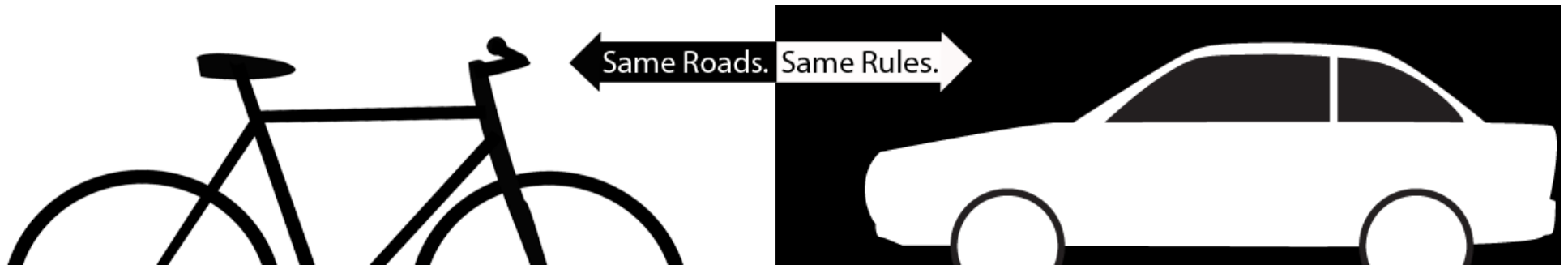


Same Roads, Same Rules: Bicycles, Cars, and the Law

Moving Together 2009

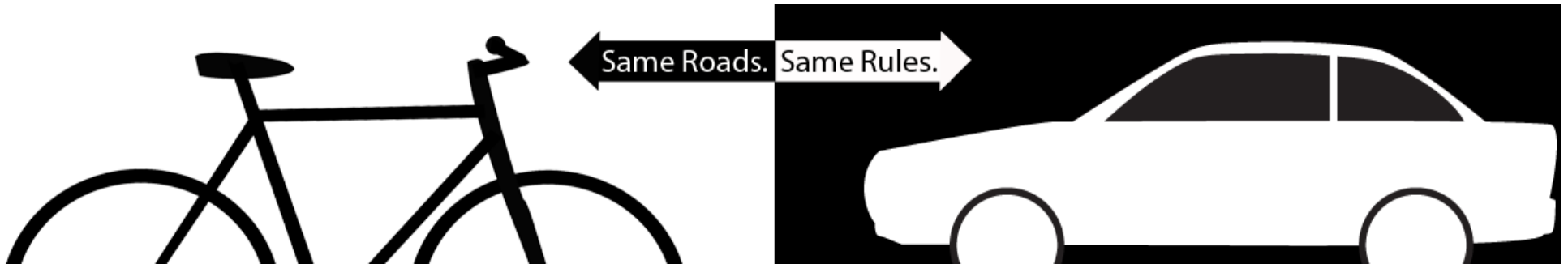




Agenda

1. Introduction: Existing Law and 2009 Bicyclist Safety Act
2. Key Laws for Bicyclists
3. Key Laws for Motorists
4. Police & Bicycling
5. Other 2009 Changes
6. Preview: 2009 Safety Survey Results
7. New Safety Campaign





Key Laws for Bicyclists (1)

(from MGL chapter 85, section 11B)

- **Bicycles are legally vehicles and must follow the Rules of the Road**
 - Can take the full lane when needed
 - Allowed on all roads except limited access or express state highways where posted
 - Local ordinances cannot limit on-road bicycle access
 - Subject to the “traffic laws and regulations of the commonwealth”
- **Bicyclists may ride to the right of motor vehicles, rather than in the travel lane**
 - Bicyclists are not required to ride all the way to the right
- **Bicyclists must ride in the same direction as other traffic (MGL chapter 89, section 4B)**





