

BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

DRIVING SAFELY WITH BIKE RIDERS



Be Alert Be Predictable Be Courteous

Helping cyclists and drivers to share the road safely is something that everybody wants.

That's why WestCycle and the Government of Western Australia (Road Trauma Trust Account) have got together to produce a series of easy-to-read 'Best Practice' guides.

This particular guide is aimed at **people who drive**. It's to help them/you understand why people do certain things when they are riding a bike and how to drive safely with/around them.

There are two more guides. One for people riding on their own and another for people riding in groups.

Together, these guides show how we can help to make our paths, roads and communities safer places for all.



WHAT PEOPLE RIDING BIKES ARE LEGALLY ALLOWED TO DO

Ride two abreast

- Riding two abreast (side by side) makes people on bikes more visible and shortens the length of the group.
- Groups are advised to change to single file when the road narrows, when going uphill, or if traffic is building up behind.
- Groups riding two abreast are allowed to pass, or be passed by, another person or group riding a bike where it is safe to do so.

Use the whole lane

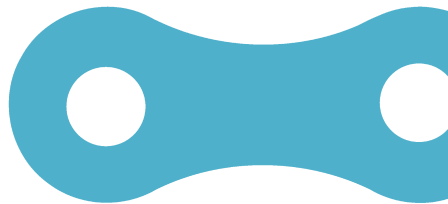
- People on bikes should normally ride on the left of the lane so vehicles can pass.
- Riders may choose the middle of the lane if road conditions make it unsafe for vehicles to 'squeeze' past, eg: approaching a roundabout when the bike lane finishes.

Ride out from the gutter

- This helps riders avoid things like drains, debris and parked cars. It also makes them more predictable, since they are not weaving in and out.

Ride on paths

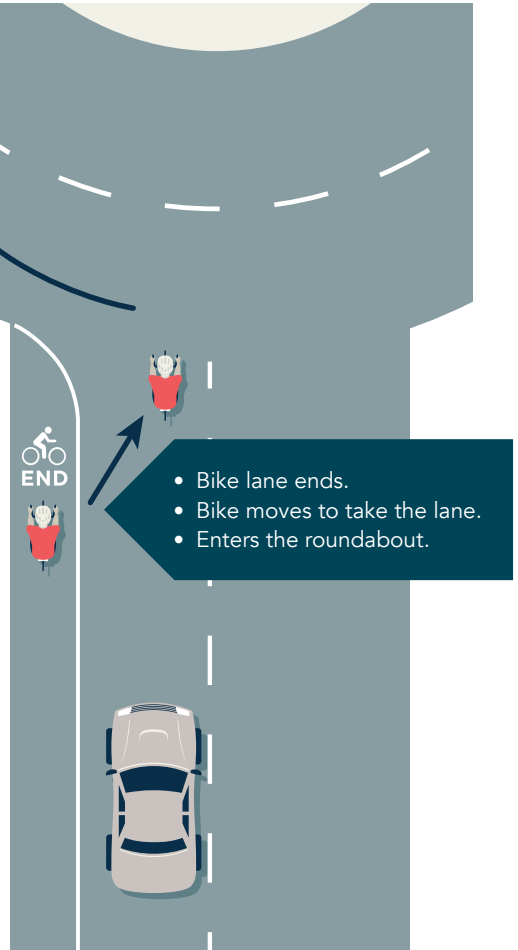
- Riders are allowed to use both footpaths and shared paths.
- Pedestrians always have right of way.
- Riders must always be single file when on paths and should adjust their speed to the conditions.



BE ALERT

Look out for people on bikes at intersections and roundabouts

- Always check your blind spots.
- If someone is coming, wait for them to pass – and nod or smile to let them know you've seen them.
- If a person on a bike is ahead and you want to turn left, indicate and then wait to turn after they have passed the intersection.
- Always give way to people on bikes if you are turning across a bike lane.
- When approaching roundabouts, look out for riders moving into the middle of the lane. Slow down, be patient, and allow them to move out. Don't try to squeeze past or overtake them.
- When joining a roundabout, double check for riders coming from the right, and wait for them to pass.



