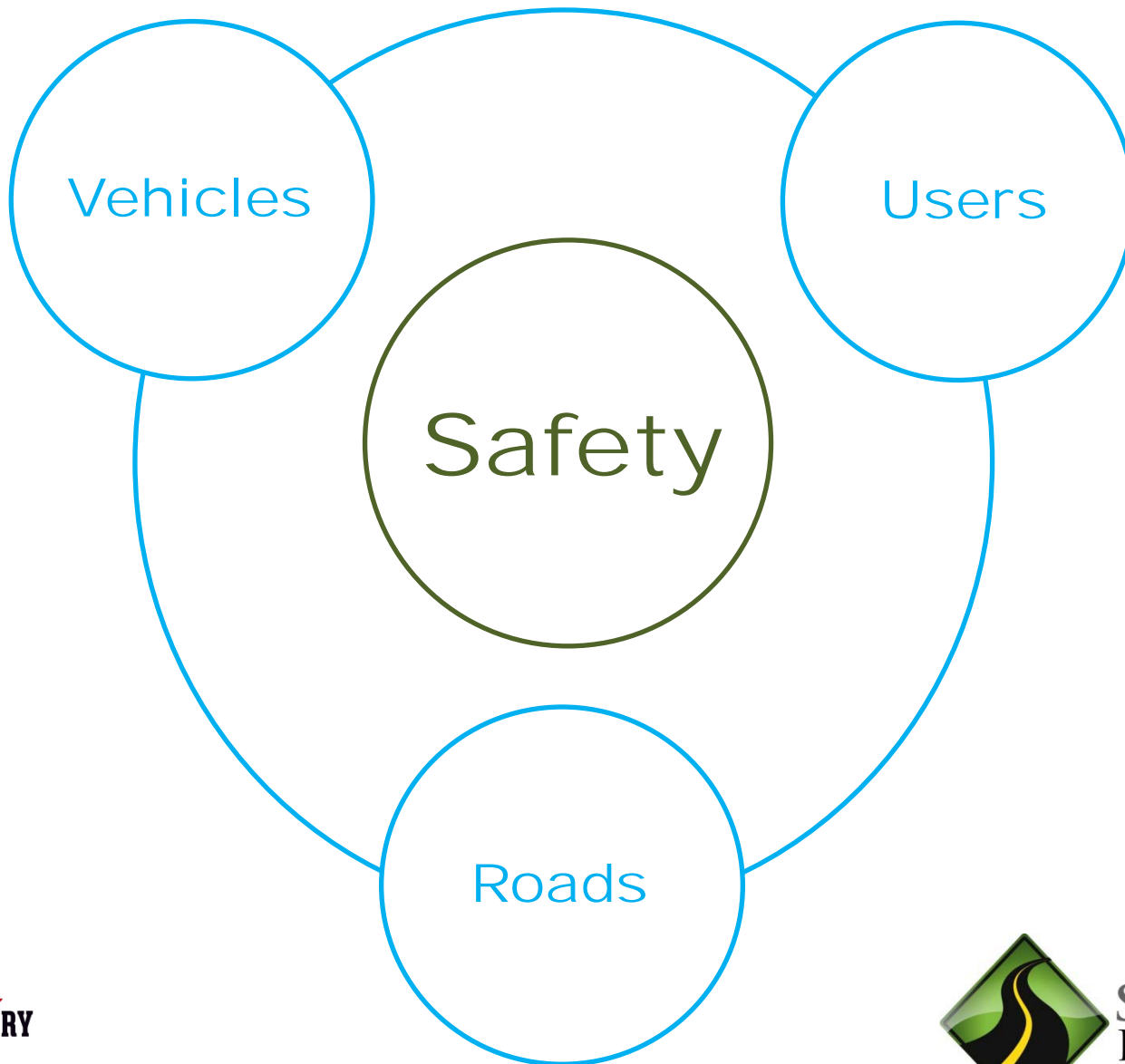


Cycling and The Highway Traffic Act

Ontario Cycling Association – Club
Presidents Day

Sasha Gollish, P.Eng., M.Eng., LEEDap





Cycling and the Law



The Highway Traffic Act

- Written by the Ministry of Transportation's Road Safety Group
- Just like guidelines and specifications for roadways, the HTA was written for motor vehicles; the bicycle was an afterthought
- Guiding Principle = **Safety**





What Sections of the Law Apply to Cyclists?

