

May 10, 2012

For more information:  
NDDOT Communications (701) 328-4444

## **NDDOT launches new bicycle safety program reminding motorists and bicyclists to share the road**

With summer months approaching, more people are taking to the roads and streets on bicycles, and the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) reminds motorists and bicyclists that together they must share the road. To encourage and promote safe driving practices among all road users, the NDDOT recently launched a bicycle safety webpage and radio safety announcement to help spread the word about sharing the road.

“The goal of the new bicycle safety campaign is to promote safety for motorists and bicyclists alike,” says Mark Nelson, NDDOT Safety Director. “All road users must be responsible for following all traffic laws, which keeps actions predictable and reduces the number of crashes.”

Bicycle/motor vehicle crashes are mostly due to the disregard for basic traffic laws or inattentive behavior by both motorists and bicyclists. Last year on North Dakota roadways there were 80 crashes involving a motor vehicle and a bicycle with one fatality.

Motorists can safely share the road with bicycles by following a few tips:

- Leave room when passing bicycles.
- Be predictable when driving by obeying traffic laws.
- Show common courtesy and respect on the road. Do not use your horn to alert bicyclists as it may startle them and cause them to swerve into traffic.
- Use eye contact to acknowledge the presence of a bicyclist who has stopped at an intersection and waiting to cross the street. Yield to them when appropriate.

In addition, bicyclists should consider the following tips when riding:

- Wear a helmet.
- Obey traffic signs and signals. Bicycles must follow the rules of the road like other vehicles.

-more-

- Never ride against traffic. Motorists aren't looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road.
- Follow lane markings.
- Use hand signals. Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do.
- Use light at night. The law requires a white headlight and a rear reflector or taillight at night.

“By following these safety tips and practicing the rules of the road, bicyclists and motor vehicles can safely navigate North Dakota roadways together,” says Nelson.

For more information about NDDOT's “Share the Road” campaign, go to [www.dot.nd.gov](http://www.dot.nd.gov).