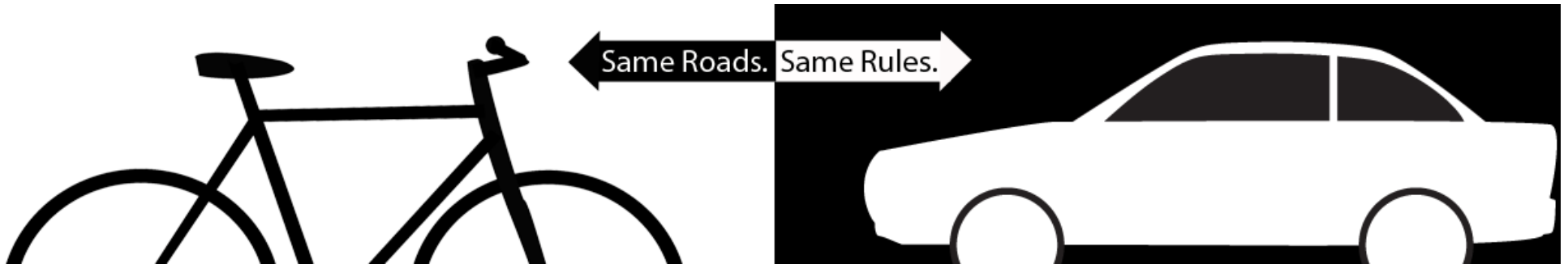
Key Laws for Bicyclists (2)

(from MGL chapter 85, section 11B)

- **Bicyclists may ride on the sidewalk outside of business districts**
 - But this right can be limited or prohibited by local ordinance
- **Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians on the sidewalk (and in crosswalks)**
 - And give an audible signal when passing a pedestrian!
- **Bicyclists can ride two abreast***
 - But must facilitate overtaking like any vehicle (MGL chapter 89, section 2)



* New in 2009 Bicyclist Safety Law



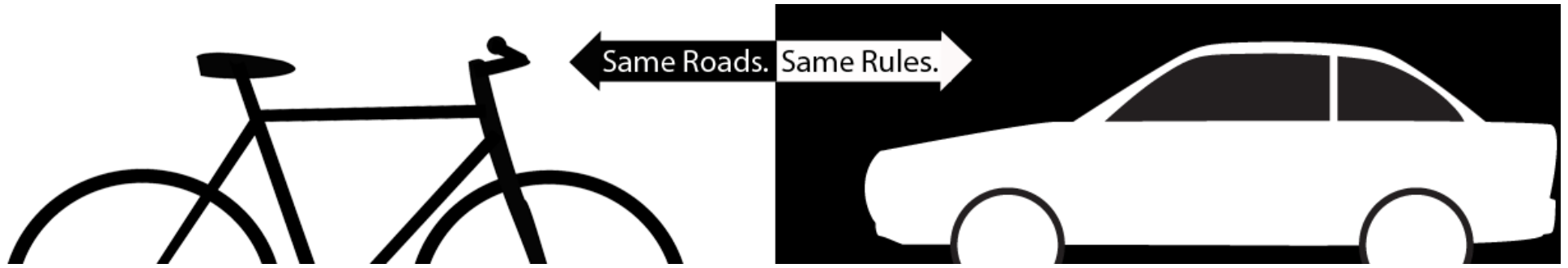
Key Laws for Bicyclists (3)

(from MGL chapter 85, section 11B)

- **Bicyclists age 16 and younger must wear a helmet approved by the CPSC***
 - Adult bicyclists not required to wear helmets
- **Bicyclists must use a white headlight and a red rear light or reflector at night**
 - Pedal or ankle reflectors, and reflective material visible from the side, are also required!
- **Bicyclists must use hand signals when stopping and turning**
 - Signal then put both hands back on the handlebars!*
 - Don't signal when it is dangerous to take a hand off the bars*



