

The following is a brief summary about the release of the new [MTO Driver's Handbook](#) in July 2013 which now includes more information on sharing the road with cyclists. The MTO Driver's Handbook is used by most new drivers to prepare for their written G1 driver's exam. Increased information on sharing the road with cyclists within this document is a first step toward increasing awareness of how to share the road with all road users.

Background

In 2011 the Ontario Public Health Association, through the Health and the Built Environment Workgroup created the Increasing Driver Awareness and Knowledge of Safely Sharing the Road with Cyclists Task Group. This task group completed a review of other driver's handbooks, reviewed The MTO's Official Driver's Handbook as well as a scan of other organization's recommended changes to the handbook and created suggested improvements to the sharing the road with cyclists content. These improvements were shared with the Minister and his staff via OPHA partners. In the spring of 2012 an OPHA representative from this task group participated in the MTO's Driver Handbook consultations. The new updated Official Driver's Handbook was released July 2013.

Results

There have been many changes made to The Official MTO Driver's Handbook with regard to including cycling. Here is a simplistic analysis of the changes.

Content	Old book	New Book
Number of times the word bike, bicycle or cyclist was mentioned	28	83
Number of pictures of cyclists on the road	4	10
Number of bicycle facilities pictured; e.g. bike lanes, bike box, sharrows	0	6
Number of time bicycle facilities are mentioned	1	16
Number of pictures of bicycle signage	4	6