**Notes about approach:**

* Avoided labels “cyclists”, “pedestrians” and “motorists” as most Yarra residents all of these
* Made “getting around safely” (rather than cycling) the focus of page 1 to increase the chance that people will open it up and read it, regardless of their interest in cycling
* Some FAQs and tips might need to be dropped at design stage in order to fit

**Page 1**

**Sharing Yarra’s roads and paths (DRAFT – not to be used for reference)**

**FAQs and tips**

(Large stylised vertical pic**:** image of hybrid person (bike helmet on head, holding steering wheel, wearing white runners on feet and possibly with dog lead tangled around one ankle)

How do you get around Yarra? Chances are you use a car for some trips, ride your bike for others, catch public transport in some cases and walk if it’s close enough.

This lift-out is for everyone who travels around Yarra by car, on bike or on foot. It contains answers to a number of frequently asked questions and features lots of tips for sharing Yarra’s roads and shared paths.

**Pages 2 and 3**

**On the road**

**Is a bicycle a legal road vehicle?**

Yes, bicycles are classified as vehicles under the road rules. This means that you have the same rights and responsibilities when you’re on a bike as when you’re driving a car.

**What is a bicycle lane?**

A bicycle lane is an on-road marked bike lane designated for bike riders. It is signed as a bicycle lane at the start of the lane and it will end either where the end bicycle lane sign is posted, or at an intersection.

**Why do we have bicycle lanes?**

To improve safety of all road users by delineating road space.

**Am I required to ride within a bicycle lane if it is provided?**

Yes, unless is it impracticable to do so.

**Why are some sections of bike lane painted green?** To raise awareness of possible conflict points and encourage caution.

**Is it OK to drive my car in a bicycle lane?** Only in the following circumstances and only for 50 metres or less:

* to pass a vehicle turning right
* to enter or leave a side street, another traffic lane or parking space
* where stopping or parking is allowed in the bike lane

(pull-out box with car logo) **Top tip: speed matters** Drive at a speed that will allow you to stop safely. Do you know that it can take 26 metres to stop when you’re travelling at 40km/h?)

**Are bicycles allowed to pass other vehicles on the left?**

Yes, except when those vehicles are indicating and turning left

**Is it OK to occupy a whole traffic lane when I’m riding my bike?**

Yes, this is legal in all circumstances and it is advisable when there is not enough space for another vehicle to overtake a bicycle safely within the lane. Some narrow streets in Yarra have bike logos marked on the road to encourage riders to take the lane.

**Is it legal to ride two abreast?**

Yes, but you must not ride more than 1.5 metres apart.

**Opening car doors**

**Who is legally at fault when a car door is opened into the path of someone on a bike?**

The car driver or passenger who opens the door is at fault and can be fined.

(pull-out box with car logo) **Top tip: Look over your shoulder**

We all know we should look carefully before opening our doors as car passengers or drivers. Looking in the mirror is a start, but it’s also important to actually turn your head and look over your shoulder. One way to do this without thinking is to get into the habit of opening the driver’s door with your left hand (and doors on the other side of the car with your right hand).

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(diagram to be redrawn)

(pull-out box with bike logo) **Top tip: Ride outside the doorzone**

If all cars parked with their doors open, where would you place yourself on the road to be safe? That is where you should aim to be all the time; far enough out so that your handlebar would not clip an open car door. Don’t be afraid to ride on the outer edge of the bike lane if necessary.

(diagram to be redrawn)

**Focus on intersections**

**When I’m riding my bike am I legally required to stop at red lights?**

Yes, it’s a rule that applies to all road users.

**Do I need to signal all turns when I’m riding my bike?**

According to the rules, you are required to give a hand signal when turning right or moving to the right. Hand signals are not required when turning to the left or stopping, but you may choose to signal at these times to let other traffic know what you’re doing.

**Why do some intersections have special waiting areas for bikes?**

These are known as “bike storage areas” and they are designed to place cyclists at the front of a traffic queue where they are more visible to others and away from direct exhaust fumes.

(insert pic if space permits)

(pull-out box with bike logo) **Top tip: Take a hook turn**

If a normal right-hand turn leaves you feeling exposed in an intersection, try a hook turn. Bike riders are entitled to use a hook turn at any intersection unless there is signage specifically prohibiting it.

(diagram to be redrawn – will be much clearer!) 

**Who has right of way when turning left?**

According to the rules, a bike rider “must not ride past, or overtake, to the left of a vehicle that is turning left and is giving a change of direction signal”. However a bicycle lane is classified as a “marked lane” in the road rules and a motorist travelling in a multi-lane road must “give way to any vehicle travelling in the same direction as the driver in the line of traffic to which the driver is moving.” (seeking clarification from VicRoads)

**How should I ride around a roundabout?**

When using a single-lane roundabout, ride in the middle of the lane. This is so you are more visible to other road users and you are less likely to be cut off when other road users are exiting the roundabout. Make sure you signal your intentions and, where possible, make eye contact to make sure others have seen you.

**Ready to ride?**

**What are the requirements for cycling at night?**

If you’re riding in low-light conditions you need to display a white light on the front of your bike and a red light on the rear. These lights may be flashing or steady and must be visible for at least 200 metres. A red rear reflector is also required on all bikes.

**Is it necessary to wear high-visibility clothing for nightime riding?**

This is not a legal requirement, but it is a popular way to make yourself more visible on the road. Research has shown that it is particularly effective to wear reflective gear on moving parts (such as your ankles).

(pull-out box with bike logo) (**Top tip: bike. Selecting lights**) Bicycle Network’s Ride On magazine conducts an annual review of bike lights and this can be a useful starting point for selecting lights that meet your needs (see www.bicyclenetwork.com.au)

**Do I need to wear a helmet when I’m riding a bike?**

Yes, whether you’re on the road or on a shared path you are required to wear a properly fastened Australian Standards approved bicycle helmet.

**Is it illegal to ride a bike that isn’t fitted with a bell?**

Yes, it’s mandatory to have a bell, horn or similar warning device in working order.

**Page 4**

**Footpaths and shared paths**

**Up to what age can children legally ride on the footpath?**

Children under 12 are allowed to ride on the footpath. Adults can also legally ride on the footpath to accompany them.

**Who has right of way on shared paths?**

If you are riding a bike you are required to give way to people who are walking.

**How important is it to keep to the left when you are riding on a shared path?**

It is actually a legal requirement that you ride on the left side of the path unless it’s impracticable to do so.

**Being mindful**

Using shared paths is more about courtesy and common sense than rules. Here are some tips to keep in mind when you’re enjoying riding or walking along Yarra’s 35km of shared paths.

**On bike:**

* Pass other riders and walkers on the right and provide plenty of warning. It’s a good idea to ring your bell about 30 metres before passing. You can also use your voice to provide a friendly warning – for example, “passing on your right”.
* Travel at a safe speed so that you can stop quickly if necessary. Take particular care when passing in case your warning bell or call was not heard.
* Encourage any children you’re travelling with to keep to the left and join you in warning other path-users of their approach.

**On foot**

* Keep to the left of the path and walk in a predictable manner.
* If you’re walking your dog, keep it under control.
* Help young children to keep to the left, explaining that bike riders are coming from both directions.

**More information**

If you would like to discuss any of the information in this lift out, please contact:

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For more detail on rules applying to bike riding, driving and walking, see Road Safety Rules 2009, available in full on www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

To plan your journey by public transport, on foot or by bike, see the City of Yarra TravelSmart map. Ask for a free map at your local library or town hall or order a copy from info@yarracity.vic.gov.au ; 9205 5555

(Yarra logo and address details)

(Yarralink interpreter service details)