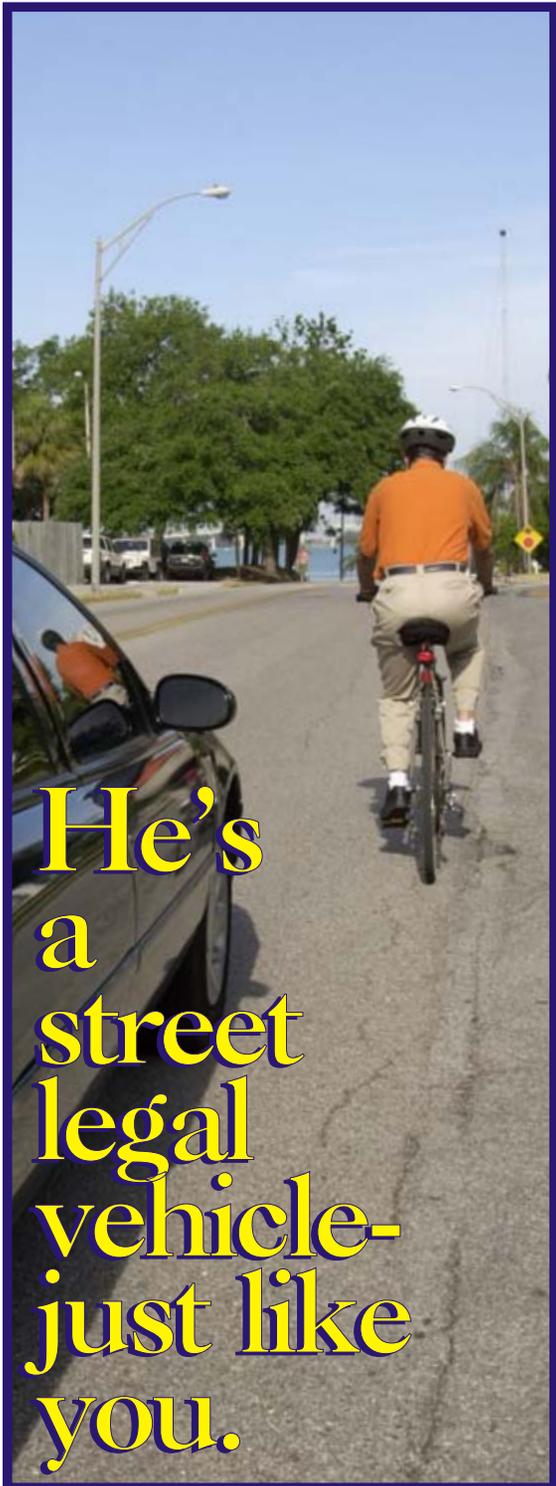




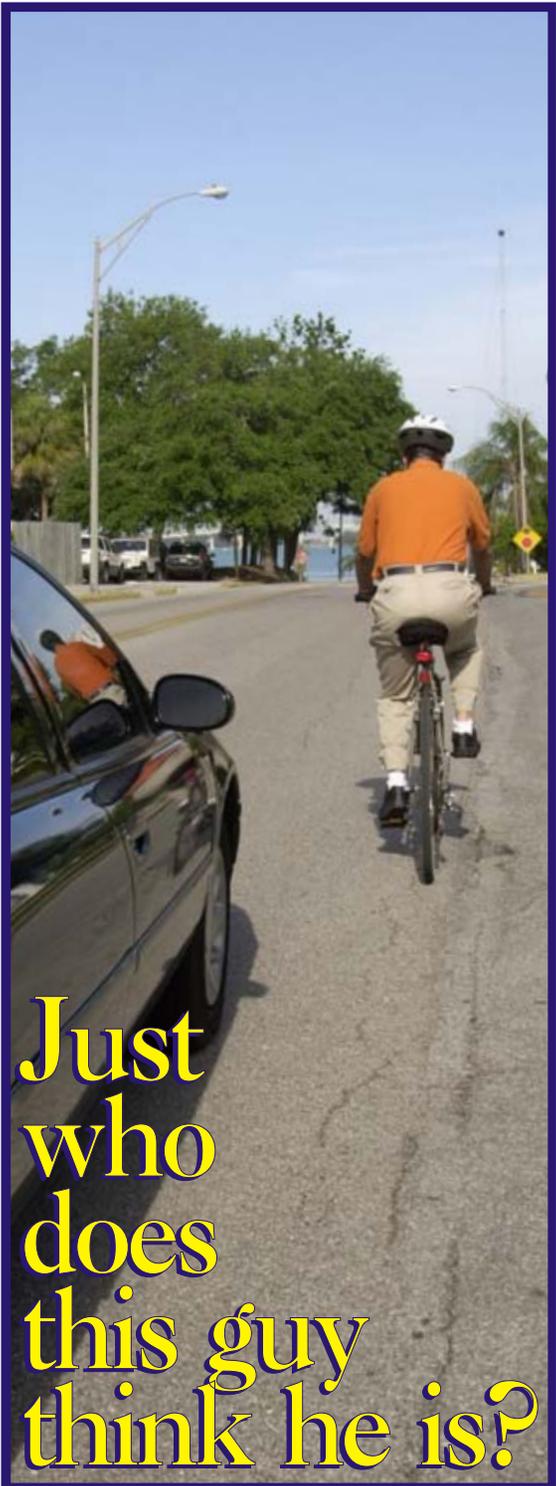
For more information on bicyclists' rights and bicycling in Pinellas County, please contact:

Pinellas County
Metropolitan Planning Organization
600 Cleveland Street
Suite 750
Clearwater, Florida 33755

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www.co.pinellas.fl.us/mpo



He's
a
street
legal
vehicle-
just like
you.



Just
who
does
this guy
think he is?

In Florida, bicycles are vehicles too.

Q Why is that bicyclist on the road?

A Bicyclists are entitled by law to use the roads. The only limit is that they are not allowed on high speed limited access highways such as Interstates. Other than that, the roads are theirs as much as they are yours. There's room for everyone if we share.

Q Shouldn't they be on the bike trails?

A Those options work well when they're going where the bicyclist wants to go, but that isn't always the case.

Q What about the sidewalk?

A Bicyclists on a sidewalk need to yield the right of way to pedestrians. Be sure to give the pedestrian a signal they can hear as you approach from behind.

Children and less experienced bicyclists need to use care when riding on sidewalks. They need to make sure they look for turning motorists, stop at driveways, all intersections and parking lots.

Q How should the bicyclists be riding?

A By law, bicycles should stay to the right side of the road. When that is not safe, a bicyclist is allowed to move to the center of the lane. Road debris, broken glass, storm grates, deep puddles or cars blocking the right side of the road are examples of hazards on the edge of the pavement. Once past the hazard, the bicyclist should move over to the right side, allowing traffic a chance to safely pass when the situation permits.

Q What about stop signs and red lights?

A As the operator of a legal vehicle, a bicyclist is required by law to stop for all stop signs and red lights. They are also required to signal their turns just like you, have a white headlight, red taillight and red rear reflector for riding at night. Bicyclists can receive traffic tickets just like any other driver when they break the law.

Q How do I get around a bicyclist?

A Passing a bicyclist on a public road is no different from passing another car. You have to wait for a safe, legal passing zone and give them plenty of room as you go by. Allow at least three feet between the right side of your car and the left side of the bicyclist. Make sure you're well past them before you pull back into the lane, especially if you plan to turn right up ahead. You should never blow your horn at a bicyclist. A loud car horn might startle the cyclist and cause them to swerve into traffic, causing an accident. If traffic doesn't permit an immediate pass, you'll need to stay a safe distance behind the bicyclist before passing. Remember: It's their road as much as it is yours. Pass safely.

