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Sharing the Road: Tips for Georgia's Motorists on Driving Near Cyclists

For transportation, recreation, and fitness, more and more Georgians are riding bicycles on the public streets and roads. Cars and bikes can easily and safely share the road. Motorists just need to know a few important points and follow a few simple guidelines to ensure the safety of all of Georgia's road users:

1. **Bicycles are vehicles.** In Georgia, bicycles are recognized as "vehicles" by law and have the same rights to use public streets and roads that motor vehicles do. Bicycles must abide by the same traffic laws as motor vehicles.
2. **Bicycle riding is not allowed on sidewalks.** Unless a cyclist is under the age of 12, he or she is not allowed to ride on the sidewalk. Not only is sidewalk riding illegal, it's also much more dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. Expect cyclists to be on the road where they belong.
3. **Give 3 Feet 2 Pass.** A new law in Georgia requires a motorist passing a cyclist to provide *at least* a three feet buffer between their vehicle and the cyclist. "Buzzing" a cyclist, or passing too closely, can result in a serious, potentially fatal crash for the cyclist. If it's not safe to pass, *don't pass!*
4. **Bikes have the right of way in bike lanes.** Never use a bike lane to pass another vehicle, don't use them as a parking space, and always yield to cyclists, just as you would for pedestrians.
5. **Make turns carefully.** The number one cause of daytime bike accidents is failure to yield to a bicyclist when turning. If you approach an intersection with a cyclist on your right, assume they are traveling straight through unless they signal otherwise. Yield to them before turning right. Likewise, if you're turning left and a cyclist is traveling toward you in the oncoming lane, be sure to yield before completing your turn. Bicycles can be surprisingly fast and it is often difficult for motorists to accurately judge a bicycle's speed.
6. **Watch for Cyclists in Low Light Conditions.** Compared to a car, a bicycle is much smaller and more difficult to see. This is especially true in low light conditions and at night.