HTA 144/136 - Traffic signals and signs

stop for red lights and stop signs and comply with all other signs.

HTA 153 - One-ways streets

ride in the designated direction on one-way streets.

HTA 142 - Signalling a turn

before turning, look behind you and signal your turn. Cyclists can use their right arm to signal a right turn.

HTA 140(1) 144(29) - Crosswalks

yield or stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.

HTA 140(6)/144(29) - No riding in crosswalks

walk your bike when crossing at a crosswalk.



What Sections of the Law Apply to Cyclists?

HTA 166 - Streetcars

stop two metres behind streetcar doors and wait until passengers have boarded or departed and reached the curb. **HTA 175 (12) - Stopped school buses**

stop for stopped school buses when the upper alternating red lights are flashing. Set fine: \$400.00

HTA 62(17) - Lights

a bike must have a white front light and a red rear light or reflector if you ride between 1/2 hour before sunset and 1/2 hour after sunrise and white reflective tape on the front forks and red reflective tape on rear forks.

HTA 75 (5) - Bell

a bike must have a bell or horn in good working order.



What Sections of the Law Apply to Cyclists?

HTA 64(3) - Brakes

a bike must have at least one brake system on the rear wheel. When you put on the brakes, you should be able to skid on dry, level pavement.

HTA 218 - Identification

Cyclists must stop and identify themselves when required to stop by police for breaking traffic laws. The police officer will ask you for your correct name and address.

HTA Reg. 630 - Expressways

Bicycles are prohibited on expressway / freeway highways such as the 400 series, the QEW, Ottawa Queensway and on roads where "No Bicycle" signs are posted.

HTA 178(2) - Passengers

Passengers are not allowed on a bicycle designed for one person.



What Sections of the Law Apply to Cyclists?

HTA 104 - Helmets

Every cyclist under the age of eighteen must wear an approved bicycle helmet. Parents or guardians shall not knowingly permit cyclists under sixteen to ride without a helmet.

HTA 179 - Dismounted bicyclist

Cyclists are required to ride on the right-hand side of the road. If you are walking your bike on a highway where there are no sidewalks, you are considered a pedestrian and you should walk on the left-hand side of the road facing traffic. If it is not safe for you to cross the road to face traffic, you may walk your bike on the right-hand side of the road.





The Sections of the Law that Make it Confusing

HTA 147 - Slow moving traffic travel on right side

HTA 148 – Slower traffic must give way to faster traffic when safe and practical

any vehicle moving slower than the normal traffic speed should drive in the right-hand lane, or as close as practicable to the right edge of the road except when preparing to turn left or when passing another vehicle



The Sections of the Law that Make it Confusing

“bicycle” = “vehicle”

“bicycle” ≠ “motor vehicle”

“roadway” vs. “highway”

Section 132. (1)

No motor vehicle shall be driven on a highway at such a slow rate of speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic thereon except when the slow rate of speed is necessary for safe operation having regard to all the circumstances. But with the way this was written this only intended for motor vehicles, not vulnerable users including equestrian, off-road vehicles or bicycles.



**SAFE ROADS
ENGINEERING**

Section 148 in More Detail

Vehicles meeting bicycles

(4) Every person in charge of a vehicle on a highway meeting a person travelling on a bicycle shall allow the cyclist sufficient room on the roadway to pass

Bicycles overtaken

(6) Every person on a bicycle or motor assisted bicycle who is overtaken by a vehicle or equestrian travelling at a greater speed shall turn out to the right and allow the vehicle or equestrian to pass and the vehicle or equestrian overtaking shall turn out to the left so far as may be necessary to avoid a collision

