On the Road of Life Together: Bicycle Safety in Driver’s Education & Defensive Driving

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Why We Need More Education & Awareness-Building

- Bicycle Fatalities Rising
- Majority during Rush Hour
- Average Age of Fatalities Rising

Table 1
Total Fatalities and Pedalcyclist Fatalities in Traffic Crashes, 2002–2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Fatalities</th>
<th>Pedalcyclist Fatalities</th>
<th>Percent of Total Fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>43,005</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>42,884</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>42,836</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>43,510</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>42,708</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>41,259</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>37,423</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>33,883</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>32,999</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>32,367</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Best Way to Stay Safe? **Separate Bike Tracks**

Also key to avoiding grid lock: **Multi-Modal Urban and Regional Transportation Planning for Separate Bike & Pedestrian Infrastructure**
23 Texas Safe Passing Cities
...and counting!

- Alamo
- Alton
- Austin
- Beaumont
- Brownsville
- Corpus Christi
- Denton
- Edinburg
- El Paso
- Fort Worth
- Harlingen
- Helotes
- Houston
- McAllen
- Mission
- New Braunfels
- Palmhurst
- Pharr
- Plano
- San Antonio
- San Juan
- San Marcos
- Weslaco
Bicycle Education in Texas

• Classes for K-12, Universities & Businesses
• League of American Bicyclists, League Cycling Instructor (LCI)
• Defensive Cycling Classes for Bicyclists’ ticket dismissal
• Safe Routes to Schools
What’s Taught

Texas Bicycle Laws

- Bicyclists have the rights and duties of other vehicles, cars and trucks
- Stop at stop signs and red lights
- Signal turns and stopping
- Ride to the right, in the same direction as traffic
- Cars are required to yield right-of-way to a bicycle
- Riding two abreast ok; don’t impede traffic
- One rider per seat
- One hand on handlebars
- Brakes capable of making the wheel skid
- White light on the front
- Red reflector or red light on the back

- How to Ride Safely
- Sharing the Road
- Bike Maintenance
- Safety Equipment
- Why Bike & Walk?
A person operating a bicycle has the rights and duties applicable to a driver operating a vehicle...
Rally for RESPECT
BECAUSE WE ALL WANT TO GET HOME SAFELY

I'll do my part to make the roads a safer place for both of us.

The Dialogue Begins
Bringing Bicycle Awareness to Driver’s Education & Defensive Driving

- 2011 Legislation Passed Calling for Questions on DPS Driving Test
- No current Texas legal mandate for Bicycle Awareness in the Instruction for Motorists
- Up to discretion of school owner or in-classroom teacher
Where to Grow Motorist Awareness

Programs of Organized Instruction

- Driver’s Education & Defensive Driving Courses
- Texas Department of Public Safety regulates Parent-taught Driver’s Education
- Texas Education Agency regulates online and in person Driver’s Education and Defensive Driving
- The requirements mirror each other

Curriculum

- DPS Handbook, Ch. 13 Limited bike info.
- Most Driver’s Ed Schools use TEA Region VI Book – 2 pp. on Bikes
- Drive Right -- 3 pp./800
- How to Drive – 2.5/1,000
In 1950 Disney Studios released a six-minute cartoon, MOTOR MANIA.
Focus Groups
- Traffic Safety Experts
- Law Enforcement
- Teens
- General Public with Motorists selected

Creative Team forming

Video Production Summer 2014

Launch Website with VIDEO September 2014
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