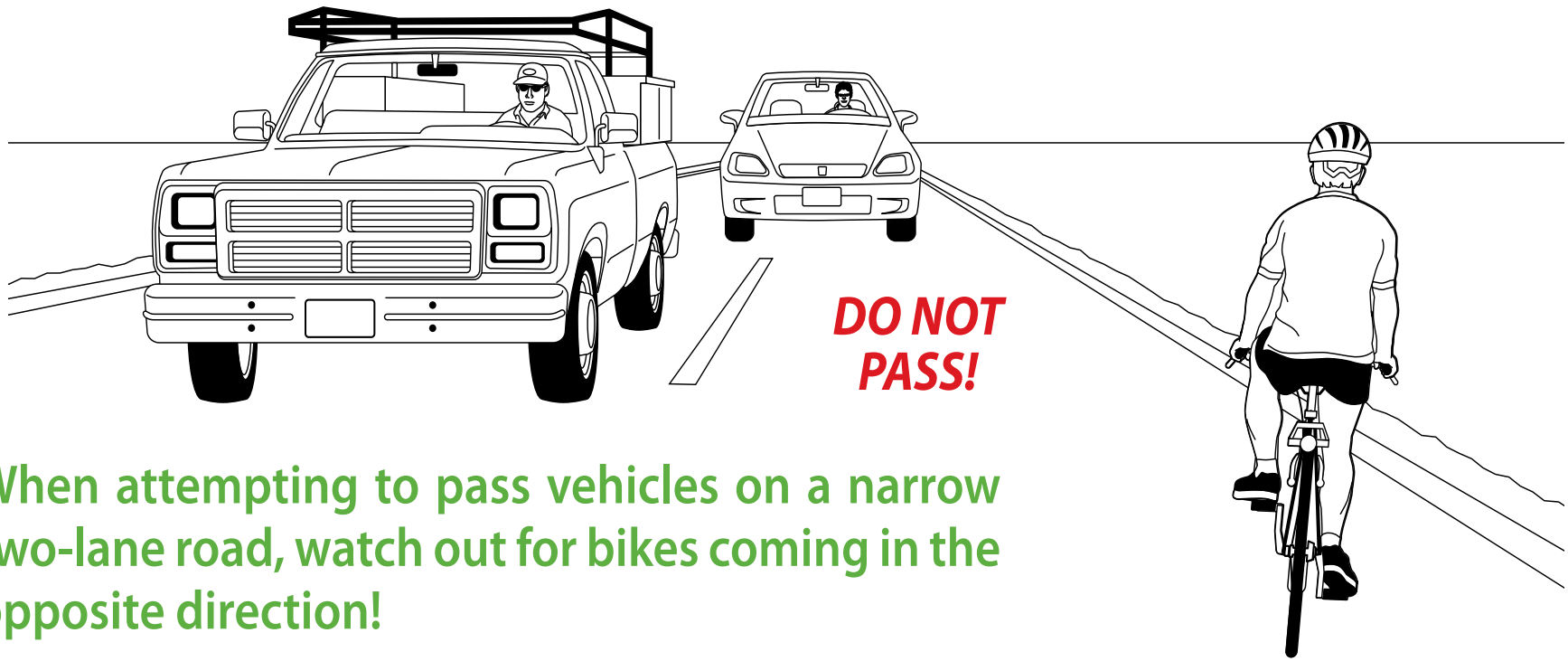
Help keep trash out of the bike lanes

Debris creates hazardous conditions and forces cyclists into the travel lane.
When hauling trash or other objects, properly secure your loads.

Don't litter! Debris in the bike lanes is dangerous.