* New in 2009 Bicyclist Safety Law

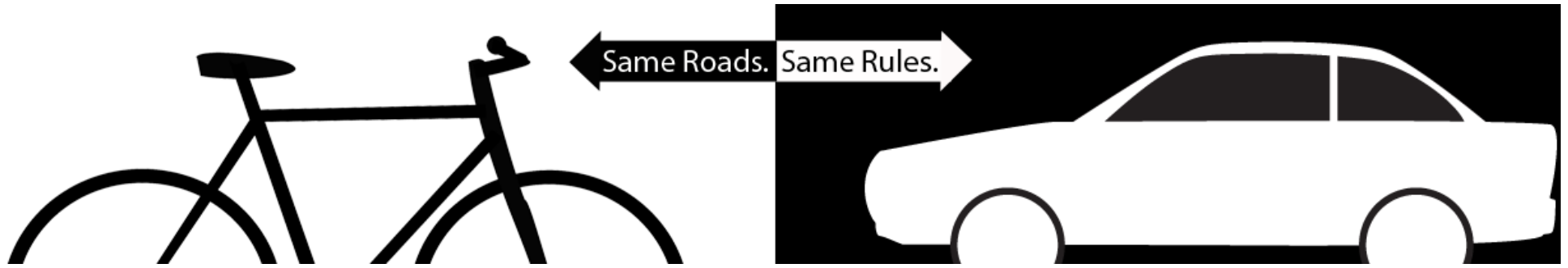


Key Laws for Motorists (1)

- **Bicycles are legally vehicles and must follow the Rules of the Road (MGL chapter 85, section 11B)**
 - Can take the full lane when needed
 - Allowed on all roads except limited access or express state highways where posted
 - Local ordinances cannot limit on-road bicycle access
 - Subject to the “traffic laws and regulations of the commonwealth”
- **Bicyclists may ride to the right of motor vehicles, rather than in the travel lane (MGL chapter 85, section 11B)**
 - Bicyclists are not required to ride all the way to the right



* New in 2009 Bicyclist Safety Law

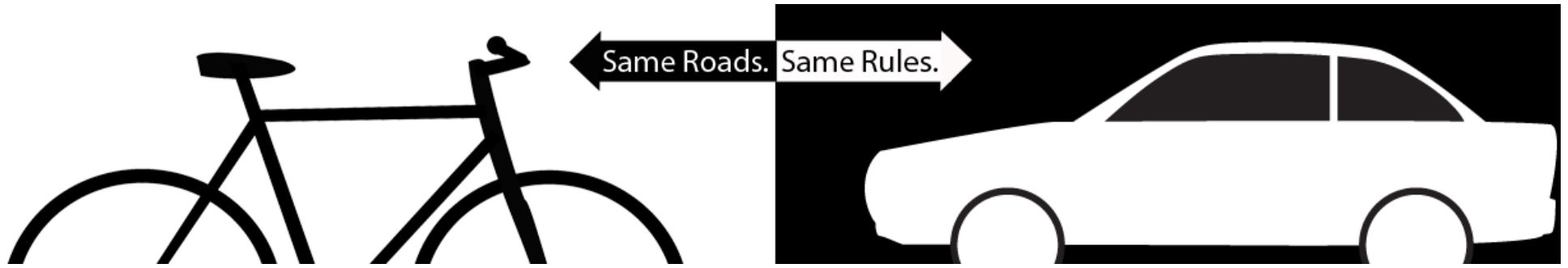


Key Laws for Motorists (2)

- **No Dooring:** “Dooring” is subject to a ticket and fine up to \$100* (MGL chapter 90, section 14)
 - Applies to passengers as well as drivers
 - Protects bicyclists, pedestrians, and even other cars
- **Safe Passing: Slow down and pass bicycle at safe distance and reasonable and proper speed (MGL chapter 90, section 14)**
 - Vehicles may overtake a bicycle in the same lane only at a safe distance* (MGL chapter 89, section 2)
 - If there is not enough room to pass safely in the same lane, the passing vehicle must use an adjacent lane or wait for a safe opportunity to pass



