

**Subject:** 2021 Ride Feedback & Safety/Courtesy Tips #5

**Date:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7:44:14 PM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Ready2Roll Cycling

**To:** Stephen Moskowitz



As we promised you this morning, we have several more safety, etiquette, and common sense tips to share with you this evening. These items cover many subjects. All are important, so please take the time to read, and re-read this note. These tips will pay very handsome dividends on the time and effort you spend, learning and practicing them...

### **Single File - does not have a Single meaning...**

This past Saturday, many of you commented to us about noticing all the new Single File signs placed along the route. We got good feedback that, overall, riders are doing better but we still have work to do in a couple of practices...

- Single File means riders are keeping a safe distance between other riders, and the ride front (a balance between drafting, safe distance to react to unexpected moves, and COVID-19 concerns).
- Single File means the riders are riding in one, single line, not 2-3 adjacent lines.
- Finally, Single File means riders are riding as far to the right as is practicable...around 1 foot from the right edge of the pavement, unless the surface is not safe to ride on.

### **The Safest Rider is a Predictable Rider**

We had several observations related to this...

- Several of you reported seeing a rider who suddenly pulled over to the left, usually, to pass, and sometimes, for no apparent reason. Clearly, this can result in one, or several going down as a result of an unexpected move. Please be sure to look and make sure it is clear, behind, and ahead, before moving over to pass. And, please don't just pull out for no reason. After all, if you were in your car and passing another car, wouldn't you look back and make sure you were safe to pass? Of course you would – do the same when on your bike.
- Another related observation is a rider who seems to be struggling to maintain their pace when another rider, or group are approaching to pass, the rider speeds up, making it more difficult, and longer for the passing riders to pass. When being passed, be courteous and let the other riders pass you. Also, never move over and hop on their wheel to join their draft. Safe riders DON'T ride like this! They ride at a pace they can comfortably maintain and maintain a steady pace, when being passed.

### **Communication is Critical to Safe Cycling**

Here are several points related to this:

- Riders approaching to pass need to communicate, effectively, and timely, to the rider(s) being passed. This means alerting them as you get near, alerting again as you start the actual pass, and thanking them for cooperating as you pass, then allowing plenty of room before pulling back over.
- Riders being passed need to be alert so they hear, as riders approach, and ride at a predictable, steady pace, as far to the right, as possible.
- Riders need to learn to communicate, and signal turns and changes in pace, ahead of time. After communicating, then you predictably follow through with the turn, pass, etc.

### **Critical Courtesy Reminder**

I'll share this one, from the rider who mentioned this point...

"Please remind riders that, if they are about to sneeze, spit, cough, etc. please check their surroundings, and the wind, first..."

### **Sign-in Reminders**

These should be pretty obvious but everyone should please remember to:

- Sign-in before you ride (This helps us know how many riders are on the road and who they are)
- Sign-out when you finish (This helps us know everyone has safely made it back)
- PS - Your mask goes back on at the finish, before you head to the sign-on table. Please ride your bike up to the tables.

## **Reminder - Be Prepared, So You can Finish Your Ride**

Here is a tip directly from one of our new Ride Marshals...

I am a new Ride Marshal this year. I did the 57 mile ride Saturday and the Pedaling the Prairie ride, and have a suggestion...

The number of riders with no spare tube is simply astounding. On yesterday's ride one guy's needed some kind of tool to remove the wheel, which he didn't have nor a spare tube, so he sag.

Would you please add a note in your weekly email explaining to riders that flats occur frequently and urge riders to carry a spare tube with a stem appropriate for their wheel (one rider had 28 wheels that needed an extra long stem). If they need a special tool, then they probably should carry it! This will help reduce the number of riders that have to be sagged.

OK, that's quite an assortment of topics but all these are useful to learn and practice. You will be a safer, more courteous, more effective, and more respected cyclist, after you have learned and mastered these lessons...

Thanks for Your Support,

**Steve, Marshall, Jan and Robbie**

Ready2Roll Cycling



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