Watch for bikes when trying to pass on two-lane roads

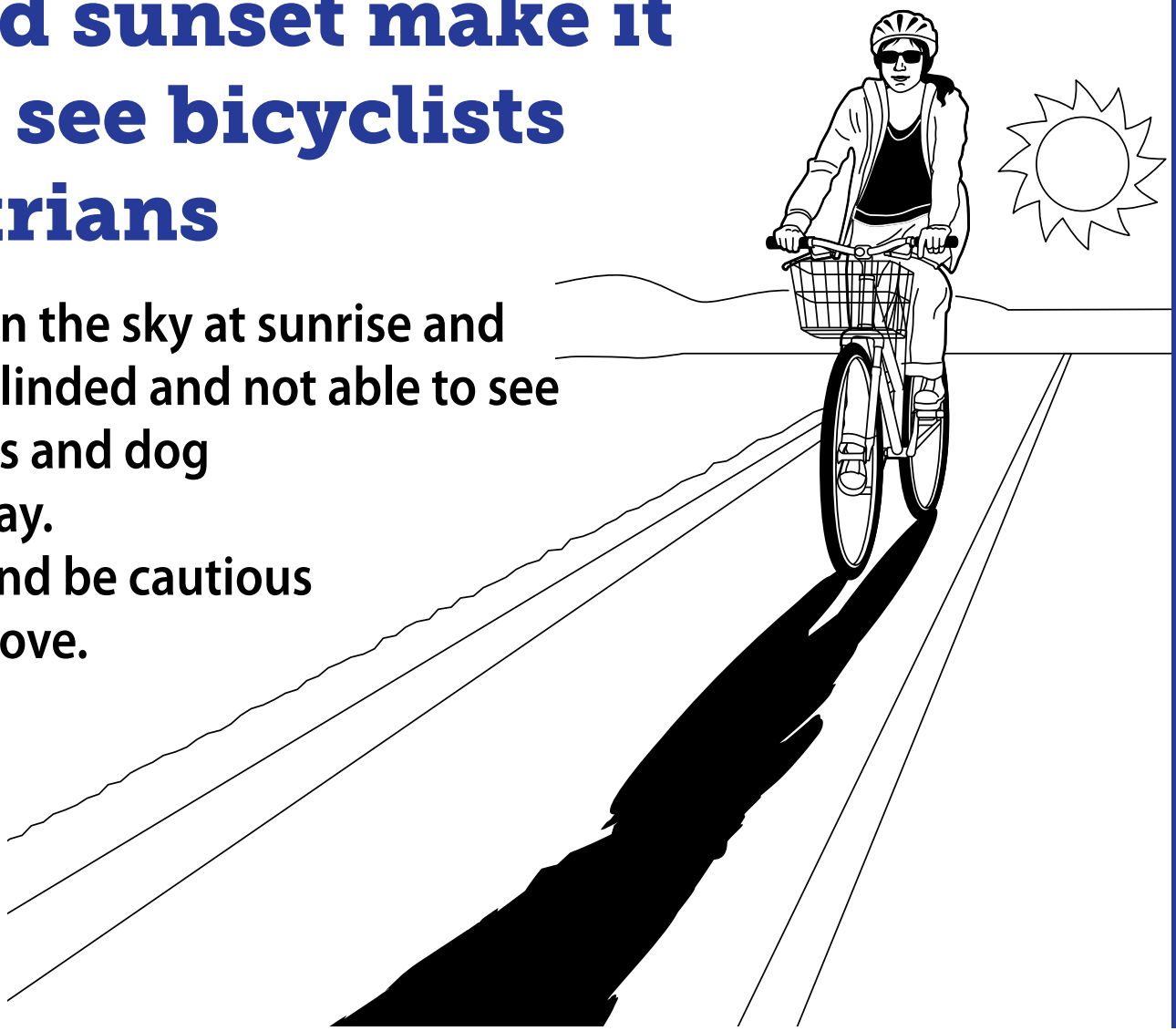


When attempting to pass vehicles on a narrow two-lane road, watch out for bikes coming in the opposite direction!

Yield to cyclists as you would to oncoming vehicles and do not pass if it's unsafe. Always expect that bicyclists may be on the roadway, even in rural areas.

Sunrise and sunset make it difficult to see bicyclists and pedestrians

When the sun is low in the sky at sunrise and sunset, you may be blinded and not able to see bicyclists, pedestrians and dog walkers in the roadway.
Control your speed and be cautious until conditions improve.
Be especially careful around crosswalks.



28-723. Overtaking a vehicle on the left

The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left of the vehicle at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

28-735. Overtaking bicycles; civil penalties

A. When overtaking and passing a bicycle proceeding in the same direction, a person driving a motor vehicle shall exercise due care by leaving a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than three feet until the motor vehicle is safely past the overtaken bicycle.