Driver unable to turn out is to stop

(7) Where one vehicle is met or overtaken by another, if by reason of the weight of the load on either of the vehicles so meeting or on the vehicle so overtaken the driver finds it impracticable to turn out, he or she shall immediately stop, and, if necessary for the safety of the other vehicle and if required so to do, he or she shall assist the person in charge thereof to pass without damage

Passing vehicle going in same direction

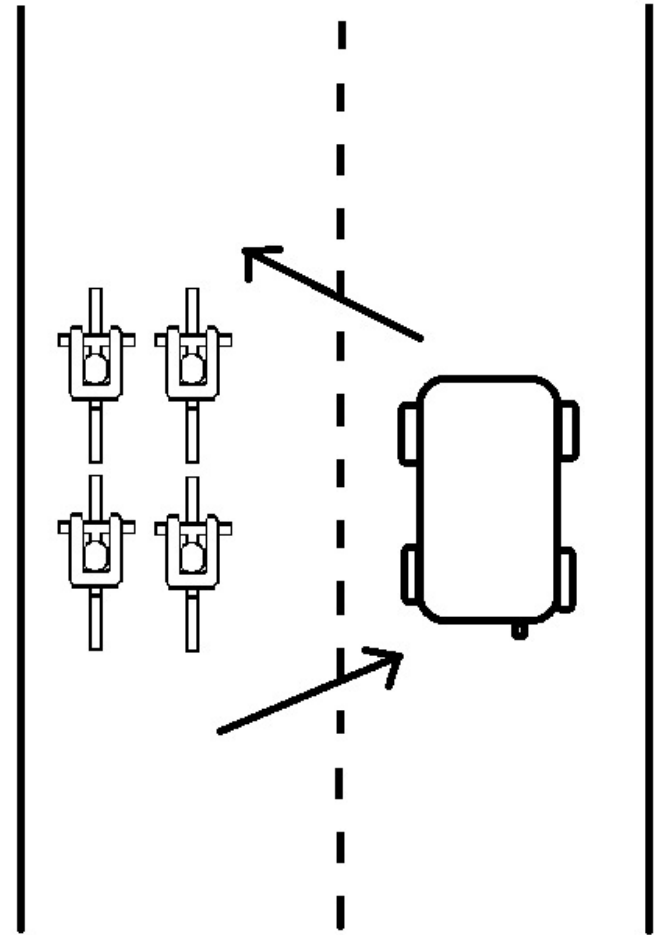
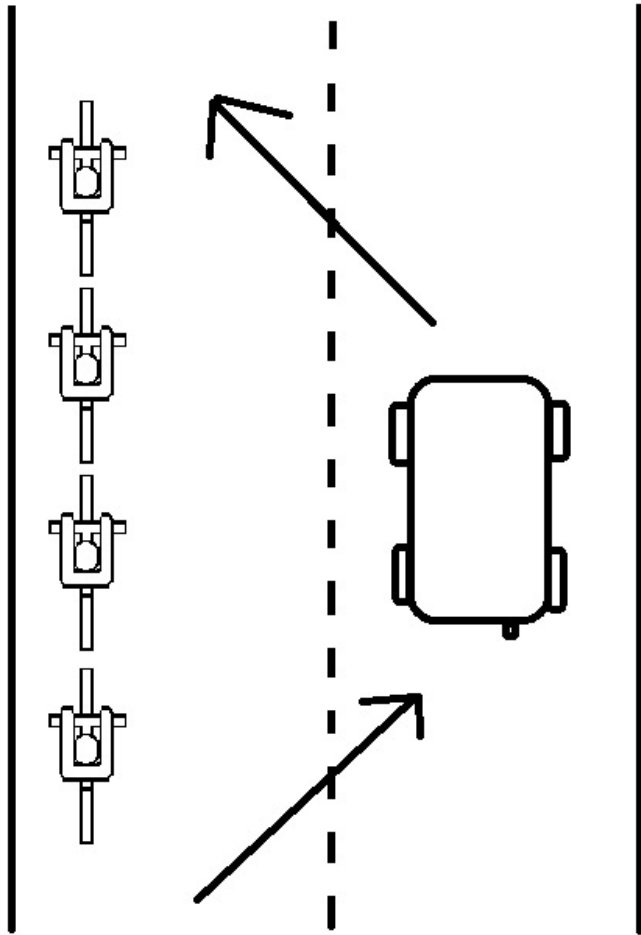
(8) No person in charge of a vehicle shall pass or attempt to pass another vehicle going in the same direction on a highway unless the roadway,

