Bicyclists generally have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle drivers in Texas. As a motor vehicle driver, here are some safe driving habits to avoid crashes with bicyclists.

**Stay off your phone; be aware**
Distracted driving is a leading cause of crashes, including those with bicyclists and other vulnerable road users.

**Make eye contact**
Make eye contact with bicyclists and pedestrians waiting to cross at intersections before making turns.

**Check twice before passing**
Give bicyclists at least 3 feet of space when passing. If you don’t have 3 feet of room to safely pass a bicyclist, slow down and wait to pass. When you are following a bicyclist, don’t tailgate; allow yourself plenty of space in case you need to stop suddenly.

**Understand bicyclists are different but equal**
A car weighs 2 tons or so, while an average bike is 20 lbs. Give bicyclists space and recognize they are more vulnerable to injury in a crash. **Bicyclists are allowed on all roads in Texas** unless explicitly prohibited with signage.

**Look before you leave your car**
Bicyclists fear getting “doored.” Before you open your door, look out the side-view mirror to see if a bicyclist is approaching.

**Watch out for road hazards**
Bicyclists may swerve or take the lane to avoid a road hazard. Be aware of upcoming drainage grates, parked cars, surface condition hazards (ice, water, loose gravel, uneven pavement, or rumble strips), railroad tracks, or debris.

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For more information on TxDOT’s Bicycle Program, visit: [www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/modes-of-travel/bicycle.html](http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/modes-of-travel/bicycle.html)