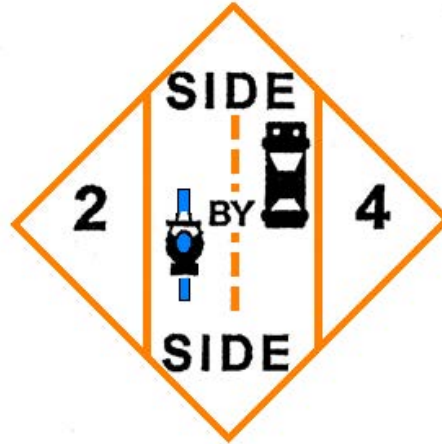


# BMMC Rider Training

## 2 X 4 – SIDE BY SIDE



### I. "Can't we all just get along...?"

In a perfect world, with no one else on the road but me and my motorcycle, sure. However, there's that "share the road" thing with other vehicles that always gets in the way. That's the reality. We're not the only ones out there using the pavement. And therein lies the problem.

So, how can we make our riding world safer for you and me, the motorcyclists? It really just boils down to education. If I can better assess what the motorist might be doing at the time I may be better prepared to avoid a mishap. If the motorist, on the other hand, has a better understanding of what the motorcyclist is going through at that moment, he may be better prepared to avoid a mishap also.



Because virtually all motorcyclists also drive cars, we have a definite advantage in knowing and understanding what the biker experiences while riding. However, the reverse is not necessarily true, the non-rider motorist is usually pretty much clueless. And because we have that advantage we need to use it to increase our own "*conspicuity*" to the motorist. **We need to make him aware that we are there, too.**

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## II. Motorist Awareness

One of the main causes of mishaps is the traditional driver distractions, such as passengers, eating, smoking, reading, shaving, applying make-up, and managing audio systems. And new ones like mobile phones and vehicle navigation systems, which divert more attention inside the car, are on the rise... all contributing to not seeing or being aware of the presence of a motorcycle and impeding a driver's ability to recognize a motorcycle in traffic.



We need to compensate for unaware motorists by increasing our noticeability (e.g. proper lane position, riding with headlights on during daytime, and wearing brightly colored and reflective protective outerwear). In other words, the motorcycle rider must assume the responsibility of avoiding a crash situation caused by another motorist.

Huh? Why me? Why not the drivers? Because 4Xdrivers will frequently fail to observe motorcyclists, even though the motorcyclist is in plain view!

The main reasons that motorists don't see motorcycles:

1. Most are not familiar with motorcycles, and because of that,
2. Motorists tend to look for and see the familiar... other motorists.
3. Motorcycles have a much smaller profile/cross section than other vehicles, so judging closure rates and speeds are more difficult for motorists.
4. The vehicles blind spot (or just a quick look by the driver) often will hide the presence of a motorcycle due to its significantly smaller size.

## III. Accident Statistics

If the motorist would just "Take a sec and double check"...

1. Approximately three-fourths of all motorcycle crashes involve a motor vehicle.
2. Two-thirds of these crashes were caused by the motorist failing to yield the right-of-way.
3. Left Turns - Over forty percent of all motorcycle crashes occur at intersections.





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4. The most common reason given by the motorists involved in these accidents is, "I didn't see the motorcycle."

## IV. Bottom Line

The onus is on us, the motorcycle riders, to do the best we can to "make our presence felt" by the 4Xmotor vehicle world.

Here are a few examples of how we can help:

1. When the light changes to green try not to be the first through the intersection. Allow another vehicle to clear your way.
2. Before passing, pause momentarily with your headlight in sight in the outside rearview mirror of the vehicle, then pass at a reasonable speed.
3. Have your head on a swivel when entering any intersection.
4. Anticipate the "danger zones" and be prepared to take evasive action.
5. Ride with a "safety bubble" of space around you.
6. Avoid lane-splitting to prolong longevity.
7. Maintain good situation awareness of what is/might be happening around you.



This sign is speaking to both motorists *and* bikers

Hope this helps.