(a) in front of and to the left of the vehicle to be passed is safely free from approaching traffic

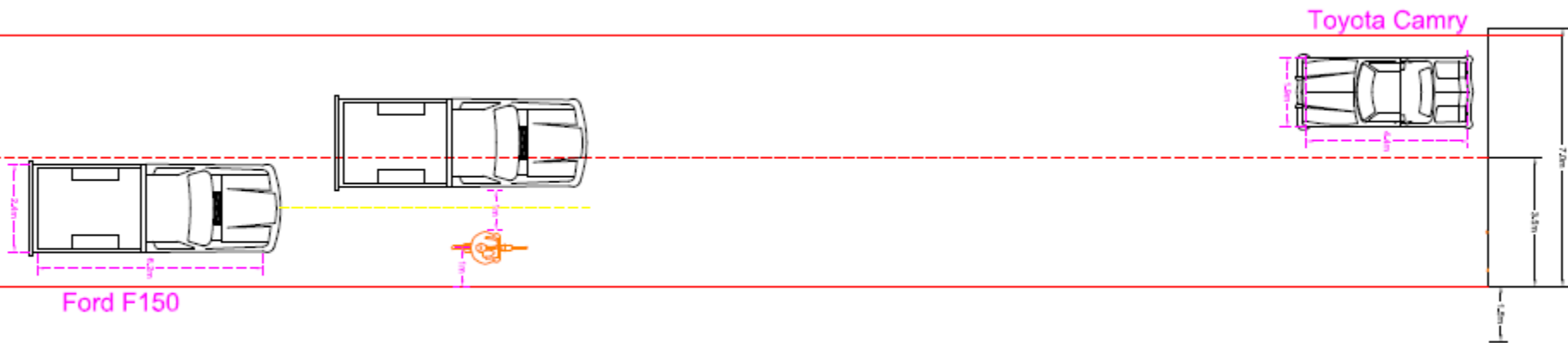


