

Biking Safely on the Streets of Syracuse

A Cycling Connection's how to.

Basics

- Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities on the road as motorists

Follow traffic laws, know your rights, assert your right of way.

- Bike as though you're invisible to motorists

It's your job to make motorists and pedestrians see you, assume they can't unless you make them.

- Wear a helmet

63-88% reduction in head injuries, fatality 4.3x more likely without one.

- All senses on high alert

Minimize distractions, no cell phones, no headphones.

- Prevent friction between motorists and bicyclists

If you abide by traffic laws and bike safely, traveling on roads will be easier and safer for everyone involved.

Signals

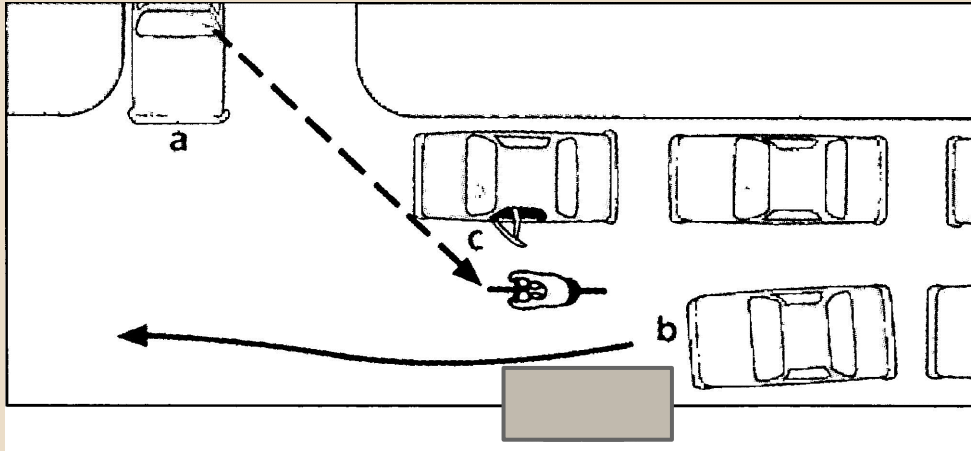
- Left, Right, and Stopping
- Look over your left shoulder
- Pedaling
 - When to stop or keep going

Always be ready to brake

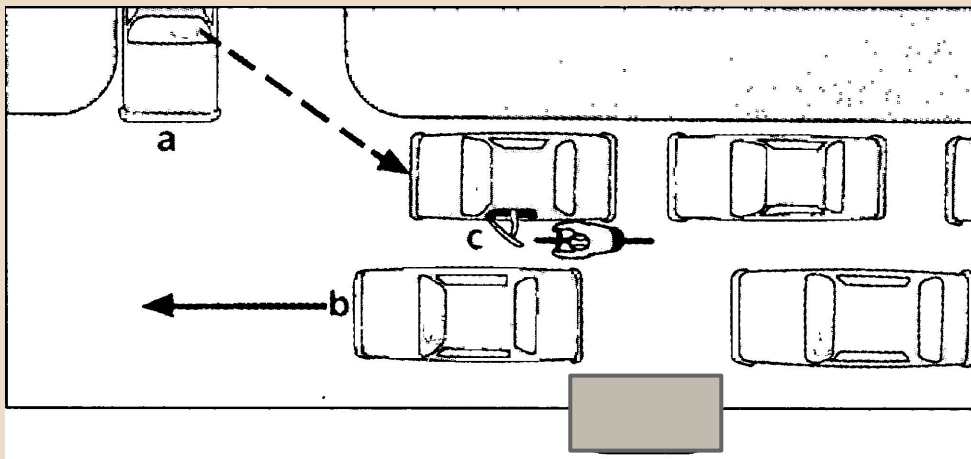
Entering traffic

- Side streets, driveways, alleys, narrow spaces
- Enter from center of road
 - Provides maximum visibility from pedestrians and motorists
- Make eye contact if possible

