



Group, club and fundraising rides are popular all over Georgia.

Photo: Miles McClelland, BRAG

Riding With Other Cyclists

Riding with other cyclists requires some extra caution. Paying close attention to the riders around you and giving other cyclists and motorists some room will go a long way towards keeping everyone safe.

Don't pass on the right. When riding in traffic or with other cyclists, respect the principal that slower traffic stays to the right

and faster traffic passes on the left. Never, under any circumstances, pass another cyclist on the right. As a slow moving vehicle, cyclists are accustomed to yielding to faster traffic on the left, not the right. Passing on the right can be startling and unexpected, which can lead to bicycle collisions.

Riding two abreast is legal. If cars are approaching from behind,

especially on major thoroughfares or two-lane roads, be courteous and ride single-file until traffic clears. This is safer and shows some respect for other road users. If the road is winding, with lots of blind curves, or hilly, riding two abreast is not recommended. Vehicles coming around a curve or over a hill may be late seeing you and have little time to slow down or react.

Warn others in your group about approaching vehicles, hazards in the road, and other possible hazards. If you're at the front of a pack of riders, call out "car up" to warn those behind you that traffic is approaching. If you're riding behind others, call out "car back" to warn those ahead that traffic is approaching from behind. Pointing out glass, gravel, or debris in the road is also helpful to riders behind you.

Don't follow too closely. Use caution when following other riders. It's safer to leave a comfortable amount of space between you and another rider in case you need to stop quickly. If your front tire hits the rear tire of the rider in front

Photo courtesy of Aliba Mbiwan, BRAG



Riding two abreast is legal under Georgia traffic law.

of you, you will likely cause a crash. Pacelines (several riders riding as a group following very close to each other) should be left to very experienced riders in areas with little traffic.

Be aware of other road users. When riding in a group, it is important to always take personal responsibility for riding safely and to remain aware that you are



40-6-294 (b) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.



Signs encouraging motorists and cyclists to share the road are becoming more common in Georgia.

sharing the road with others. Be sure to check behind you and to your left and right before passing or changing positions in the pack. Do not automatically follow other riders into an intersection. Personally check for traffic before proceeding. Also, do not get in the habit of hollering "clear" when entering an intersection to let riders behind you know it is OK to proceed. By the time they're ready to cross, there may be traffic present. Individual riders need to check for themselves before proceeding into intersections.



Warn riders behind you by pointing out hazards, such as trash, grates, or gravel.

Learn from others. Club and group rides are an excellent way to improve your cycling skills and make new friends. You can learn a great deal about techniques and equipment from other riders. There are also many organized fund raising rides held all over Georgia, especially on weekends in the spring and fall. Contact information on the major Georgia bicycle organizations is on page 60. Many of their web sites contain links to organized rides or cycling event calendars.



Riding two abreast is legal in Georgia. However, it shows courtesy to other road users to ride single file when traffic is attempting to pass.

Basic group riding safety strategies

Pass on the left. Always pass other cyclists on the left, never on the right. Pull to the right to let faster riders by.

Pull entirely off the road if you need to stop for any reason.

Ride predictably. Avoid sudden stops and turns, and do not weave left and right. Let other riders know your intentions.

Use hand signals. Signal to riders behind you that you are planning to stop or turn. A verbal reminder is helpful as well if they are close enough to hear you.

Verbal warnings. If you're on the front or tail end of a group and are

aware that traffic is approaching, let those in front or behind know with a loud "car up", "car back", or similar warning.

Don't follow too closely. Leave a gap between you and the rider in front of you. You are likely to crash if your front tire comes in contact with their rear wheel. Paceline riding should be left to very experienced cyclists only.

Be courteous - do not block traffic. Riding two-abreast is legal in a traffic lane. However, it shows common courtesy to ride single file when traffic is attempting to pass. Avoid joining large groups of cyclists if they seem to be blocking entire lanes of traffic.