SOME RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO RIDE

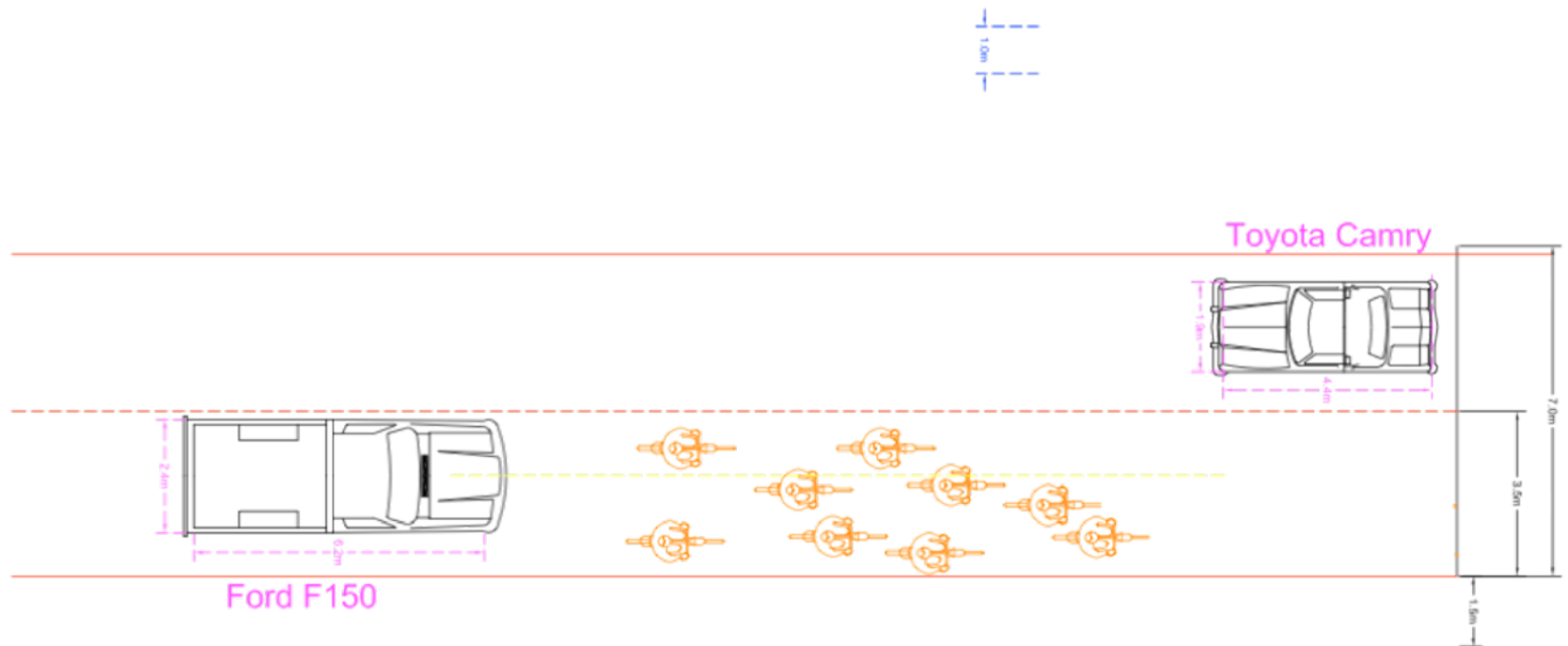




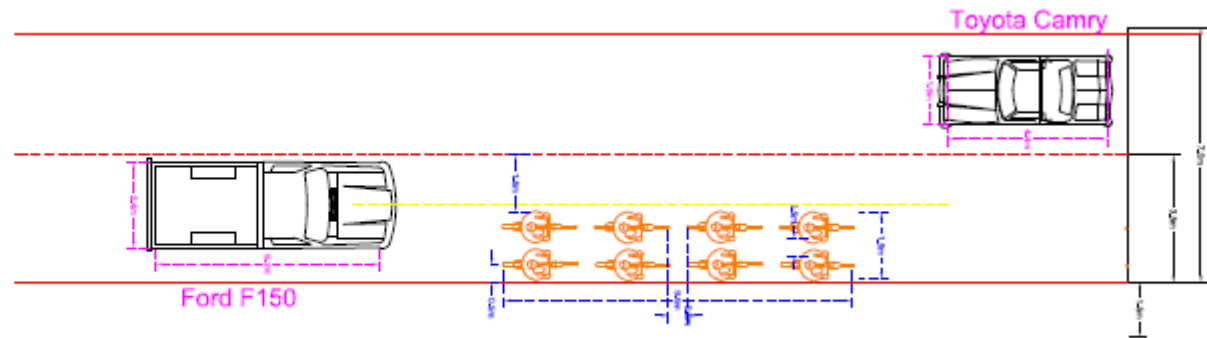
Even when there's 1 Cyclist...



