Motorist Laws & Safety Tips

- Motorists must yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk on the same half of the road or approaching from the opposite half of the road when within 10 feet of the motorist’s lane.

- Motorists may not block a crosswalk and must slow down for pedestrians.

- Motorists may not open a car door into the travel lane of a bicyclist or pedestrian.

- Motorists must yield to bicycles and pedestrians when turning left or right.

- Motorists may not cut off a bicycle after passing, or unsafely overtake a bicycle.

- Motorists may not unreasonably honk their horns at bicyclists or pedestrians.

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This project is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

EOPSS is committed to keeping the people of Massachusetts informed about critical public safety issues.

Visit http://www.mass.gov/eopss to learn more about pedestrian, bicycle, and moped safety.

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Bicycle Laws & Safety Tips

- Bicycles are allowed on all roadways, except limited access highways.
- Bicyclists must obey all of the same traffic laws as motorists, including stopping for red lights and stop signs, riding on the right side of the road, and yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Bicyclists, unlike motorists, may ride on the sidewalk outside of established business districts, pass on the right side of the roadway, and use hand signals to indicate their intentions to turn or stop.
- Bicycles are not required to keep to the right, use designated bike lanes, or ride single file.
- No child under the age of 1 may be carried on a bicycle. Children between 1 and 4 years of age, or weighing forty pounds or less, must be carried in a baby seat. Any child 16 years old or younger must wear a helmet, whether riding a bike or being carried as a passenger.
- From a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise, all bicycles must have a white light on the front and a red light or red reflector on the rear.
- Accidents involving bicycles must be reported to the police if there is personal injury and/or damage that exceeds $100.
- When riding on a roadway, bicycles must be treated like any other vehicle.
- For more information on bicycle laws in Massachusetts, visit http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/ under Chapter 85, Section 11B.

Pedestrian Laws & Safety Tips

- Pedestrians must obey all traffic control signals and the directions of police officers directing traffic.
- Traffic control signals:
  - “Walk” - pedestrians may proceed across the roadway.
  - Flashing “Don’t Walk” - no pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway, but any pedestrian who has partially completed crossing may continue.
  - Steady “Don’t Walk” - no pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway.
- Pedestrians must use crosswalks to cross a roadway if they are within 300 feet of one.
- Pedestrians must yield the right of way to funeral processions and authorized emergency vehicles, regardless of traffic control signs.
- For more information on pedestrians, contact the Department of Cambridge Community Development at http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd.

Moped Laws & Safety Tips

- A motorized bicycle (moped) may not be operated on any roadway by any person under 16 years of age, or at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour, regardless of the posted speed limit.
- A moped cannot be operated on any roadway by any person not possessing a valid driver’s license or learner’s permit.
- Every person operating a moped on a roadway is subject to the traffic laws and regulations of Massachusetts.
- Moped operators may keep to the right when passing a motor vehicle and must signal by hand their intention to turn or stop.
- Mopeds may be operated in bicycle lanes, but are not allowed on off-street recreational bike paths.
- Every person operating a moped or riding as a passenger must wear a helmet approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218.
- Mopeds must be registered if the moped’s motor is 50 cubic centimeters or less.
- A motorcycle license plate is required if the motor is over 50 cubic centimeters.
- For more information on laws relating to mopeds in Massachusetts, visit http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/ under Chapter 90, Section 1B.

Visit the Cambridge Police Department’s YouTube page at www.youtube.com/CambridgePolice for a Public Service Announcement with information about pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorist safety.