

## Monsters- Same Roads, Same Rules

As part of our ongoing Monsters safety effort, I'll be dripping messages about safety for you to think about and for your ride leaders to briefly discuss with the group before each ride this season.

This comes in response to many of the safety threats and solutions Monsters raised in the safety Google doc survey last year including those that can be categorized as  
- following the rules of the road, sharing the road, improving visibility, gaining experience, making good decisions and staying attentive

I know and love that this is a lighthearted group but this is not a lighthearted topic. Riding with these messages and discussions in mind will help you and your fellow Monsters enjoy your ride safely.

I'll start with the **a very basic safety message** and hope that you act on it as you get out and ride this weekend to enjoy the better weather headed our way.

It is:

### Same Roads, Same Rules

More bluntly and for your safety and by law, cyclists must obey all traffic laws and regulations of the Commonwealth

As Yield to Life, the site for cyclists founded by US pro racer David Zabriskie put it, this is **really about both cyclist safety and cycling citizenship**. "Along with the right to cycle come some responsibilities. Motorists will be much more willing to accept a cyclist's rightful place on the road if cyclists act lawfully and respectfully. Riding responsibly will do wonders toward easing tensions and fostering a more harmonious environment between motorists and cyclists."

As a cyclist, by MA law and in addition to following all the traffic laws and regulations of the Commonwealth, you must also:

- Use hand signals to let people know you plan stop or turn.
- Give pedestrians the right of way.
- Give pedestrians an audible signal before overtaking or passing them, but not a whistle or siren
- Use a white headlight and red taillight or rear reflector if you are riding anytime from 1/2 hour after sunset until 1/2 hour before sunrise
- Wear ankle reflectors at night if there are no reflectors on your pedals
- Keep one hand on your handlebars at all times.

There will be more on other "rules of the road" in future messages including riding multiple abreast (sometimes), Idaho Stops (not in MA), passing cars on the right (allowed, but not wise)

and riding toward oncoming traffic or up a one-way street (stupid, in addition to illegal) in future drips.

For now, please remember ... Same Roads, Same Rules... for your safety and citizenship... it's a responsibility that comes with your right to cycle... and will make for a better environment between cyclists and drivers.

Enjoy your ride safely