

CYCLING SAFETY IN ELGIN ST. THOMAS

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The Elgin St. Thomas Cycling Master Plan is coming to life with a variety of new cycling features, such as bike lanes and new signs, popping up across the County and within the City. Take a look inside for information on what the new signs and road markings mean and how to safely use these new cycling features! Check out the website for a map of the new cycling routes.

www.activeelgin.ca



SHARE THE ROAD

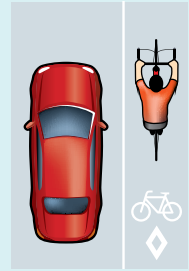
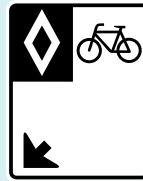
Elgin-St. Thomas is a Share the Road community. Bicycles are vehicles under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, with the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles.

Same Road, Same Rules, Same Rights

Dedicated Bike Lanes

Bike lanes are marked lanes on a roadway to be used by cyclists only.

- Cyclists do not have to ride within bike lanes, and may ride outside the lane (to avoid hazards, pass slower cyclists, turn) after yielding to motor vehicles in the vehicle lane
- Drivers cannot park in a bike lane
- Drivers must yield to cyclists in bike lanes at intersections and when passing



Bike Lane

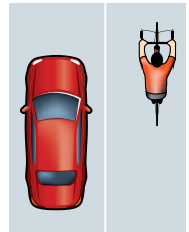
Signed Bicycle Routes

Bicycle Route Marker signs provide route guidance on shared roadways within a bikeway network.

- Drivers and cyclists share the same lane

Signed Routes with Edge Lines

- Edge lines show a shared roadway; this gives cyclists space outside of the roadway to ride



Shared Route with Edge Line

Non-Signed Roads

Remember that ALL roadways are shared roadways for cyclists and drivers, even if there are no signs posted.

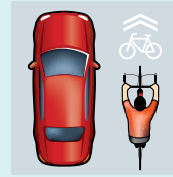
- Bicycles may be on the road in all seasons
- Cyclists should ride to the right of the driving lane, one metre from the curb and parked cars (to avoid doors opening), in a single-file line
- Cyclists may enter the driving lane to avoid hazards or to make a left-hand turn
- Drivers must leave at least one meter when passing a bicycle - it's the law!
- Drivers should always do an over-the-shoulder check for bicycles when turning right and opening their door when parked
- Cyclists must follow all traffic laws, including pavement markings, signs and signals

Shared Use Lanes

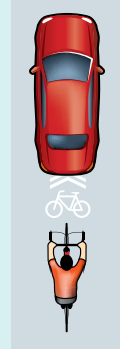
Shared Use Lane Markings, or 'sharrows', show drivers and cyclists the correct line of travel for cyclists.

Share the Road signs appear where shared use lanes are wide enough for cyclists to ride beside drivers, and sharrows appear near the curb.

Single File signs appear where shared use lanes are too narrow for cyclists to ride beside drivers, and sharrows appear in the centre of the lane.



Shared Use Lane with Sharrows



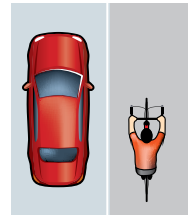
Single File Shared Use Lane



Paved Shoulders

Paved shoulders create a buffer zone to provide separation between drivers and cyclists travelling in the same direction on rural roads.

- Paved shoulders also make room for stopped vehicles, emergency use, and pedestrians



Multi-Use Trails

Multi-Use Trails may be used by both pedestrians and cyclists.

- Pedestrians have the right of way
- Use your bell or horn when passing



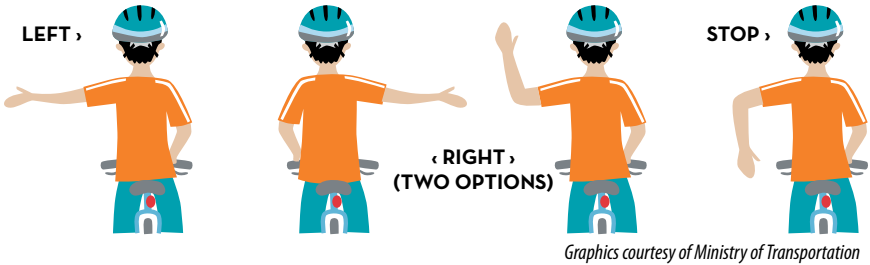
Sidewalks and Pedestrians

Sidewalks and crosswalks are only for pedestrians.

- Cyclists must get off of and walk their bicycle across when using crosswalks
- Children (those with bicycle wheel diameters under 510mm/20") are allowed to ride their bicycles on sidewalks, but should watch for pedestrians, driveways and intersections

CYCLING SAFETY INFORMATION

Proper Hand Signals For Turning



Make your Bike Safe & Legal

- **Helmets** must be worn by all cyclists under the age of 18 (**\$80 fine**), and are strongly recommended for all ages; parents or guardians should not knowingly allow cyclists under 16 to ride without a helmet
- All bikes must have a **white front light and red back light or reflector** when you ride between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise (**\$110 fine**)
- All bikes must have **white reflective strips on the front forks and red reflective strips on the rear stays**
- All bikes must have a working **bell or horn** to let cars and pedestrians know you're there (**\$110 fine**)
- Riders should wear **bright and/or reflective clothing** when cycling at night

Other Fines

- **Cycling within a crosswalk:** Cyclists must walk their bike when using a crosswalk (**\$110**)
- **Not stopping for traffic signals and signs:** Cyclists must stop for red lights and stop signs and follow all other signs (**\$110-\$325**)
- **Dooring cyclists:** Drivers must check to make sure there are no cyclists before opening their door (**\$365**)
- **1-metre passing:** Drivers must leave a one-metre distance where possible when passing cyclists (**\$110 and 2 demerit points**)