Check for people on bikes before opening your doors or pulling out of driveways or parking spaces



BE PREDICTABLE

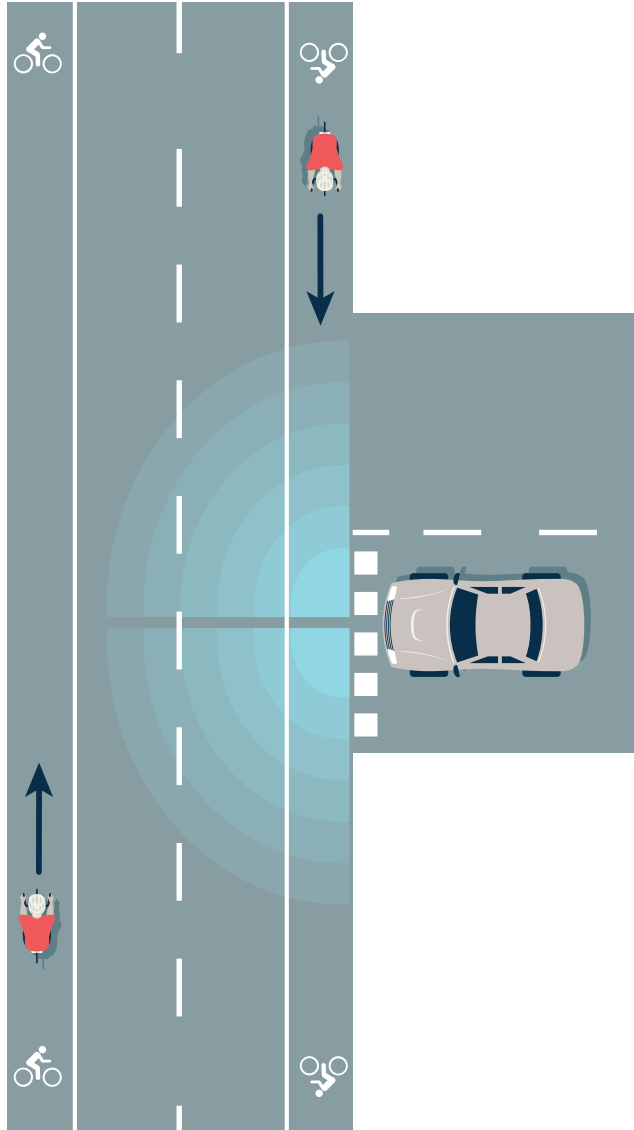
Indicate well before turning out, changing lanes or turning

- Let others know what you are planning to do by indicating well in advance. This will give them more time to react.

Drive consistently and avoid sudden stops

- Avoid speeding up or slowing down for no reason, since this will make it difficult for riders to predict your actions.

Check for oncoming bikes regardless of who has the right of way.



