

Understanding

Motorist/Bicyclist Crashes in Royal Oak



The City of Royal Oak is committed to making its roadways safe for motorists and bicyclists

In 2015, there were 26 crashes in Royal Oak that involved bicyclists.

Fortunately, none of the crashes in Royal Oak resulted in a fatality and there was only one incident in which the bicyclist suffered an incapacitating injury.

More than half of motorist/bicyclist crashes in Royal Oak occurred in a crosswalk. In most cases, both the bicyclist and the motorist's actions contributed to the incident.

Drivers and bikers alike are legally required to follow Michigan law regarding traffic control areas. Drivers are obligated to stop for both bicyclists and pedestrians in crosswalks.

Bicyclists on the road must not pass vehicles stopped at crosswalks, as they may be allowing a pedestrian to cross the street. Individuals operating a bicycle in a crosswalk must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and should give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian. Biker must never travel at a speed faster than pedestrians in crosswalks.

Michigan.gov has excellent safety tips and resources for motorists and bicyclists.

Although the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code (MVC) does not require bicyclists to wear helmets, it strongly recommends wearing one, because it can prevent a vast majority of brain injuries.



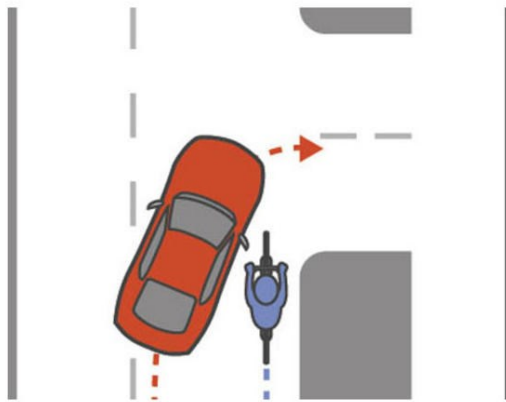
Unless explicitly prohibited, the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code permits bicycling on all roadways and sidewalks.

The 5 Most Common Bike/Car Collisions

Both motorists and bicyclists should take precautions on the road. To avoid conflicts, Bicycling.com recommends using caution in the following five situations:

Left Cross: A motorist fails to see a cyclist and makes a left turn—it accounts for almost half of all bike-car crashes, according to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC).

Right Hook: A motorist passes a cyclist on the left and turns right into the bike's path.



Avoid the Right Hook

Motorists should always be particularly cautious when making a right turn that passes a crosswalk. Remember, drivers are never allowed to travel in a bike lane—even to make a right turn.

Bicyclists should also exercise caution and assume a car that passes you may intend to make a right.

Doored: A cyclist traveling next to parked cars lined up on the street strikes a car door opened by the driver.

Driveway Conflicts : A motorist exits a driveway or parking lot into the path of a bicyclist. This could occur on both roadways and sidewalks. Drivers are required by law to stop at a sidewalk and look both ways.

The Overtaking: A motorist hits a cyclist from behind. Bicyclists should try to be as visible as possible and ride predictably to avoid being hit by drivers.

Crash Facts

Bicyclists are involved in less than 1 percent of all traffic crashes. Proportionally, they represent a greater number of fatalities than any other group of roadway users. This is why it is especially important for drivers to pass bicyclists at a safe distance and to always yield to them before making turns.

For more information, please visit romi.gov/rideon or call 248-246-3201.