

# 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

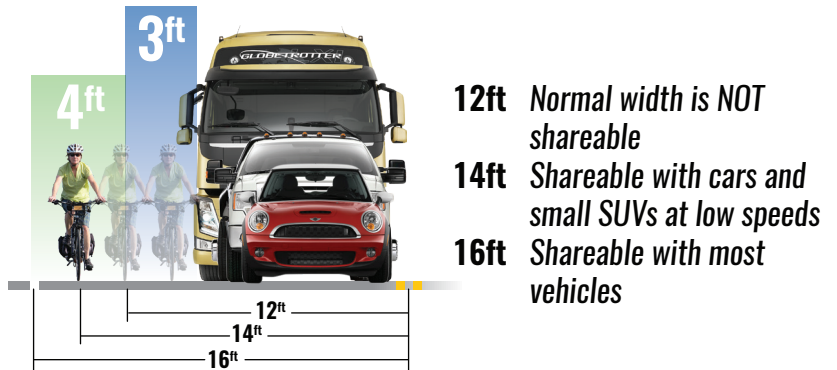
If the answer to ALL questions is NO:  
**The bicyclist must ride as far to the right as practicable.**

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.*

*Anywhere right turns are authorized.*

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The American Bicycling Education Association (ABEA) is a bicyclist-supported not-for-profit organization. We are dedicated to successful and joyful bicycling with programs and resources for bicyclists, motorists, transportation professionals, law enforcement and educators.

# A Quick Guide to Understanding CVC 21208

California Vehicle Code 21208

## Is the bicyclist...

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

**YES**

**NO**

...passing a pedestrian, slower bicycle, or stopped vehicle?

**YES**

**NO**

...preparing to turn left?

**YES**

**NO**

...encountering unsafe conditions in the bike lane?

**YES**

**NO**

...approaching a driveway or intersection?

**YES**

**NO**

**If the answer to ALL questions is NO:  
The bicyclist must use the bike lane.**

**If the answer to ANY question is YES:**

**CVC 21202 does NOT require the bicyclist to use the bike lane.**

Passing on the left is a basic rule of movement.

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

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.

Anywhere right turns are authorized.

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