

Ebike riders don't look fast

Many ebikes offer a casual, upright riding position. Riders are often dressed in street clothes or business attire. Motorists already expect bicyclists to be slow—they certainly aren't expecting someone on a cruiser to be traveling at 20 mph!



This increases the need to predict and avoid other people's mistakes. The good news is, we can!

More SPEED Requires

MORE AWARENESS

Heads up!

Road hazards come up fast. The road beyond a hilltop or around a corner could have a hazard. *Never ride faster than you can react to a sudden hazard.*

Know your risk areas.

Most crashes happen at intersections. Motorists make predictable mistakes. It only takes one person to prevent a crash, regardless of fault. It can be you!

Drive Out: Driver **A** pulls out, view of 20 mph bicyclist obstructed by bush.

Left Cross: Driver **B** turns left. Driver **C** can hide a bicyclist from driver **B**. Even with a clear view, driver **B** may misjudge the speed of a 20 mph bicyclist.

Right Hook: Driver **D** thinks there is room to pass the 20 mph bicyclist before turning right. There isn't. They'll get to the intersection at the same time.

MORE SPACE

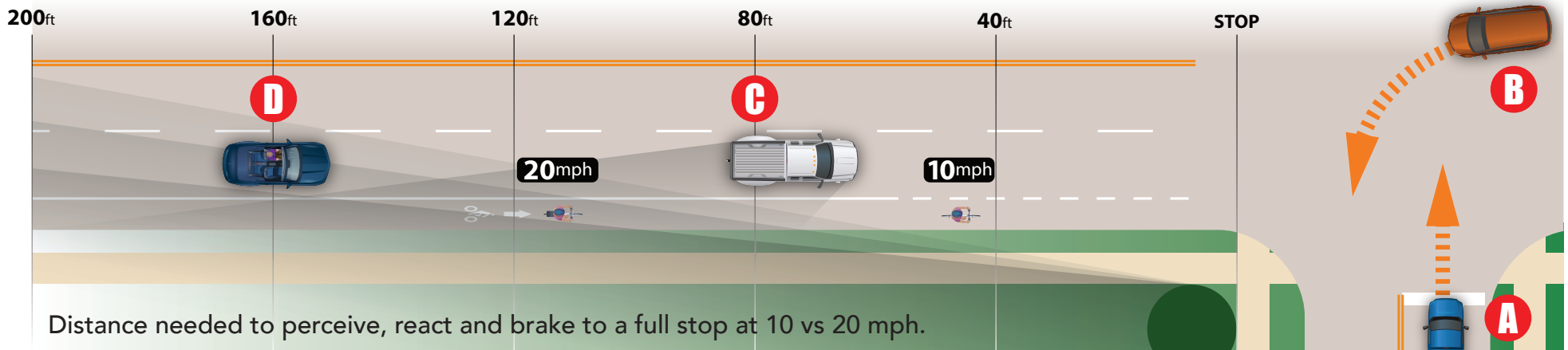
Ahead: You cover a lot of ground in a short time on an ebike. Make sure you have clear sight lines ahead. If there are bushes, walls or other vehicles blocking your view of side streets and driveways, slow down or move left. Ebikes accelerate with surprising quickness. Make sure you leave space ahead of you and use a low assistance level when stopped or in slow traffic. Don't accelerate from a green light without checking for red-light runners.

Beside: Many road hazards are on the right edge. Stay away from the edge. Don't get pinched. If a lane is not wide enough for a car to pass safely within the lane, control it. Never ride in the door zone—always stay at least 5 feet from parked cars. Learn defensive bicycling at CyclingSavvy.org.

MORE COMMUNICATION

There is no such thing as "eye contact."

Looking in your direction is not seeing. Seeing is not recognizing your speed and the need to yield to you. Wave and seek a return wave or other clear indication that the driver will yield when that is what you are expecting.