* New in 2009 Bicyclist Safety Law

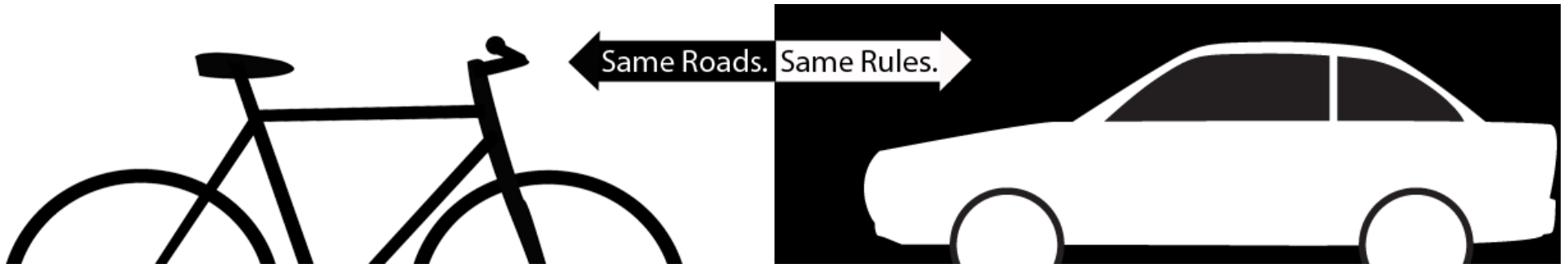


Key Laws for Motorists (3)

- **No Cutting Off:** Vehicles passing another vehicle (including bikes) may not return to the right until safely clear of the slower vehicle* (MGL chapter 89, section 2)
- **No Right-Hooks:** Motorists may not pass bicyclists then make an abrupt right turn* (MGL chapter 90, section 14)
 - Turns must be at a safe distance and a reasonable and proper speed
- **No Left-Crosses:** Vehicles must yield to bicycles when making a left turn (MGL chapter 90, section 14)
 - Applies regardless of whether the bicycle is in the travel lane or to the right of other traffic*



* New in 2009 Bicyclist Safety Law



Police & Bicycling (1)

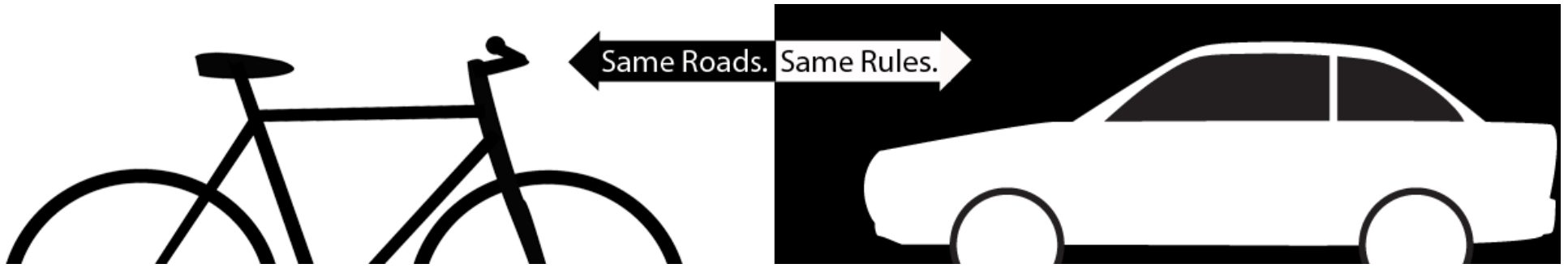
- **Training* (MGL chapter 6, section 116E)**

- Mandatory for new recruits
- Optional for in-service trainees
- Covers the following:

- (1) the rights and duties of bicyclists,
- (2) patterns and sources of injuries to bicyclists, both those involving and not involving motor vehicles, and the percentage of crashes involving cyclists riding against traffic, riding at night, and riding on sidewalks,
- (3) the most dangerous actions by bicyclists, and methods for citing bicyclists, including minors,
- (4) common motorist actions causing bicycle crashes,
- (5) reporting bicyclist crashes, and
- (6) motorists intentionally endangering bicyclists.



