

Give Respect, Get Respect.

Share the Road, Connecticut.



Common sense road rules
for pedestrians, drivers
and cyclists.



Everybody should feel safe using Connecticut's roads. Connecticut's roads are traveled by walkers, runners and cyclists who are welcome and expected to use the roads for transportation, fitness and recreation.

With common courtesy, common sense, and respect for the rules to share the road, Connecticut's roads can be safer for everyone. Please do your part whether you're driving, cycling, walking or running.



For Pedestrians

Be aware. Watch for cars that are turning, at driveways, or backing up. Never assume a driver sees you or will stop or slow down at an intersection. Make eye contact with drivers before crossing to make sure they see you.

Use sidewalks. Sidewalks are for your safety. Walk on sidewalks whenever they're available.

No sidewalk? Walk facing traffic. If there's no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic and as far from traffic as possible. Be careful at the crest of hills and at curves where visibility is limited. Walk along the outside of sharp curves, regardless of traffic direction. Cross the road a safe distance from the curve, walk through the outer curve, and cross back again at a safe distance.

Use crosswalks and obey crosswalk signals. Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible. Don't cross mid-block or diagonally across the intersection unless authorized by a police officer or traffic signal.

No crosswalk? Yield to traffic. Pedestrians walking outside a marked or unmarked crosswalk must yield to all other traffic when they cross. If there's no crosswalk nearby, cross in a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Look left, right, and left again. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely.

Be alert. Don't be distracted by devices that take your eyes and ears off the road, especially at intersections. Distracted walking is dangerous walking. Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking.



Be visible. Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars or other obstacles, as well as poorly lit areas before crossing the street.

Wear bright, reflective clothing. Wear bright clothes during the day and reflective materials at night and when visibility is low. Use a flashlight to be seen at night.



Runners are pedestrians too. Like walkers, runners should run against traffic, cross at crosswalks whenever available, and obey crosswalk signals. Wear bright, reflective clothes so drivers can see you.

For Cyclists



Cyclists who follow the rules of the road are visible, predictable, safer, and earn respect from other road users. Be a good ambassador for cycling and use these rules to share the road in Connecticut.

Follow the rules of the road. Obey stop signs and traffic signals. Always ride on the right in the direction of traffic. Riding on sidewalks is prohibited in many Connecticut towns.

Ride as far to the right as is safe. If there's no bike lane, ride in the travel lane when necessary for your safety. The extreme right edge of the road isn't always the safest place to ride. Riding in the travel lane makes it easier for drivers to see you, reduces the chance that a driver may pass too close, and may be necessary to avoid hazards.



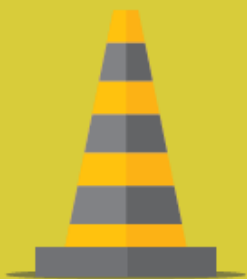
Be visible. Always ride with lights at night. Wear bright clothes during the day and reflective materials at night and when visibility is low. Reflectors aren't enough for safe riding at night or in dim conditions. For night riding, Connecticut requires a headlight visible from at least 500 feet and a red tail light visible from 600 feet.

Be predictable. Ride in a straight, predictable manner. Don't weave, swerve, or stop suddenly. Scan ahead for drains, potholes, debris, or railroad tracks. Give yourself time to go around them safely. In slick or sandy conditions, give yourself extra distance to stop.



Signal all turns. Use proper hand signals in advance to tell others where you are going. Look, signal, and look back again when you turn or change lanes. At intersections, choose the lane with the arrow pointing where you want to go.

Ride single file in traffic. You may ride two abreast if traffic can pass you safely. Common courtesy usually requires riding single file in traffic, except when passing others.



Stay out of the “door zone.” Ride 3-4 feet away from parked cars so you don’t get hit by an opening car door.

Alert others that you’re approaching or passing. Use a bell or call ahead with a friendly greeting, such as “passing on your left.” Allow plenty of space when passing others. Cyclists must yield to pedestrians in or at crosswalks.

Don’t ride distracted. Distracted riding is dangerous riding. Wait to use your cellphone until you’re off the road. Riding with headphones is unsafe if you’re distracted and can’t hear other road users.

Wear a helmet correctly on every ride. Wear a helmet on every ride to help prevent head injury. Helmets work only if you wear them correctly. Your helmet should be level (not tilted up or down), snug, with the chin strap buckled.





For Drivers

Please slow down. Obey all speed limits. A pedestrian hit by a car going 40 mph has an 85% chance of being killed. At 20 mph the risk is 5%. Drive at a speed that's safe for all.

Expect cyclists, walkers, runners and others on the road. Watch for pedestrians and cyclists everywhere. Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers. Riding on sidewalks is prohibited in many Connecticut towns.



Come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights.

Signal your turns and look both ways before changing lanes, turning, and at driveways.

Expect the unexpected around curves and over hills where visibility ahead is limited.

Yield to pedestrians at or in any crosswalk. It's the law since 1978. Every intersection is a crosswalk, even if it's not marked. "Yield" means slow down or stop. Stop well back from the crosswalk so other drivers can see the pedestrians crossing. Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk.

Let cyclists ride as far to the right as is safe. Cyclists should ride as far to the right as they judge to be safe. Give them space to avoid hazards like potholes, debris and drain grates.

Expect cyclists in the travel lane. Cyclists may ride in or near the middle of the travel lane when it's not safe to ride on the far right side of the road. Cyclists should ride in the travel lane to avoid hazards and when the road is too narrow for cars and bikes to proceed safely side by side.

Pass with care. Give cyclists at least 3 feet. It's the law since 2008. Keep at least 3 feet of space between your vehicle and a cyclist. You may cross the center line to pass a cyclist if it's safe. Don't blast your horn when approaching cyclists; startling them could cause an accident. Don't pass a cyclist if you're immediately turning right; you may cause a crash. Before moving back in your lane, make sure you won't cut the cyclist off.



Be vigilant at intersections. For left turns, yield to oncoming cyclists. For right turns, always check for cyclists behind you to avoid cutting them off. Assume cyclists are traveling straight unless they signal otherwise or are in a turn lane.

Mind the door zone. Check for approaching cyclists before opening your car door so you don't hit them. Opening the door with your right hand helps you look over your left shoulder for cyclists.

Avoid distracted driving, aggressive driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

2014 Vulnerable User Law mandates a \$1000 fine. Connecticut requires a fine of up to \$1000 on careless drivers who cause the death or serious injury of a pedestrian, cyclist or other vulnerable road user who used reasonable care.

Other great sources of information:

**Connecticut Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Board**

ctbikepedboard.org

**Connecticut Department
of Economic Development**

ct.gov/ecd

**Connecticut Department
of Motor Vehicles**

ct.gov/dmv

**Connecticut Department
of Public Health**

ct.gov/dph

**Connecticut Department
of Transportation**

ct.gov/dot/bikeped
sharetheroadct.org

**Connecticut Office
of Tourism**

ct.gov/cct



Bike Walk Connecticut

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