



Narrow lane control in downtown Ferguson

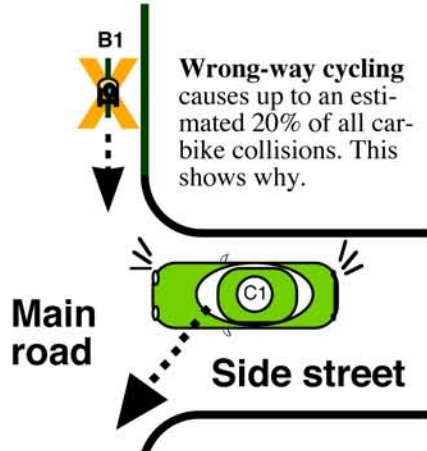
Sharing the Road: Five Basic Cycling Principles

“Bicyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.”

John Forester

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1. Drive on the Right



Wrong-way cycling causes up to an estimated 20% of all car-bike collisions. This shows why.

Bicyclist **B1** on the main road assumes the motorist ahead waiting to turn right will *yield*, but the *motorist* in car **C1** is checking to the *left* for traffic before turning right and may not see the cyclist until too late. As a *driver* a bicyclist should drive on the *right side* of the road *with* traffic, never on the left, and never on the sidewalk.

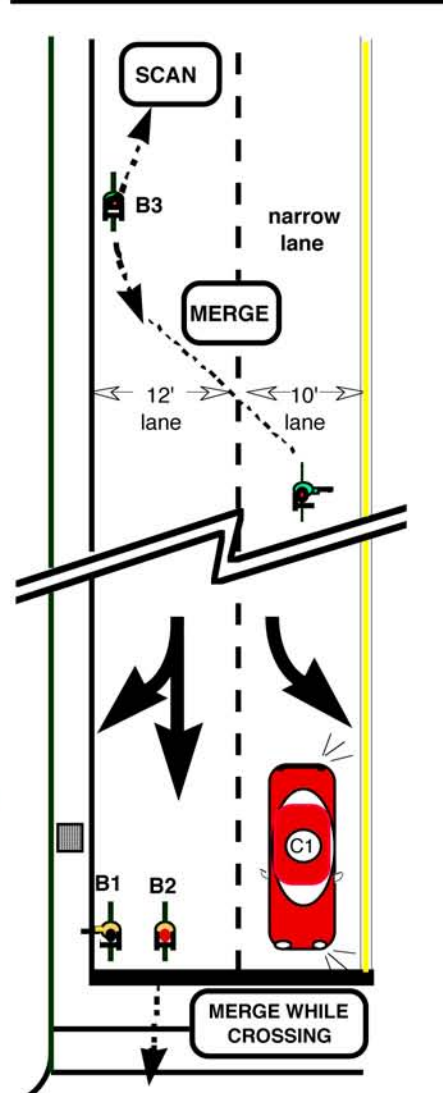
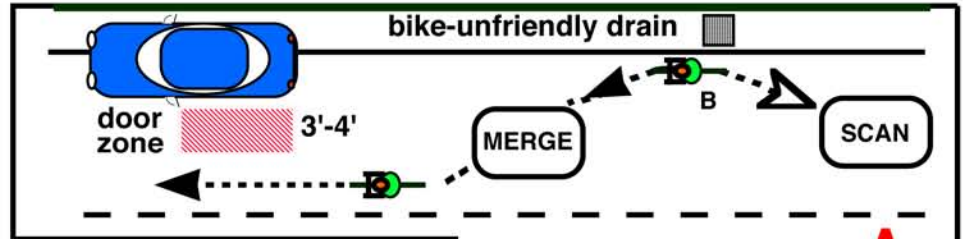
2. Intersection Positioning

When approaching an intersection, position yourself according to where you plan to go: **Right turners** on the *right*, **left-turners** on the *left* near the centerline, and **straight-through drivers** *between*.

B1 at the stop bar is going right so stays to the right in the outside (curb) lane.

B2 is going straight so waits in the center of the lane but merges right after restarting (if the opposite lane is wide enough to share, otherwise go straight across).

B3 is turning left so needs to merge into the left turn only (LTO) lane when there's a safe gap behind and in front. Since this LTO lane is narrow, B3 stays in the center of the lane to control it but merges right while making the turn to allow following cars to pass on the left.



3. Speed positioning

Between intersections, position yourself according to your speed relative to other traffic: parked vehicles at the curb; slower vehicles next to parked cars (avoiding the “door zone” - see figure above); faster vehicles near the centerline. When traveling as fast as other vehicles, **control the lane**.

4. Yield when Changing Lanes or Moving Sideways

Before changing lanes or moving/merging sideways on the road, yield to traffic in the new lane or line of travel. Yielding means checking in front and behind and waiting until a safe gap allows you to proceed.

5. Yield to Cross Traffic

At a more important or larger road than yours, yield to crossing traffic. Yielding means looking both right and left and waiting until there is a gap safe enough to allow you to continue. If your maneuver is going to take, say, 5 secs. to either cross the intersection or join the traffic stream the nearest vehicle must be at least 7-8 secs. away from you.

Safety Tip: Car-bike collisions are 10 times more likely at night, usually due to poor/no bike lighting equipment. To be *detected* at night you *must* have a white front lamp and rear steady or flashing red lamp or rear reflector as a minimum.

You can learn a lot about safe and efficient on-road cycling by taking one of the courses conducted by an experienced Certified Bicycling Instructor.

For information on a variety of courses offered to suit your needs please contact:

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