* New in 2009 Bicyclist Safety Law

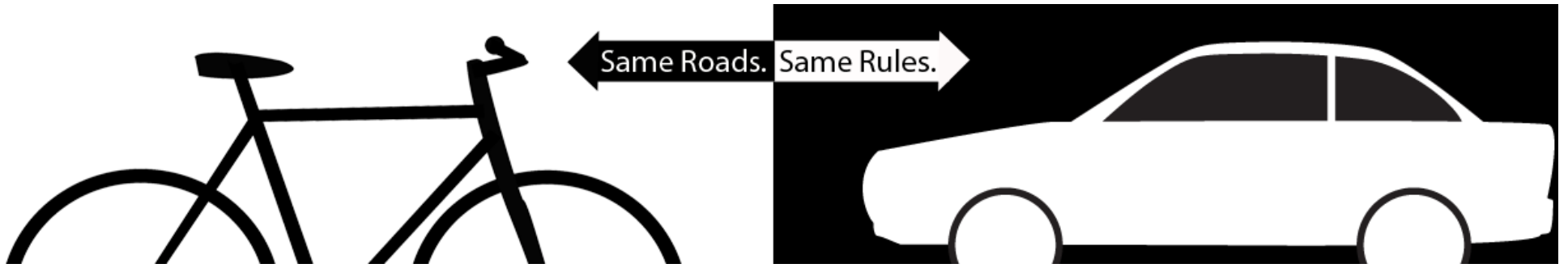


Police & Bicycling (2)

- **New Enforcement Procedure for Bicyclist Offenses*** (MGL chapter 85, section 11C)
 - Replaces cumbersome town-by-town procedure with same statewide procedure and citations used for motor vehicle violations
 - Implementation delayed until 2011
 - Does not affect enforcement of any laws against motorists



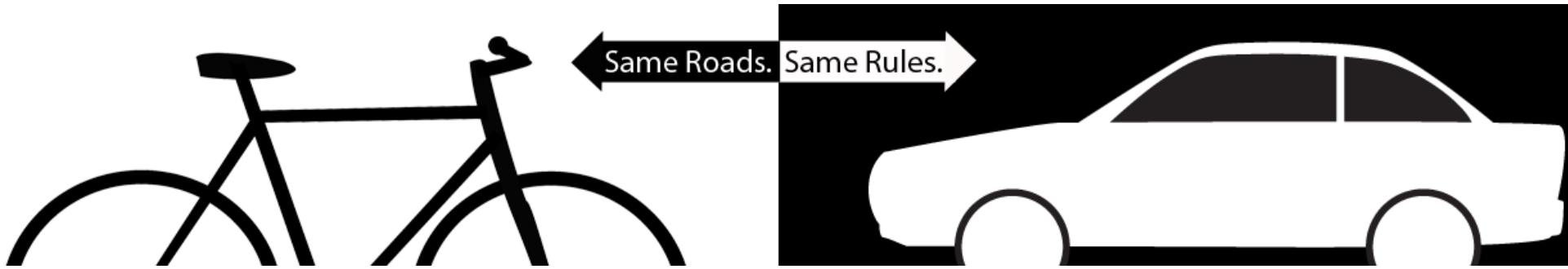
* New in 2009 Bicyclist Safety Law



Other 2009 Changes

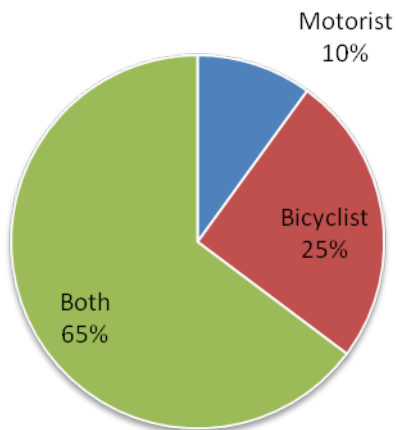
- **Bicycle registration law repealed (MGL chapter 85, section 11A)**
- **Bicycle rental businesses must make helmets available (MGL chapter 85, section 11D)**