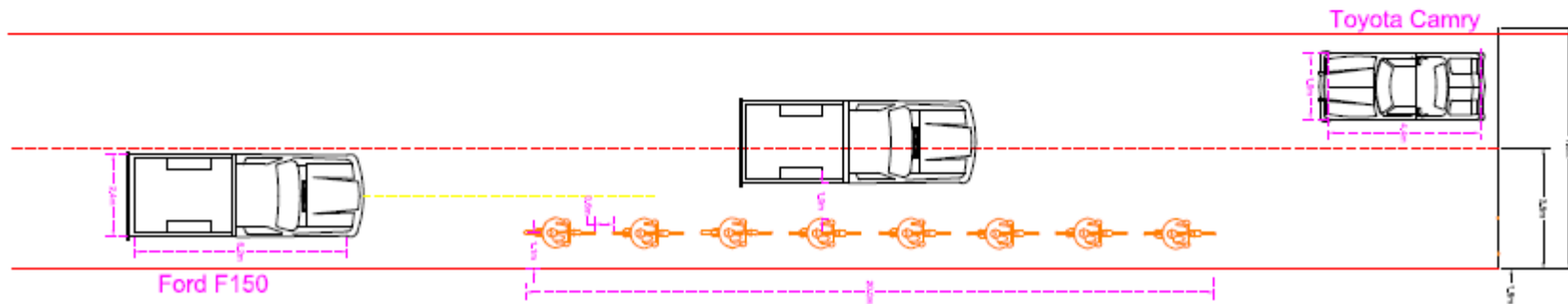
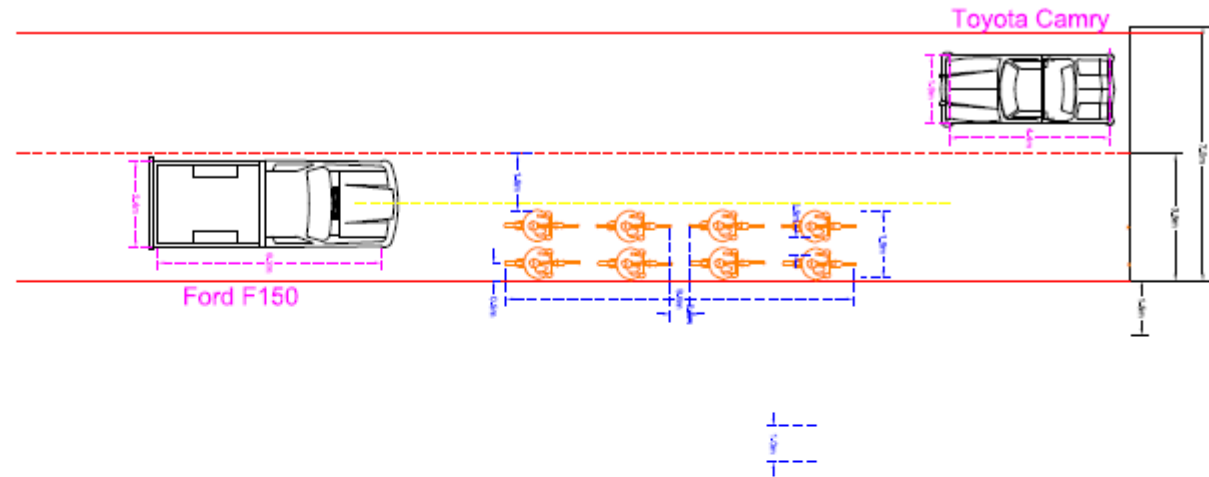
This is how we are sometimes seen



