

# BICYCLE SAFER JOURNEY

## Post-video discussion questions for Ages 15 to 18

### Purpose of the discussion:

To reinforce key messages from the video, including the importance of being visible, following the rules of the road and being predictable when bicycling.

### 1. Why is it important for bicyclists to go in the same direction as traffic when riding on the road?

*Answers should include:*

- Bicycles are considered vehicles. When riding on the road, bicyclists must follow the same rules of the road that drivers do.
- It is part of being predictable. Drivers are not expecting bicyclists to ride facing traffic.

### 2. Dark or near-dark times of the day are particularly risky for bicycling. Why?

*Answers could include:*

- It may be more difficult for drivers to see bicyclists.
- Heavier commuter traffic often coincides with low light times of day.
- Drivers may not be expecting to encounter bicyclists during these times of day.

*Follow up question: How can bicyclists and drivers make it safer to ride in low light conditions?*

*Answers should include (but are not limited to):*

- Bicyclists should use a bike light and red rear reflector
- Bicyclists should wear reflective gear
- Drivers should watch for bicyclists and give them space when passing (instructors may want to reference their state's law regarding passing)

### 3. Why is it important for bicyclists to take the lane when approaching an intersection or some other turn, or when the lane narrows? Taking the lane is when a bicyclist moves to the middle of a lane.

*Answers could include:*

- To be more visible to drivers
- To make sure the bicyclist has enough room when a lane narrows to avoid the possibility of getting forced to the side of the road
- So that drivers cannot pass a bicyclist who might be about to make a left turn and risk hitting them

*Note to instructor: You may want to ask a knowledgeable student to draw a diagram of these last two situations and explain it to their peers.*

### 4. If you had to convince a friend to wear a helmet, what would you tell them? What reasons would you give?

Open discussion

*Conversation should include:*

- Helmets reduce the risk of brain injury
- A crash can happen regardless of a rider's skill, riding location (like a trail vs a road) or the length of the trip

### 5. In your own community, are there some places you go by car or transit, but don't feel comfortable going by bike? For destinations that are within biking distance but don't feel safe to ride to, what would need to change so that you could ride your bike there if you wanted?

*Answers could include features such as:*

- Less traffic
- Slower traffic speeds
- Bike lanes
- Separated path or trail
- Wide shoulders
- Non-freeway route option

### 6. Have you ever seen a risky situation involving a bicyclist and a driver? What did the driver do? What did the bicyclist do? What was the result? How could the situation have turned out differently (either better or worse)?

Open discussion

*Conversation should include:*

- Bicyclists are legitimate road users
- Drivers and bicyclists both need to share and follow the rules of the road
- Your state law on passing may also be discussed here