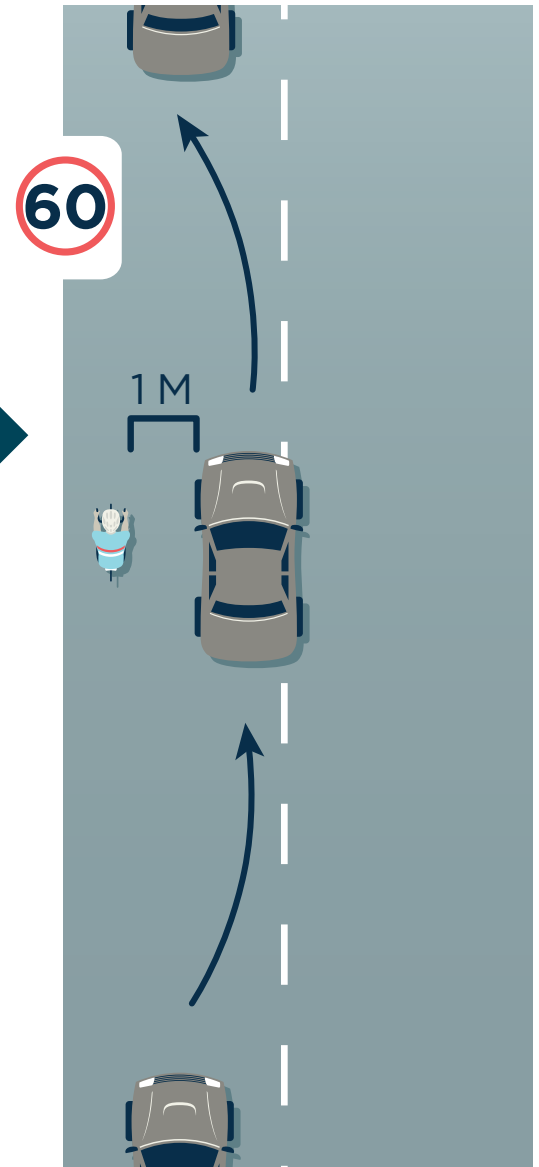
BE COURTEOUS

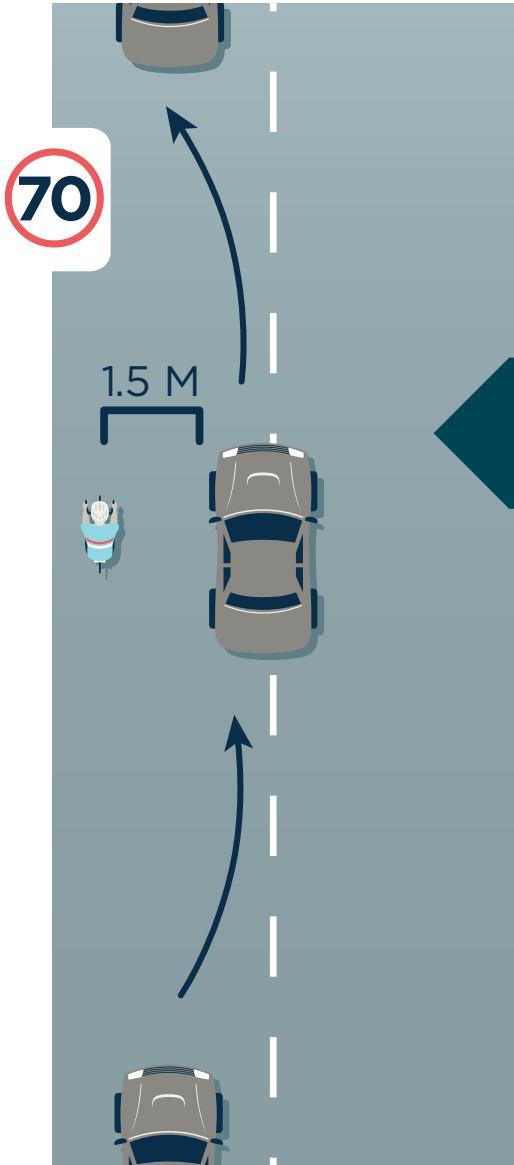
Only pass when it is safe

- This means when you have a clear view of the road ahead and there is enough room to pass safely.
- Always give appropriate space for the speed you are travelling – at least 1m when the speed limit is less than 60km and at least 1.5m when it is more than 60km.

At 60km/hr leave at least a metre, making sure you are well clear of the rider before moving back in.

- If you can't leave enough space, slow down and wait until it is safe to do so.
- Make sure you are well clear before moving back in. Remember, it will take you longer to pass if you're towing a trailer or caravan.
- Check for people on bikes before opening your doors or pulling out of driveways or parking spaces.

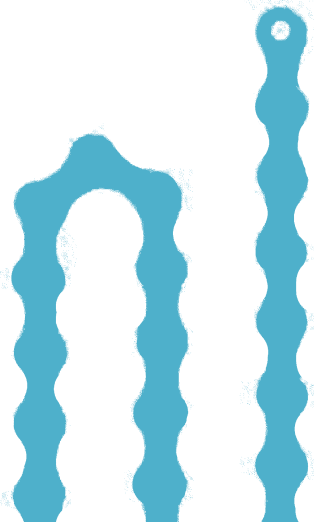




Say thanks to people doing the right thing

- Always give them a nod, a wave, a thumbs-up or a smile.
- If you do see bad behaviour, stay calm and report it to the police.

Above 60km/hr leave at least a metre and a half, making sure you are well clear of the rider before moving back in.



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Other guides in this series:

Riding safely on your own

Riding safely in a group