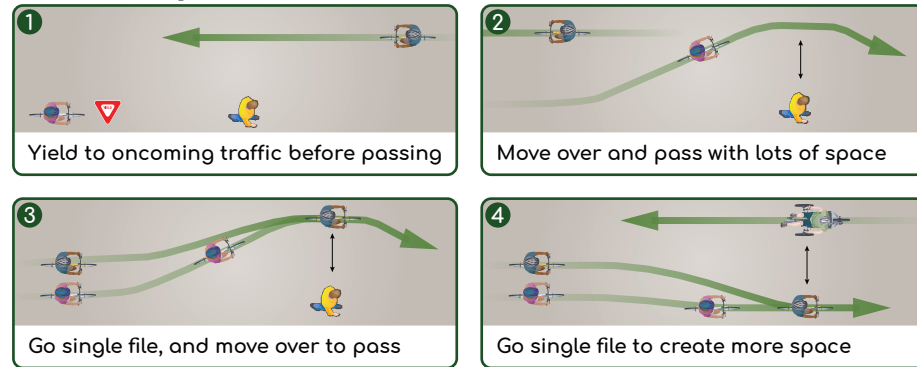
Perception & reaction time = 2.5 seconds. Braking distance based on median skill level.

Ebiker's Guide to Safety & Etiquette

With Great Speed Comes Great Responsibility

Faster speeds on a heavier bike mean that a crash can have more serious consequences. This increases risk not just to the rider, but to other bicyclists and pedestrians. When using shared facilities, know when to moderate your speed. Never use a high assistance level on a crowded facility.

Safe & Respectful Practices:



Behaviors to Avoid:



Know your bike.

Practice handling it in an open space, like a parking lot, before operating around others. Take a class to learn basic and emergency maneuvers.



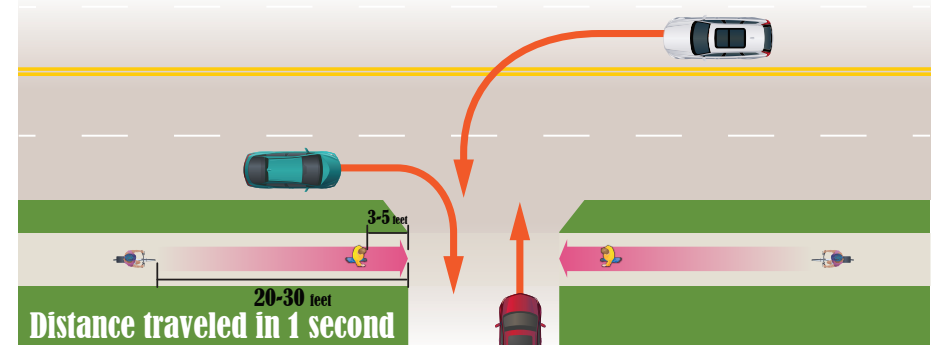
CyclingSavvy is a program of the American Bicycling Education Association. Our mission is to provide programs and resources for the education of bicyclists as drivers of vehicles, and bicycling-related education for traffic engineers, transportation planners, law enforcement professionals, educators, and the general public.

SIDEWALKS & SIDE PATHS

The key to safe operation is reduced speed. High assistance levels are not appropriate on most sidewalks, side paths, or cycle tracks. Bikeways may not have a specified speed limit, but their design speed is usually lower than the adjacent roadway.

Slow, Scan, Stop.

Every intersection and driveway presents an opportunity for a crash with crossing and turning vehicles. Your only defense is to slow, scan in all directions, and stop if necessary.



Motorists are looking where they expect pedestrians to be—near the intersection—bicyclists are much farther away.

Be a Good Citizen.

Sidewalks are for pedestrians. If you find that using a sidewalk is the best option for you, yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Treat them as you would like motorists to treat you when you use the road. Slow down, kindly announce your presence, and pass when it is safe for both of you.



Keep in mind that if you ride off into grass, you could suffer a diversion fall when attempting to ride back onto the sidewalk.