



# TIPS FOR RIDING IN A SOCIAL BIKING GROUP

## LOOK AND ANTICIPATE

- Look past the riders in front of you to get a heads up of the route ahead so you can anticipate changes in speed or direction.
- Ride consistently and predictably. Your movements can affect everyone in the group. Hold a straight line, try not to weave and always overtake someone on the right.

## USING YOUR BRAKES

- Any changes in speed become increasingly difficult to deal with further down a group of riders. Use anticipation as your first brake, and stop pedalling to reduce speed, before gently compressing your brakes.

## COMMUNICATE

- Warn your fellow riders of hazards by signalling and announcing the hazard. Some people may have hearing difficulties or the wind may restrict hearing, so use hand signals and your voice.
- Keep the communication train flowing. If riders in front of you signal and voice a hazard then repeat the message so riders behind you are aware of what is happening.
- If you are new to the group and feeling nervous, position yourself towards the front of the group so you can react quicker and have more time to scan for potential hazards.
- If you decide to leave the group before the ride is finished be sure to tell your other group members as to prevent them going to find you.

## INTERSECTIONS AND ROUNDABOUTS

- Stay together in pairs and claim the traffic lane, keeping the space between you and your fellow riders small. A tight group of riders takes up less space on the road and is faster to get through intersections, than one long single-file line.
- Wait for fellow riders on the other side of intersections if the group gets broken up. This culture of waiting helps others from taking unnecessary risks to keep up.
- You are responsible for your own safety. Double check at intersections and roundabouts that it is safe for you to go, don't just follow the person in front of you.

## SHARE WITH CARE

- Ideally if riding on shared paths, always have a bell. Announce to pedestrians you are coming up behind them and tell them the direction you are passing them **"coming up behind on your right."** Always pass on the right (if possible) as you would on the road in a car.
- Make sure to acknowledge other users of the road or pathways. A greeting or a wave can also let you know that you have been seen by drivers, pedestrians or other people on bikes.

## CARE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

- Always close gates on shared paths, and take all rubbish with you.
- Communication is important with other road users. Make sure to use the correct hand signals when turning left/right or when you are slowing down or stopping.