B. If a person violates this section and the violation results in a collision causing:

1. Serious physical injury as defined in section13-105 to another person, the violator is subject to a civil penalty of up to $500. *Fine has increased to $1,005*
2. Death to another person, the violator is subject to a civil penalty of up to $1,000. *Fine has increased to $1,920*

C. Subsection B of this section does not apply to a bicyclist who is injured in a vehicular traffic lane when a designated bicycle lane or path is present and passable.

28-756. Method of giving hand and arm signals

A. Except as provided by subsection B, a person shall give all hand and arm signals required by this article from the left side of the vehicle in the following manner, and the signals shall indicate as follows:

1. Left turn. Hand and arm extended horizontally.
2. Right turn. Hand and arm extended upward.
3. Stop or decrease speed. Hand and arm extended downward.

B. A person operating a bicycle may give a right turn signal by extending the right hand and arm horizontally to the right side of the bicycle.

28-811. Parent and guardian responsibility; applicability of article

A. The parent of a child and the guardian of a ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit the child or ward to violate this chapter.

B. Except as otherwise provided in this article, this chapter applies to a bicycle when it is operated on a highway or on a path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

28-812. Applicability of traffic laws to bicycle riders

A person riding a bicycle on a roadway or on a shoulder adjoining a roadway is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter and chapters 4 and 5 of this title, except special rules in this article and except provisions of this chapter and chapters 4 and 5 of this title that by their nature can have no application.

28-813. Riding on bicycles

A. A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than on or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle.

B. A person shall not use a bicycle to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

28-814. Clinging to vehicle

A person riding on a bicycle, coaster, sled or toy vehicle or on roller skates shall not attach the bicycle, coaster, sled, toy vehicle or roller skates or that person to a vehicle on a roadway.

28-815. Riding on roadway and bicycle path; bicycle path usage

A. A person riding a bicycle on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except under any of the following situations:

1. If overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
2. If preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.
3. If reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals or surface hazards.
4. If the lane in which the person is operating the bicycle is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

B. Persons riding bicycles on a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

C. A path or lane that is designated as a bicycle path or lane by state or local authorities is for the exclusive use of bicycles even though other uses are permitted pursuant to subsection D or are otherwise permitted by state or local authorities.

D. A person shall not operate, stop, park or leave standing a vehicle in a path or lane designated as a bicycle path or lane by a state or local authority except in the case of emergency or for crossing the path or lane to gain access to a public or private road or driveway.

E. Subsection D does not prohibit the use of the path or lane by the appropriate local authority.

28-816. Carrying article on bicycle

A person shall not carry a package, bundle or article while operating a bicycle if the package, bundle or article prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.

28-817. Bicycle equipment

A. A bicycle that is used at nighttime shall have a lamp on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear of a type that is approved by the department and that is visible

from all distances from 50 to 300 feet to the rear when the reflector is directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A bicycle may have a lamp that emits a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear in addition to the red reflector.

B. A person shall not operate a bicycle that is equipped with a siren or whistle.

C. A bicycle shall be equipped with a brake that enables the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

PIMA COUNTY BICYCLE LAWS

10.43.010 Requirement for helmet use.

No person under eighteen (18) years of age shall ride a bicycle or be a passenger on a bicycle, ride in a restraining seat attached to a bicycle, or ride in a trailer towed by a bicycle unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets the current standards of the American National Standards Institute for protective headgear. (Ord. 1995-12 § 1 (part), 1995)

10.43.030 Civil penalties.

Any person in violation of this chapter shall be found guilty of a civil infraction and be required to pay a minimum fine of $50 that cannot be suspended except pursuant to Section 10.43.040. (Ord. 1995-12 § 1 (part), 1995)

10.43.040 Waiver of fine.

The penalty provided in this section for a violation of Section10.43.010 may be waived if an offender presents purchased or otherwise obtained since the time of the violation and that the minor uses or intends to use said helmet whenever required to do so by this chapter. (Ord. 1995-12 § 1 (part),1995)

SEC. 5-1. Parking of bicycles.