Here is what you should strive to do



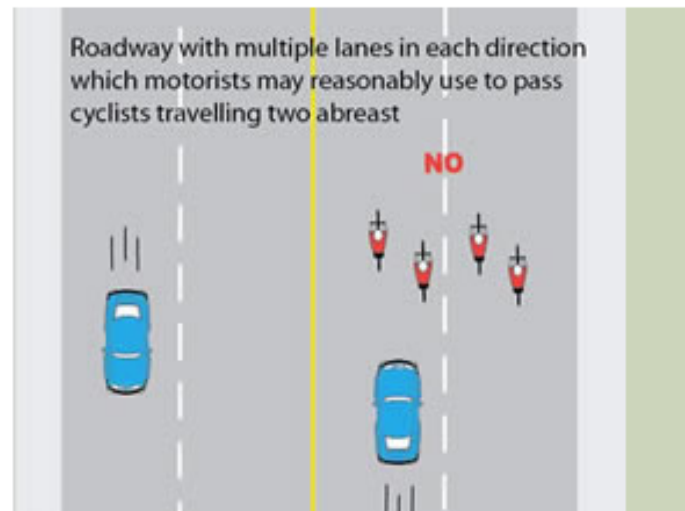
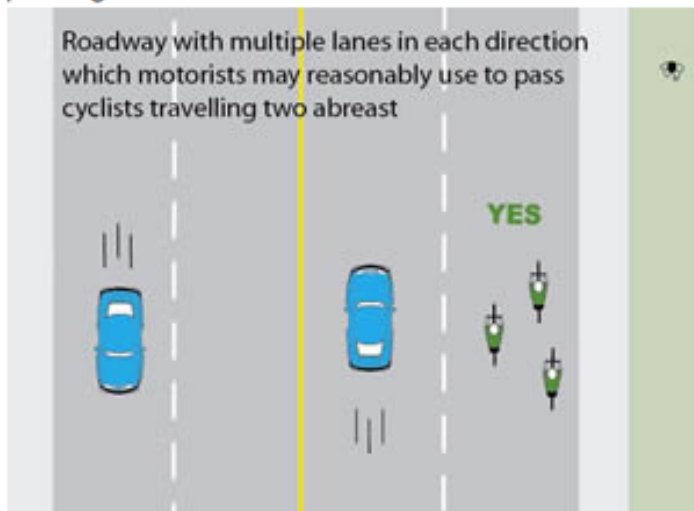
Single file vs. Two-Abreast... You still have to Cross the Centreline



Recommendations for Group Cycling: URBAN

Example 1 - Roadways Where There Are Multiple Lanes Which Motorists May Use To Pass

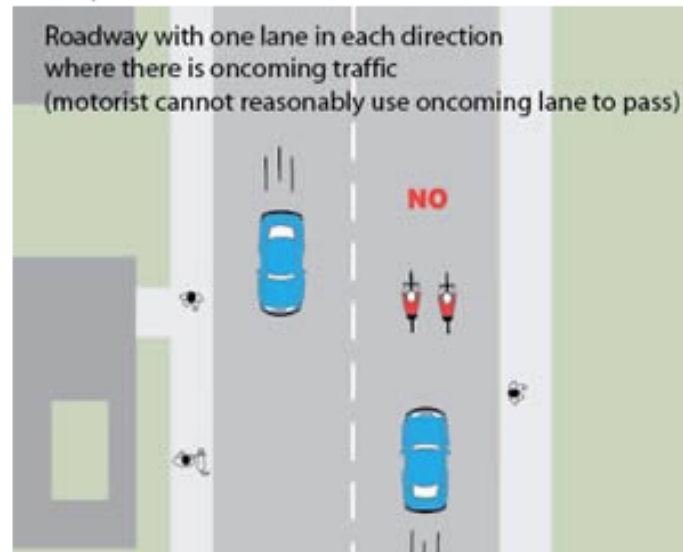
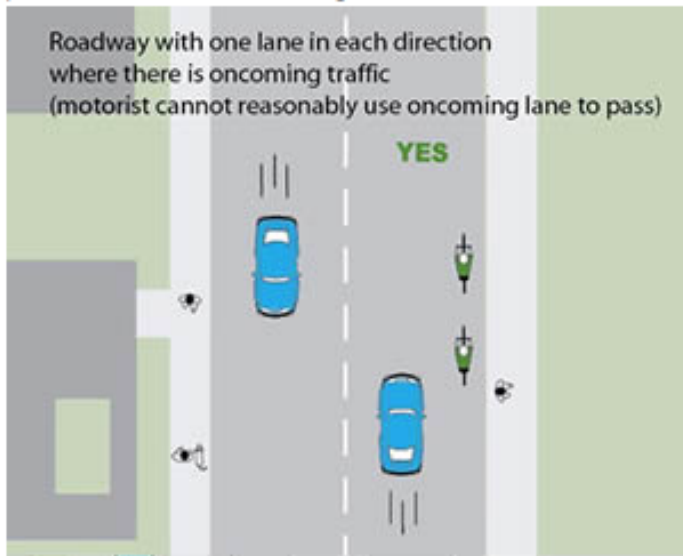
If a roadway has multiple lanes which a motorists may use to pass slower moving vehicles, then a motorist should allow slower moving vehicles (such as cyclists) to use the lane on the right, while using a lane (or lanes) to the left of this lane for the purpose of passing.