Where to Ride

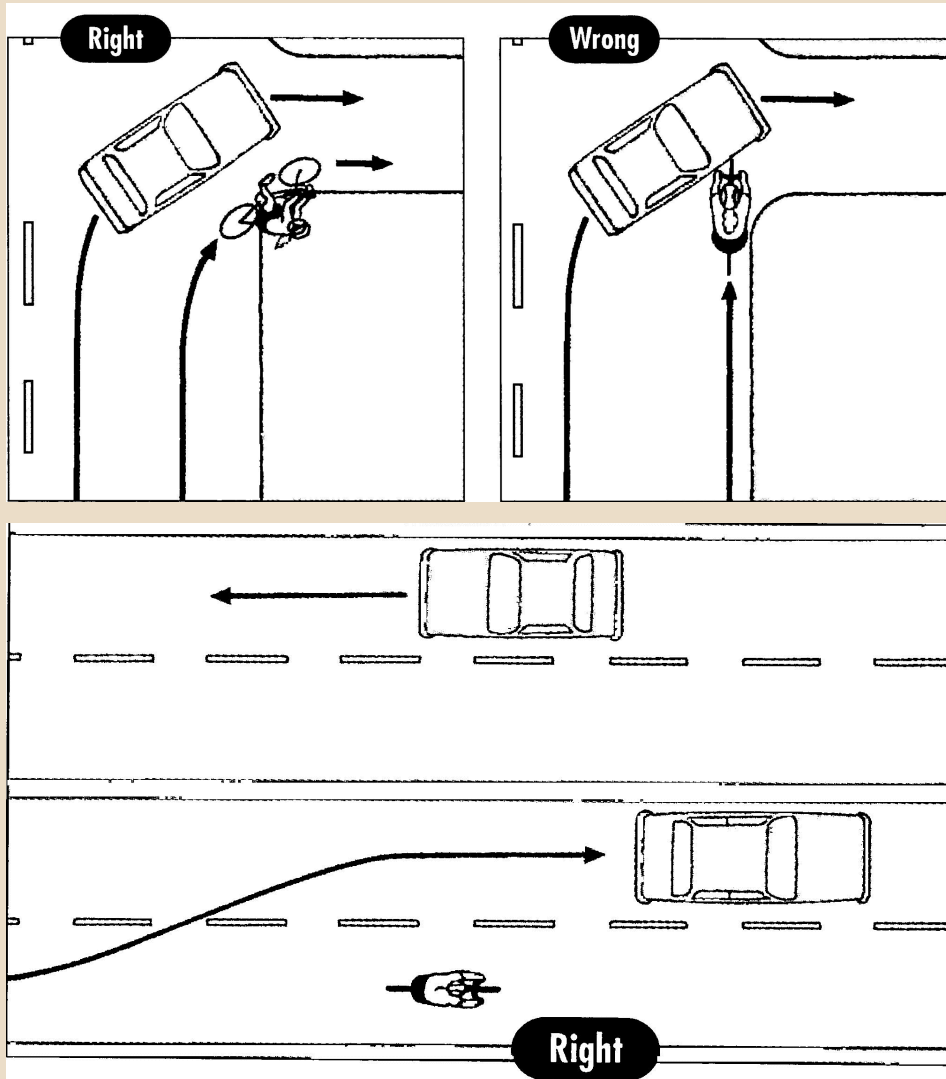


- VISIBILITY (!!!)
- Right side of the road, take up space in the traffic lane



- Stay in the road, don't swerve behind/in front of parked cars
- Euclid examples

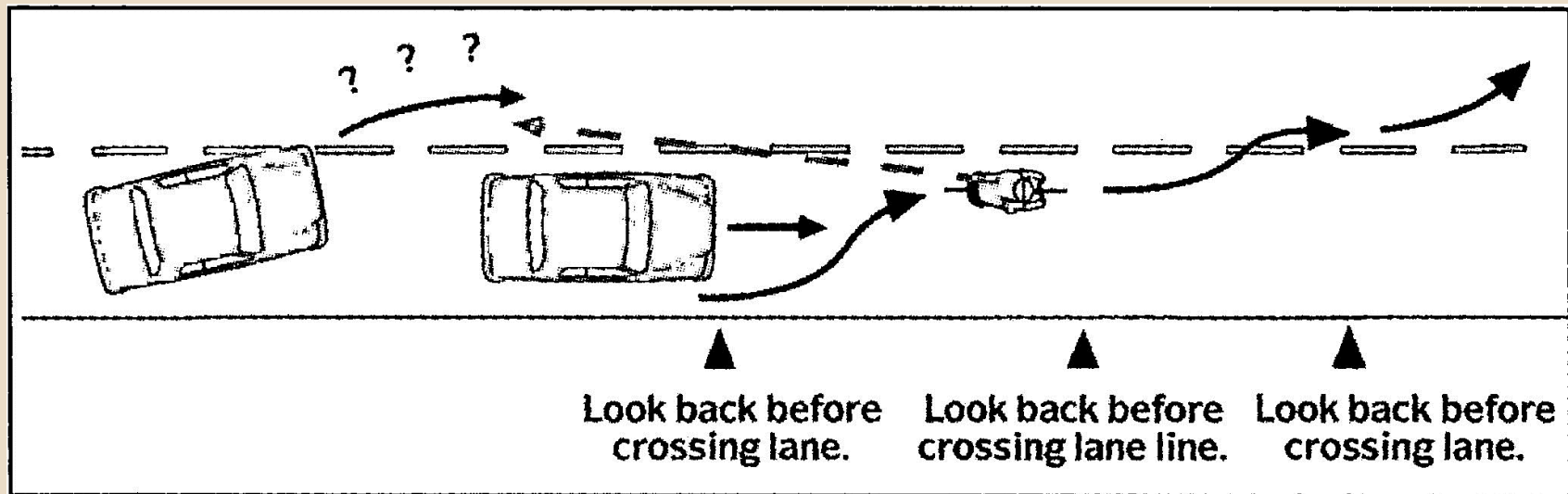
Where to Ride



- Allow yourself room to evade jerks.
- Assert your right to space on the road
- Be courteous