It shall be unlawful to park a bicycle upon any public sidewalk or street in a manner that substantially impedes pedestrian or vehicular traffic or obstructs access to public or private facilities.

SEC. 5-2. Riding on sidewalks and pedestrian paths, and through underpasses.

A. It shall be unlawful to ride a bicycle on any public sidewalks, or upon a designated pedestrian path in any public park, unless signs are posted specifically permitting bicycling.

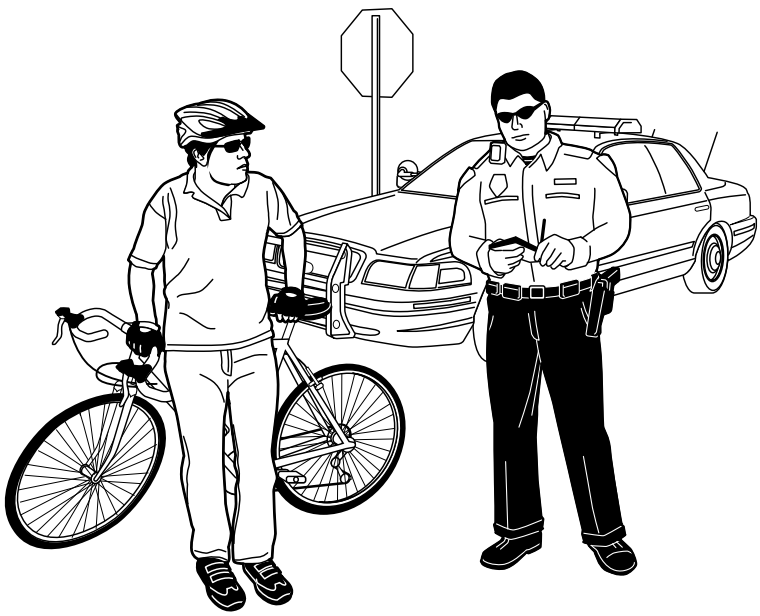
B. It shall be unlawful to ride a bicycle through any underpass when signs are posted prohibiting bicycling.

SEC. 20-29. (1). Bicycle helmets.

No person under eighteen (18) years of age shall ride a bicycle or be a passenger on a bicycle, ride in a restraining seat attached to a bicycle, or ride in a trailer towed by a bicycle unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet which meets the current standards of the American National Standards.

LOCAL TRAFFIC FINES

The following is a listing of selected laws and associated fines that apply to motorists and bicyclists. Fine amounts vary by jurisdiction.



Running stop signs

First offense, potential points against license or revoking of license (driver or cyclist). .....from $187 to $244

Running stop lights

First offense, potential points against license or revoking of license (driver or cyclist). .....from $283 to $335

Riding at night without a headlight and rear red reflector .....from $175 to $197

A rear, red taillight in addition to the rear reflector is permitted by law and is recommended.

Riding on a sidewalk

City of Tucson only.....$91

Riding on the wrong side of the roadway
Against the flow of traffic .....from $118 to $197

Failure to yield
By driver to a cyclist or pedestrian .....from $187 to $244

Failure to wear bicycle helmet
By a child under age of 18.....from $116 to $127

Unsafe passing of a bicyclist
By a driver.....from $202 to $1,920

Bicycling more than two abreast....from $118 to $197

Speeding in a school zone
By a driver or a cyclist .....from $293 to $657

Failure by driver or cyclist to yield to pedestrian in school crossing .....from $293 to $657

Driver stopping, standing or parking in bike lane or paved shoulder.....from $118 to $225

Bicyclist operating a motorized bicycle at 20 mph or higher .....from $175 to $1,263

LOCAL TRAFFIC FINES

The preceding section is a listing of relevant Arizona, Pima County and City of Tucson laws as of January 2016. Additional civil and criminal traffic laws may apply to bicyclists, motorists and pedestrians throughout Arizona.

