A Quick Guide to Understanding CVC 21202

California Vehicle Code 21202

Is the bicyclist...

...riding the same speed or faster than other traffic? YES

NO

...passing a slow or stopped vehicle? YES

NO

...preparing to turn left? YES

NO

...in a lane that is too narrow to share? YES

NO

...encountering unsafe conditions on the edge? YES

NO

...approaching a driveway or intersection? YES

NO

If the answer to ANY question is YES:

CVC 21202 does NOT require the bicyclist to ride far right.

Passing on the left is a basic rule of movement.

It’s illegal and unsafe to turn left from the right edge.

12ft Normal width is NOT shareable
14ft Shareable with cars and small SUVs at low speeds
16ft Shareable with most vehicles

Unsafe conditions include (but are not limited to):
Parked cars and the door zone, obstructions, pavement defects, broken glass and debris, standing water, ice, poor sight lines.

12ft

4ft

14ft

16ft

Anywhere right turns are authorized.

If the answer to ALL questions is NO:

The bicyclist must ride as far to the right as practicable.