Where to ride

Crossing lanes, turning left



- Signal, signal, signal
- Be visible
 - stay in left side of lane
- Be courteous

Intersections

- Follow traffic laws

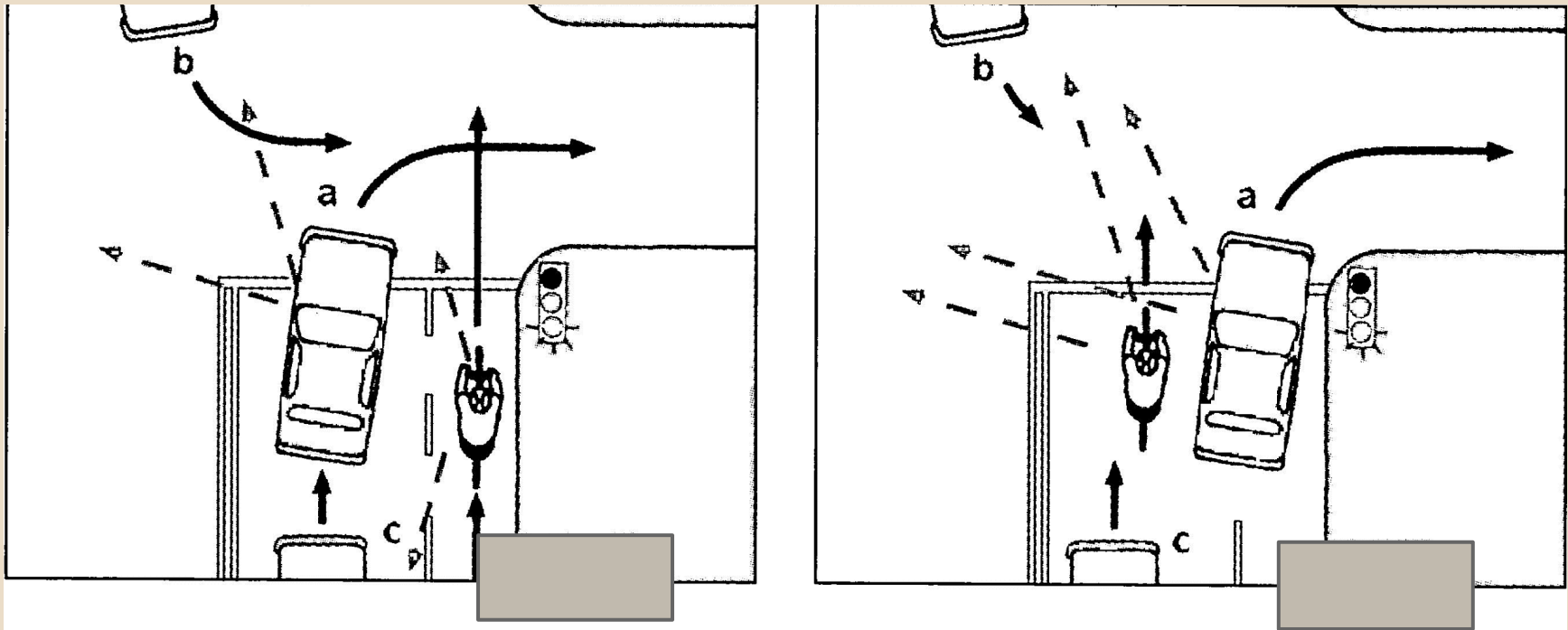
Lights, stop signs, right of way

- Right turns

Easy: look for oncoming traffic on your left, pedestrians on your right.

- Left turns

Tricky: signal, merge into the center of appropriate lane, stay to the left of traffic turning right.



Rules for intersections with bike lanes

Signal and leave bike lane (if turning left or riding straight through)

Assert right of way to oncoming traffic

Be ready to stop

Worst case scenario, brake hard and dodge the car

****This is why the green bike lanes are on the left side of the road and separated****

Night Riding

- Bikes must have a front light source, the rear can have either a reflectors or light.

Bike Share bikes have both, woohoo!

- There is a variety of lighting that is street-legal

Lights made specifically for bikes, a headlamp, flashlight strapped to the handlebars.

Illustrations from Bicycling Street Smarts
Allen, John S. *Bicycling Street Smarts: Riding Confidently, Legally and Safely*.
Cambridge, MA: Rubel BikeMaps, 2001. Print.