This booklet does not constitute a legal standard. Refer to Arizona Revised Statutes and to local traffic ordinances.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Local governments and programs for cyclists:

Marana Bicycle Coordinator 382-2612

Oro Valley Bicycle Coordinator 229-5057

Pima Assoc. of Gov'ts Bicycle Coordinator 792-1093

Pima County Bicycle & Pedestrian Program 724-BIKE

Sahuarita Bicycle Coordinator 822-8824

South Tucson Bicycle Coordinator 792-2424

Tucson Bicycle and Pedestrian Program 791-4371

Tucson-Pima County
Bicycle Advisory Committee 724-BIKE

Report road maintenance needs to:

Arizona DOT Street Maintenance 388-4200

Marana Streets Department..... 382-2500

Oro Valley Street Maintenance 229-5070

Pima County Street Maintenance..... 724-2639

Sahuarita Public Works 344-7100

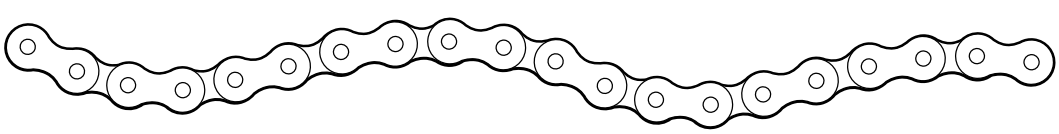
South Tucson Public Works 792-2424

Tucson Street Maintenance 791-3154

Tucson Police Road Rage Hotline 235-RAGE (7243)
To report aggressive drivers.

Six ways to make bike commuting easier!

1. **Pick the bike that's right for your ride.** Mountain bikes were designed for the dirt and are much slower than road bikes or hybrids.
2. **Drive to work on Monday** with a week's worth of clothing. You can fight wrinkles and lighten your load.
3. **Use the bike racks on city buses** to shorten your ride and give you a bailout on rainy days.
4. **Got light?** You need a bright headlight and at least one red flasher on the back. You may get stuck at work or school later than you planned. It's a $197 ticket if you're caught riding at night without a light.
5. **Pick a good route.** Major streets can be intimidating for newer riders. Try different routes through neighborhoods and on paths.
6. **Ride flat free.** There are many products to help you fight flats, including tire sealant, tire liners and puncture resistant tires.



Bike Classes for Everyone!

We have classes for all types of riders, from beginners to racers.

You'll get Biker Bucks good for a free helmet, free front and rear bike lights, a free multi-tool and a free bicycle U- lock.

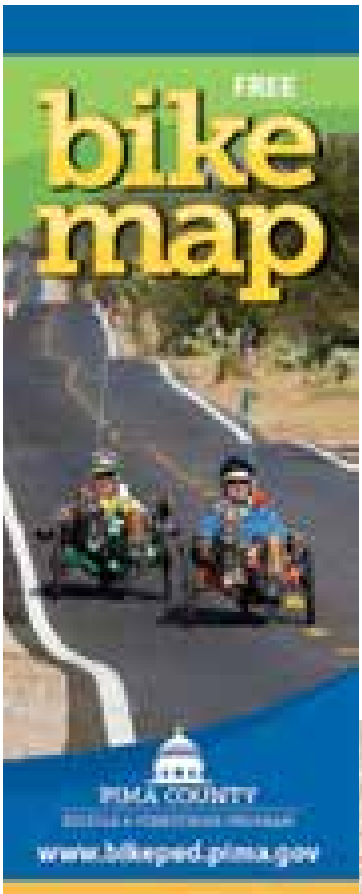
Call 724-BIKE to learn more or to sign-up.

Visit www.BikePed.pima.gov

PIMA COUNTY
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

Sponsored by the Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Find your way!



with the new

Pima County Regional Bike Map

Includes Eastern Pima County, Marana, Oro Valley, Sahuarita, South Tucson and Tucson.

Available FREE at local bike shops or online at

www.bikeped.pima.gov

tucson-pima county

BAC

bicycle advisory committee

Our Vision

Our vision is to have safe and viable bicycling across our diverse community.

Our Mission

The Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee serves in an advisory capacity to local governments on issues relating to bicycle recreation, transportation and safety.

To get involved, call **724-BIKE** *or visit us at:*

www.BikeTucson.Pima.gov

PIMA COUNTY

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

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U.S.Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

PIMA COUNTY
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

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County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry

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