



Highway Traffic Act - Part III by Doug Paterson, Q.C.

While drivers must yield to pedestrians at uncontrolled intersections, pedestrians have an onus not to proceed across a vehicle's path if it is so close that it is "impracticable" for the driver to yield.

Drivers in Brandon are very weak at observing this next rule. Where a vehicle is stopped to permit a pedestrian to cross, no driver coming from behind the stopped vehicle shall overtake and pass that vehicle.

How many close calls like this have we seen around here?

Most interesting is that where a pedestrian is crossing other than at a crosswalk, he/she must yield to the vehicles and then must cross "with all reasonable speed".

At a pedestrian corridor, a pedestrian must extend his/her hand and arm in full and indicate the direction of crossing, then drivers must yield.

Anyone operating any type of bicycle on a highway or bike path has the same rights and

duties as the driver of a motor vehicle. A person must be at least 14 years to operate a power-assisted bicycle, and must wear a fitted, fastened helmet. The owner of a power-assisted bicycle is liable if someone under 14 years operates it. More and more electric bicycles and mopeds will be seen in the years ahead, so these rules are important to learn.

It is illegal for you to hold on to or attach yourself to the outside of a moving vehicle or to allow yourself to be towed and no vehicle driver shall allow these things to occur either. So no more "bumper shining" in a blizzard.

Beware that if you want to ride on a vehicle on a highway you must do so where it is intended for a passenger use, ie. no riding on a motorcycle's handlebars.

No one on any type of bicycle may carry any object which interferes with the operator's control of the bicycle. No big laundry baskets can be used on a bicycle.

Similar to motor vehicles, no one may buy or sell a bicycle if it's identity numbers have been altered or defaced. If you buy a used bike, beware of this law, or you could be bilked by a bike.

In the next column on the Highway Traffic Act we will cover accidents and various prohibitions regarding registrations and licensing.