



Commentary
by:
Cathy Carlat



Road User Courtesy

February 2013

*Councilmember – Mesquite District
City of Peoria*

Throughout my years on Peoria City Council, one of the most common concerns I hear about is the clash of interactions among different road users. I often hear from motorists regarding bicyclists on the street, bicyclists regarding pedestrians on the bike lanes, and pedestrians regarding bicyclists on the sidewalks.

Obviously, there are several different types of road users, all with different and equally important interests. While there are distinct laws that govern the use of public roadways, successful enjoyment of each of these thoroughfares often relies on the use of common courtesy and common sense.

The natural, picturesque environment of the Mesquite District is ideal for many types of outdoor enjoyment. Walking, jogging, and bicycling are a way of life; a way of life that should be protected and respected. With that in mind, I thought it was appropriate to pass along the following guidelines about sharing the roadways, sidewalks and bike lanes.

Sidewalks – Sidewalks are primarily for pedestrians and where a sidewalk is provided, pedestrians are required to use it. It is not illegal for bicycles to ride on sidewalks; however, bicycles must yield to pedestrians. Bicycles should ride with the direction of traffic at SLOW speeds.

Bike Lanes – Bike lanes are for the exclusive use of bicycles by Arizona State law. If for any reason any other road user is in the bike lane, such as a jogger, they must provide a clear path for an approaching bicycle and should not expect the bicycle to yield.

Street Lanes – The roadway lanes are for the use of all vehicles, including golf carts (when the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less) and bicycles, even when a bicycle lane is provided. As vehicles, bicycles must obey all traffic signs and rules. Motorists must share the road when cyclists ride in a street lane.

The laws and ordinances surrounding the use of these public areas are in place for the safety of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Of course, we all know that laws don't prevent accidents. Please, take every precaution – wear reflective gear, use defensive tactics, minimize distractions, and watch out for the other guy.



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For additional information on transportation resources within our City; including road closures, bike rides, and maps, please visit

<http://www.peoriaaz.gov/NewSecondary.aspx?id=50599>.

To keep updated about what is happening in your city, register for the Mesquite District electronic news alerts by visiting www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite. Contact Councilmember Cathy Carlat at Mesquite@peoriaaz.gov or by calling 623-773-7306.