Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Draft Recommendations 2009-2010

Appendices

A. The following was a recommendation in our May 2008 report:

The following questions have been developed to be included in an on-line quiz that would be administered to those who apply for parking passes.

(Note added 2/19/10: If the person responds incorrectly they should be shown the correct answer with the explanations below in order to educate/inform motorists.)

1. T or F: Bicyclists have the legal right to ride on campus roads.
   a. Correct Answer: True
   b. Explanation: Bicyclists have a legal right to ride on campus roads. They are legally required to follow all automobile traffic laws. National accident statistics show that it is safer for bicyclists to travel on roadways than sidewalks. Michigan’s Vehicle Code is the law on MSU’s roads. Please see Section 257.657 of the Michigan Vehicle Code that pertain to bicyclists.

2. T or F: Bicyclists always have to ride up against the curb.
   a. Correct Answer: False
   b. Explanation: Since the passage of a bill in 2007, the vehicle code now grants bicyclists exceptions for when they may ride away from the curb. These should be reviewed and understood. Please see Section 257.660a of the Michigan Vehicle Code that pertain to bicyclists.

3. As a motorist passing a bicyclist, I should give the following space between my car and the bicyclist to be safe:
   a. Just enough to squeeze by
   b. 2-3 feet
   c. 3 feet or more
   i. Correct Answer: C
   ii. Explanation: Motorists should be aware that road conditions (potholes, debris, etc) that they don’t notice might cause a bicyclist to swerve to the left and into traffic. Three plus feet is considered the national standard for the minimum distance vehicles must travel away from bicyclists when traveling at 25 mph. Allow more space as your speed increases. Please note: headphones and road and wind noises can greatly impact the ability of a bicyclist to hear approaching vehicles, especially busses which have their engines in the rear.

4. T or F: Honking your horn is a good way to let bicyclists riding in the roadway know you are coming and to get out your way.
   a. Correct Answer: False
   b. Explanation: Honking your horn at bicyclists is inappropriate and dangerous; it may startle them, causing an accident. Honking may also be interpreted as a sign of anger and can cause a confrontation. The ONLY exception to this rule is to warn a bicyclist from violating traffic laws (ex: crossing at a red light).

5. What is the correct way to turn right with a bicyclist riding nearby?
   a. Pass the bicyclist, put on my turn signal and then make a right turn. Bicyclists usually slow down so there is plenty of time to make my turn.
   b. Wait a few seconds until the bicyclist commits to either going straight or a right turn and then make my right turn.
   c. Just turn whenever I need to; bikes have brakes and they should be on the sidewalk anyway.
   i. Correct Answer: B
   ii. Explanation: Bicyclists riding on in the road are often traveling much faster than you would assume, and cannot stop as quickly as necessary should an automobile make a sudden right turn in front of them. It is best to wait until the bicyclist has passed the place where you want to turn. To avoid accidents, always check your rear-view mirror and the right-side mirror for approaching bicyclists.
6. Where should I stop to let someone out or pick someone up?
   a. At a bus stop
   b. In front of a building
   c. In places where I will least inhibit the flow of vehicular traffic and safety to all persons.
      i. Correct Answer: C
      ii. Explanation: It is safe for other vehicles and pedestrians plus allows for the continued flow of traffic.

7. Who has the right of way in a striped crosswalk?
   a. Bicycles
   b. Pedestrians
   c. Cars
   i. Correct Answer: B
   ii. Explanation: If a pedestrian or bicyclist is already in the crosswalk, drivers MUST stop. It is also required that vehicles yield to pedestrians, meaning that if a pedestrian is standing at the edge of a crosswalk, drivers must stop and allow them to cross. Please see MSU Ordinance, sec. 32.02 Traffic - Pedestrians.

