



TRAFFIC ALERT



Garry F. McCarthy, Superintendent of Police

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SAVE LIVES, ENFORCE BICYCLE SAFETY LAWS



Adult bicyclists must ride on the street with motorized traffic (MCC 9-52-020).

The City of Chicago is committed to making our City the most bicycle-friendly city in the United States. Mayor Emanuel encourages people to bike for transportation and has called for 100 miles of protected bike lanes during his first term. With more cyclists on Chicago's streets than ever before, some are biking for the first time in many years and don't know that the rules of the road apply to them. Meanwhile, many drivers are not used to seeing cyclists on the road, and are not aware of cyclists' rights on city streets.

In Chicago, 1,932 bike-related traffic crashes were reported in 2010. More than 95% of these incidents were injury crashes, and **5 bicyclists were killed**. Taking a moment of your time to verbally address someone's careless behavior can prevent a tragedy tomorrow. **Any person operating a motor vehicle or a bicycle carelessly or recklessly should be stopped and cited, or warned.**

CITY ORDINANCES PROTECT CYCLISTS

MCC 9-40-160 Motorists must exercise due care for bicyclists and pedestrians.

MCC 9-36-010 (c) Motorists must leave a safe clearance, a minimum of 3 feet, when passing bicyclists. On narrow streets motorists must slow until it is safe to change lanes and pass.

MCC 9-80-035 No person shall unsafely open a vehicle door into traffic. "Dooring" crashes are serious; a Chicago cyclist was killed in 2008 when hit by a car door and thrown in front of a moving vehicle.

MCC 9-16-020 (e), (f) Motorists must not turn to the left or to the right in front of a bicyclist at an intersection. Drivers must yield right of way to cyclists, the same as motor vehicles.

MCC 9-40-060 Driving, standing, or parking in bike lanes as well as standing, or parking in marked shared lanes forces bicyclists to merge with faster traffic.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**WATCH
TRAINING VIDEO
#V283**

**TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT
FOR BICYCLIST SAFETY**



Created for the Chicago Police Department by the Chicago Department of Transportation. Funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation – Division of Traffic Safety.

Be Safe

Be Courteous

Be Professional

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RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BICYCLISTS

Bicyclists have all the same rights and duties of motor vehicle drivers MCC 9-52-010 (a)

- Bicycles are permitted on all of Chicago's streets, except on expressways and Lake Shore Drive (MCC 9-52-020).
- Bicyclists must obey all traffic signs and signals (MCC 9-120-060).
- Bicyclists must use a headlamp and rear reflector or light when biking after dark (MCC 9-52-080).
- Bicyclists may ride in the center of a travel lane to avoid hazards, slower moving vehicles or when the lane is too narrow to travel safely next to motorized traffic (625 ILCS 5/11-1505 (a)).
- Bicyclists may turn left from the left turn lane (625 ILCS 5/11-1510, 625 ILCS 5/11-801).
- Bicyclists may ride in the left lane on a one-way street (625 ILCS 5/11-1505 (b)).
- Bicyclists age 12 and older must not bicycle on any sidewalk unless it is an officially marked bicycle route. (MCC 9-52-020 (b)).
- Bicyclists may not text or talk on a cell phone while riding unless utilizing a hands-free device (MCC 9-52-110).



Bicyclists are permitted on all streets in Chicago, with or without bike lanes (MCC 9-52-020)



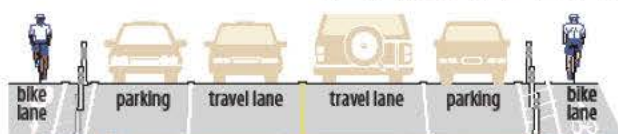
Motorists must look for approaching cyclists before opening vehicle doors (MCC 9-80-35)

REPORT "DOORING" CRASHES SEE GENERAL ORDER 98-01

A "dooring" occurs when a bicyclist is struck by an opening vehicle door, or collides with a door that opens so suddenly it cannot be avoided. These incidents can be very serious, and are common in urban areas. Motorists must check for cyclists and other traffic before they open vehicle doors. To avoid these incidents, cyclists are encouraged to ride at least three feet from parked cars.

The Department has a **specific procedure** for reporting "dooring" crashes. Follow the instructions in **General Order 98-01** any time you report one of these incidents.

PROTECTED BIKE LANES



- Chicago has over 170 miles of on-street bike facilities including two miles of protected bike lanes (pictured left).

- A protected bike lane is a bicycle facility that combines the environment of a separated bike path with the convenience and accessibility of an on-street bike lane.

- Protected bike lanes reduce the risk of a 'dooring' compared to a bike lane and eliminate the risk of a doored bicyclist being run over by a motor vehicle

- Motorists who drive, park or stand in on-street bike lanes, including protected bike lanes, should be cited under MCC 9-40-060.