Rights and Duties of MOTORISTS with Pedestrians and Bicyclists (It’s the Law)

Yield right of way to a pedestrian if there is no traffic signal

GENERAL PEDESTRIAN/BIKE SAFETY

• When emerging from an alley, driveway, or building, you should stop the vehicle before moving on a sidewalk.
• Do not drive on sidewalks or hike-and-bike trails.
• Do not pass other vehicles stopped for a pedestrian.
• Pass at a safe distance.
• Exercise all caution to avoid collisions with pedestrians.
• Treat all bicycles the same as you would treat other vehicles.
• Sound the horn when necessary.
• Do not open vehicle doors into a traffic lane unless opening doors will not interfere with traffic movement.
• Leave doors open only as long as necessary to load or unload a passenger.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

• Yield right of way to a pedestrian emerging from an alley, driveway, or building.
• Yield right of way to a pedestrian crossing on same half of roadway as vehicle.

Note: All the information on this side of the factsheet is from the Texas Transportation Code: §545.246, §545.422, §552.002, §552.003, §552.008, and §545.418.
Bicyclists and pedestrians are vulnerable road users with less protection than a vehicle. To ensure their safety, their rights have to be respected. Here’s how you can share the road:

- Allow safe clearance to cyclists; 3 feet is recommended, and in many large Texas cities, it is the law.
- Yield right of way when required.
- Look out for other road users and show respect.
  1. Look for cyclists and pedestrians when opening doors.
  2. Be aware, bicyclists may (and legally are allowed) to merge with traffic for many reasons (e.g., parked cars, road hazards).
  3. Be extra careful when backing up and turning left.
  4. Always do a double check. Bicyclists may appear in places you wouldn’t expect, such as when turning left at an intersection.

Adapted from: