



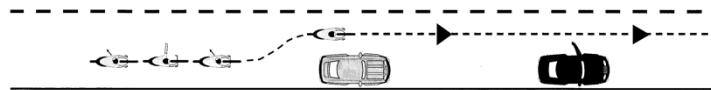
Avoiding the Magnetic Curb (Destination Positioning)

One of the most common mistakes that I see occurring with riders of all skill levels, is giving in to the Magnetic Curb. What is the Magnetic Curb and why does it seem to affect even the highest end composite bike?

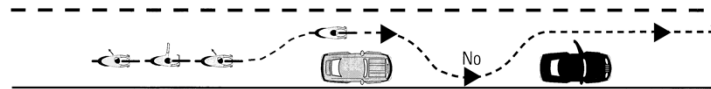
I believe its basis resides deep in our subconscious, where we were told over and over again “stay as far right as possible” by well-meaning parents, siblings or friends when we were learning to operate a bicycle. But our Alberta Traffic Safety Code Section 77(2) states; A person who is operating a cycle, other than a motorcycle, on a highway (or any road) shall operate the cycle **as near as practicable** to the right curb or edge of the roadway unless that person is in the process of making a left turn with the cycle. “Practicable” is the key word here, because there are many situations in which staying as far right as possible is dangerous. Here are two very common situations.

#1 Riding along a row of parked cars – upper correct and lower wrong. Only when there is a large gap (1/2 block) should you move right as far as practicable (1 metre from the curb, debris, hazards or obstructions).

D-1 Parked Cars

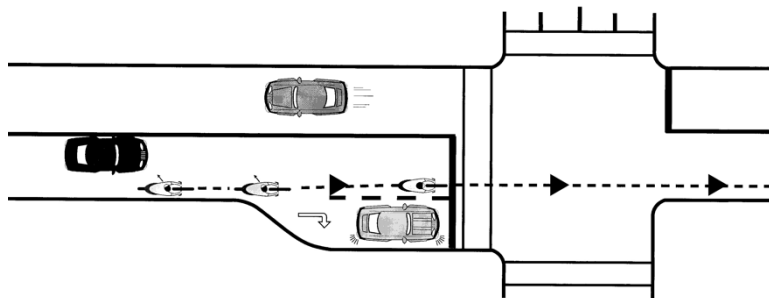


D-2 Parked Cars



#2 Following the curb or edge of a highway into a turn-only lane when your destination is straight through an intersection. The image below shows the correct way to proceed through an intersection. Following the curb, or in the case of a highway the edge, can result in being trapped against the curb by right turning vehicles. Worse, the cyclist may be struck when the right turning vehicle turns in front of the cyclist that is illegally proceeding through the intersection in a right turn-only lane.

H Right Turn Only Lane



Always ask yourself, what am I communicating to other drivers based upon my positioning on the roadway?