Education for Bicyclists and Motorists

The following are three laws that many bicyclists unfortunately do not obey and three dangerous behaviors of many motorists. Send LVBC your additions for each of these categories.

Will you create some short public service announcements to be broadcast to educate bicyclists and motorists? Send them to president@bikelebanon.org.

**Bicyclists**

1. Some bicyclists ride on the left side of the road and face oncoming vehicles. Not only is this against the law, it is very dangerous. Motorists are not expecting bicycles to be coming toward them. A motorist may be turning with a bicyclist directly in his path. Riding on the wrong side of the road, bicyclists cannot read traffic signs. Bicycles are vehicles and must ride with all other vehicles on the right side of the roadway.

2. Some bicyclists do not obey traffic signals; they believe that they have looked carefully and don’t make complete stops at Stop signs and red lights before proceeding.

3. Some bicyclists do not have the legally required lights and reflectors on their bikes when bicycling at night.

**Motorists**

1. Some motorists turn right in front of a bicyclist who is traveling straight through the intersection. They “right hook” the bicyclist. Sometimes these motorists have not been paying adequate attention and have not even realized that there is bicyclist to their right. Others misjudge how fast a bicyclist is traveling.

2. Some motorists drive very close to bicyclists when overtaking them whether bicyclists are sharing the travel lane or on the shoulder. These motorists are not considering the possibility that the bicyclist may suddenly move to avoid a pothole or glass or hit road debris; that the motor vehicle may catch a bike’s mirror or saddlebag (pannier) and cause the cyclist to crash. The draft from a fast moving vehicle may pull a bicycle into the vehicle. Sadly, a few motorists intentionally pass a bicyclist as close as possible. Bullying is very dangerous.

3. Being “doored” is another potential danger for bicyclists where vehicles are parked on a road. If a driver or passenger begins to open the door of his vehicle, the bicyclist can’t stop fast enough. If the cyclist veers into the travel lane to avoid the door, he may be struck by an oncoming vehicle.

There are many more ways that bicyclists and motorists can respect each other and make it safer and easier for both to share the roads.