

## TIPS FOR SAFE BUS OPERATION AROUND BICYCLISTS

**Bicycles will be on the roads more now with the warmer weather. These tips for bus operators will help you and bicyclists share the road safely.**

- Bicyclists are less visible, and don't have a crumple zone around them. A mistake by you or the bicyclist can result in injury or death. **Always watch for bicyclists.**
- **Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities** on the road as drivers of motor vehicles (CGS 14-286a).
- **Experienced bicyclists often ride 25-30mph. Avoid the dangerous tendency to assume that they always move slowly enough to pass.** Pass only if there is plenty of width in the road to do so safely, and the bicyclist is traveling slowly enough to pass. Remember not to pull in front of the bicyclist until you make sure you have allowed plenty of space.
- **Do not pass a bicyclist if you will be making a right turn immediately afterward.** This is prohibited by state law CGS 14-242 if the bicyclist must avoid the turning vehicle.
- **As always, consistently signal in advance when pulling over or pulling away from the curb** so following bicyclists have time to react. Be aware of the potential speed of bicyclists when you pull back into traffic from the curb. The narrow tires on a bicycle could cause a dangerous loss of control if the bicyclist is forced into an abrupt maneuver, even on dry roads.
- **In bad weather give bicyclists extra trailing and passing room** just as you would with motorists.
- **Give bicyclists adequate room** in case they have to avoid potholes, debris or opening car doors that would be unnoticed by a motor vehicle.
- **Where lanes are too narrow** for vehicles and bicycles to ride safely side by side, **it is safer for bicyclists to ride near the middle of the travel lane.** Please recognize that they are riding that way for safety.
- **CT Transit buses are quiet**, bicyclists may not hear you coming up behind. Please leave plenty of following room.
- **If crossing a bike lane to reach the curb, look for bicyclists traveling in the bike lane.** The bicyclist has the right of way in this situation.
- State law (CGS 14-300d) puts the burden on the motorist to **exercise due care** to avoid collisions with bicyclists.

**THANKS for using these defensive driving tips for safely sharing the road with bicyclists.**



Prepared by the Central CT Bicycle Alliance ([www.wecyclelect.org](http://www.wecyclelect.org)), a regional non-profit bicycle advocacy group that promotes biking as an environmentally friendly and healthful means of transportation.