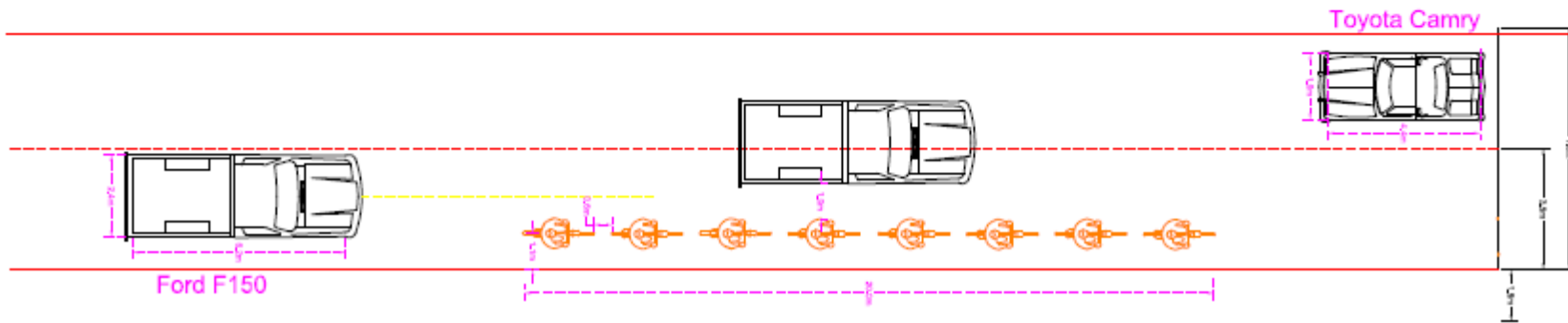
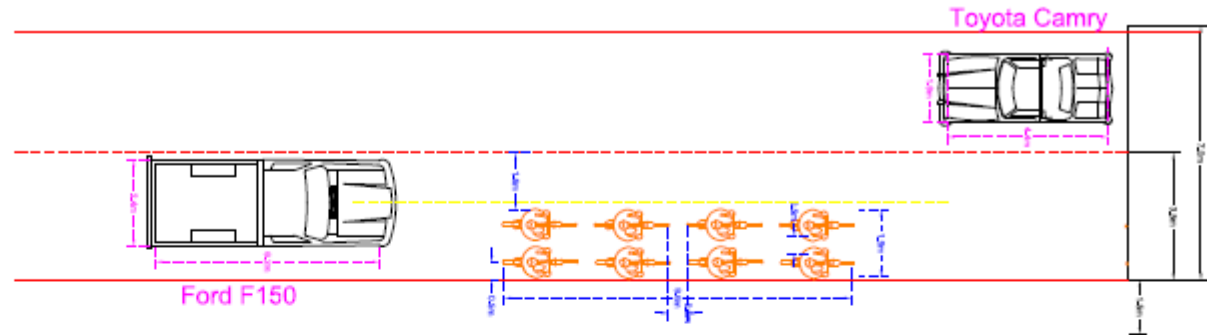
Recommendations for Group Cycling: URBAN

Roadway Or Traffic Where It Is Not Possible For A Faster Vehicle To Pass

On a road where the travel lane is wide enough for a passing vehicle to safely share the lane with a cyclist, but a motorist *cannot pass use another travel lane which is free of traffic*, in order to comply with the law cyclists must as close to right as practicable, position themselves in single file and allow the faster vehicle to pass.



Recommendation for Group Cycling: RURAL





Ontario coroner's Report

Recommendation #14

To the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, and police services

- ...should review local data related to cycling injuries and fatalities in order to identify and address opportunities for targeted education, public safety interventions and enforcement activities

Recommendation #9

- A comprehensive review and revision of the Municipal Act, the City of Toronto Act and relevant Municipal By-Laws should be conducted to ensure that they are consistent and understandable with respect to cycling and cyclists and therefore easier to promote and enforce

