



Start Seeing



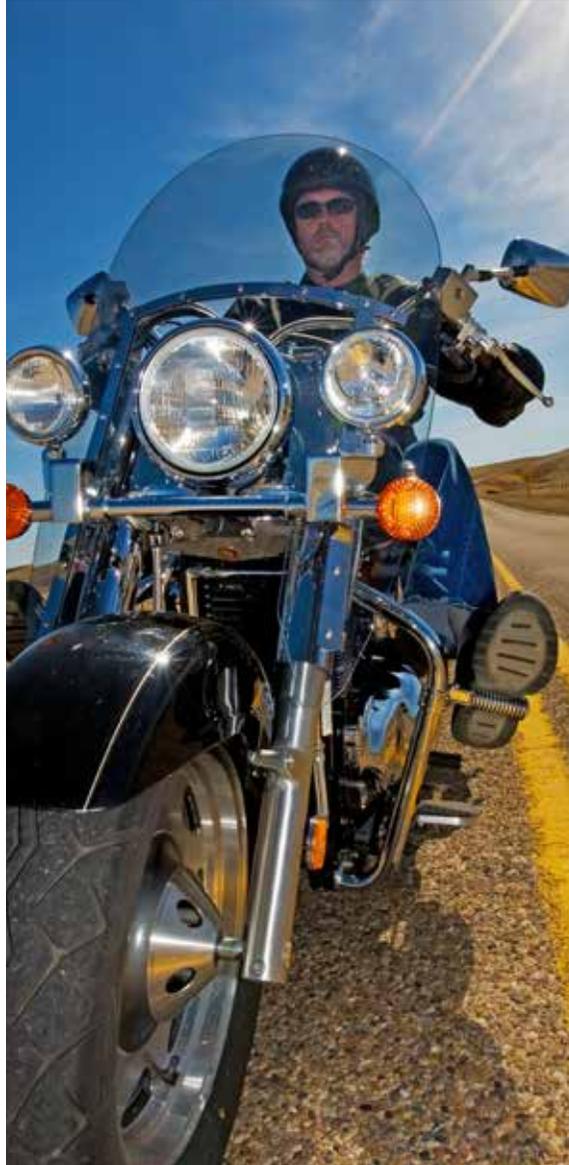
The Michigan Department of State administers the Michigan Rider Education Program. For more information about motorcycle safety and classes visit the department's website at [Michigan.gov/motorcycling](http://Michigan.gov/motorcycling).



Office of Highway Safety Planning

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This material was developed through a project funded by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning and the U.S. Department of Transportation.



**MOTORCYCLES**

*Motorists must share the road with a variety of vehicles, including motorcycles. Motorcycle usage is growing in popularity. They are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look, due to their smaller size and single headlight. Drivers should use the following tips when driving around motorcyclists:*



#### **LOOK FOR MOTORCYCLES**

- >> Search traffic around the vehicle while driving and *expect* to see motorcycles.
- >> Check blind spots before changing lanes or merging. Window and door frames can easily block a driver's view of a motorcycle.
- >> Double-check traffic at intersections before proceeding.
- >> When turning left, take a second look for motorcycles. Most crashes between vehicles and motorcycles occur when vehicles turn left.

#### **GIVE MOTORCYCLISTS ROOM**

- >> Do not drive alongside a motorcycle in your lane. It is unsafe and illegal. Only motorcyclists can share lanes.
- >> Be aware motorcyclists use all of their lane—and sometimes change lanes—to avoid hazards such as debris, potholes, or grooved pavement.
- >> Allow a three or four-second “space cushion” when following motorcyclists.

#### **STAY FOCUSED ON DRIVING**

- >> Focus on the road—avoid distractions, such as cell phones and texting while driving.

#### **THINK YOU'LL NEVER MISS SEEING A MOTORCYCLIST?**

Hold the paper 14-16 inches from your face, cover your right eye and stare at the dot. The motorcyclist disappears.