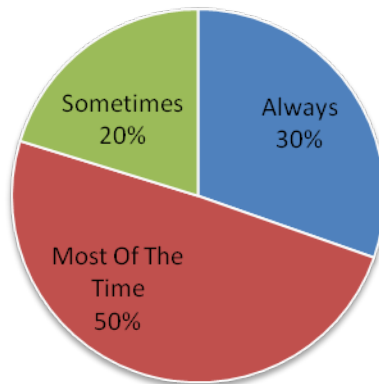


2009 Safety Survey – Representative Results

Mode Split



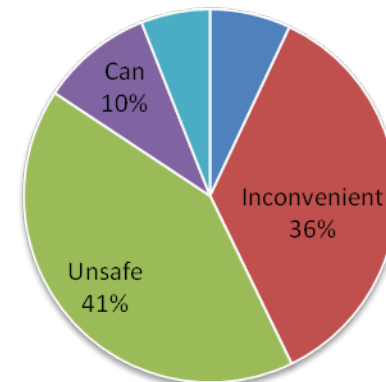
Bicyclist Stop On Red



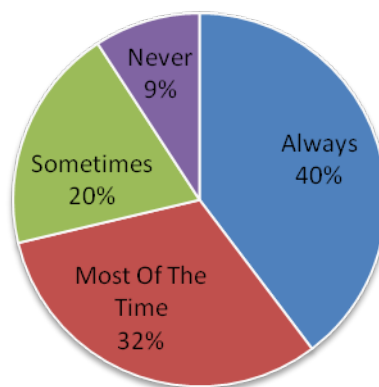
Motorist Behavior
6%

Bicyclist Behavior Reasons

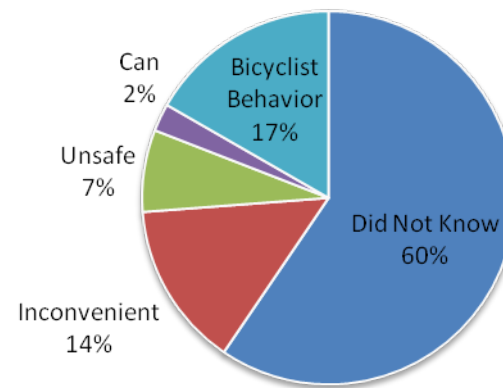
Did Not Know
7%

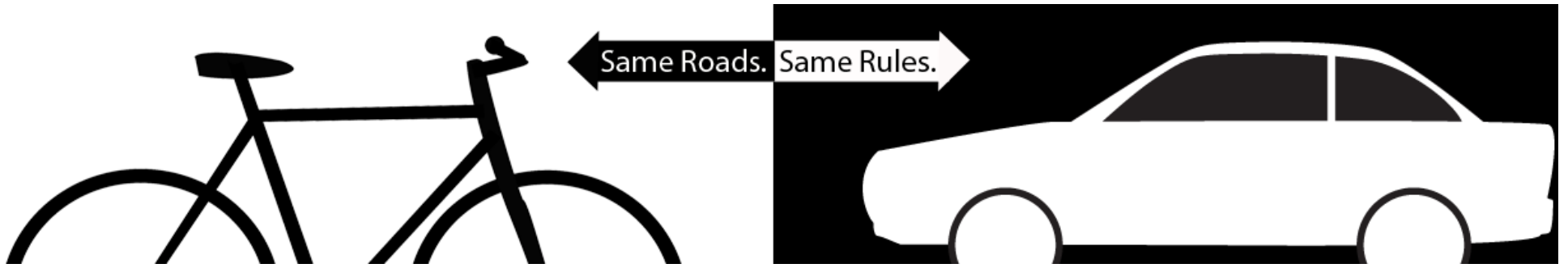


Motorist Look Before Right Turn



Motorist Behavior Reasons





Need More Info?

www.SameRoadsSameRules.org

www.massbike.org

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