8. Who has the right of way where there are no striped crosswalks?
   a. Bicycles
   b. Bicycles and Pedestrians
   c. Pedestrians
   d. Cars
   i. Correct Answer: D
   ii. Explanation: Striped crosswalks are designated for pedestrian travel. In the state of Michigan, failing to use striped crosswalks when crossing is considered illegal jaywalking. If a pedestrian or bicycle is already in the street, cars MUST stop to allow them to pass, but if a pedestrian is standing at the side of the road, cars may continue without stopping. Please see MSU Ordinance, sec. 32.04 Traffic - Pedestrians.

9. What is the speed-limit on campus?
   a. 15 mph
   b. 35 mph
   c. 25 mph
   i. Correct Answer: C
   ii. Explanation: Unless otherwise marked, the maximum speed-limit on campus is 25 mph.

10. Do I need to stop for a pedestrian who intends to cross the street on a striped crosswalk?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    i. Correct Answer: A
    ii. Explanation: If a pedestrian or bicyclist is already in the crosswalk, drivers MUST stop. It is also required that vehicles yield to pedestrians, meaning that if a pedestrian is standing at the edge of a crosswalk, drivers must stop and allow them to cross. Please see MSU Ordinance, sec. 32.02 Traffic - Pedestrians.

11. What is the order of priority of traffic on campus?
    a. Private vehicles, Mass-transit and service vehicles, Bicycles and other forms of non-motorized transportation, Pedestrians
    b. Bicycles and other forms of non-motorized transportation, Private vehicles, Mass-transit and service vehicles, Pedestrians
    c. Pedestrians, Bicycles and other forms of non-motorized transportation, Mass-transit and service vehicles, Private vehicles
    i. Correct Answer: C
    ii. Explanation: Please see “Planning Principles Related to Circulation” section of the Campus Master Plan and 2020 Vision.

12. You are approaching an intersection with a crosswalk. A pedestrian and a bike are about to cross. Cars and buses are coming up behind you. What should you do?
    a. Stop and wait for the pedestrians to cross
    b. Go through the intersection
c. Honk and go through the intersection
   i. Correct Answer: A
   ii. Explanation: Pedestrians have the right of way, particularly at a crosswalk. Please see MSU Ordinance, sec. 32.02 Traffic - Pedestrians.

13. T or F: When traveling through a traffic circle, a motorist must stop to let a pedestrian or bike cross.
   a. Correct Answer: T
   b. Explanation: Once again, pedestrians have the right of way, particularly at a crosswalk. Please see MSU Ordinance, sec. 32.02 Traffic - Pedestrians.
B. Figure 1: Slides from the City of E. Lansing Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.
Figure 2: New signage example and speed table for Spartan Village and Cherry Lane.

Figure 3: Example of a bike parking cage (from Almere, Netherlands) in the style we’d recommend for maximum capacity and to make it graffiti proof.

Photo Credit: Ann Forsyth, used with permission via University of Minnesota’s Metropolitan Design Center.
Figure 4: Screen shot of SeeClickFix watch area for MSU.
Figure 5: New signage examples to alert motorists to bicyclists’ and pedestrian’s rights to the road.

Figure 6: Example of marking pedestrian bridges and pathways from pg. 37 below from MSU’s Bicycle Facilities Plan.

**Bridge Abutment Guidelines**

**Issue:**
- The intersection of bridges, pedestrian pathways and bicycle paths will result in mixing of pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Bridge railings may be lower than desired for adjacent bicycle use.

**Recommendation:**
- Use icons to direct bicyclists toward center of the bridge to distance themselves from low bridge railings and pedestrians viewing river.
- Indicate to bicyclists leaving the pathway that they must yield to pedestrians.
- For new construction special pavement such as a textured concrete may be used to highlight the conflict area.

**Application:**
- Pedestrian icon may be used to indicate pedestrian only use of particular walkway adjacent to bike paths.
- Pedestrian icon is also applicable where bridges are too narrow for lane delineation.
Figure 7: Example problem areas without curb-cuts for accessible access to adjacent sidewalks/paths: East/S. East corner of Commuter Lot 89, near the new Farm Ln. entrance.