**Safety-oriented On-road Practices of Adult Bicycle Riders in Brooklyn, New York USA**

**Interview Questions**

**#21, Sunset Park, recruited October 28, interviewed November 3, 2018.**

**TO217E01.mp3**

*Background Questions:*

1. What is your age? (Were you born prior to this month and day in the year 2000?)

**28**

1. What is your race or ethnicity?

**Caucasian**

1. What is your gender?

**Male**

1. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

**Bachelor’s degree**

1. How long (in months or years) have you been riding bicycles?

**Since I was a kid, so – 20+ years.**

1. How long (in months or years) have you been riding bicycles in Brooklyn?

**5 years.**

1. Compared to most other bicycle riders you have observed, are you more careful, less careful, or about the same?

**I’d say I’m about the same.**

1. Have you been in any bicycle crashes that involved other vehicles or pedestrians?

**I was rear-ended by a car backing out in Montreal. It was a minor collision, so not a significant accident.** [How long ago was that?] **That was this year, in June. And then I was hit by a taxicab on a skateboard in New York, but that was not a bike-related accident.** [That must have been scary. Were you hurt?] **I scraped up my hands and knees pretty bad. I was in the bike lane, and he was making a left turn and didn’t see me and I didn’t have time to react, so ran into the car and got knocked off my board. Again, not a bike-related accident, but in a bike lane.**

During the past 12 months…..

1. What have been the main reasons or purposes for going bicycle riding? (Commute? Errands? Transportation to other locations? Exercise? Recreation? Part of your job? Other?)

**Pretty much all that are listed. Occasionally commuting to work, running errands to go get groceries, going to meet friends, ri-- biking through Prospect Park for exercise, biking down to the beach for recreation, but not as part of my job.**

1. On average, how frequently have you ridden your bicycle?

**I try to ride my bike at least 3 to 4 times a week.**

1. On average, how long (in minutes) did you ride each day that you went bicycling?

**Each ride is about 45 minutes so I’d say in total about 2 hours a day when I am biking.**

1. How much of your bicycle riding took place when there was a lot of motor vehicle traffic?

**I would say, a quarter – no, I’d say a half.**

1. How much of your bicycle riding took place in darkness or low light conditions such as dusk?

**I would say a tenth – I try to avoid riding at nighttime.**

*Primary study questions:*

1. From the perspective of safety, what is it like to go bicycle riding in the streets of Brooklyn?

**From the perspective of safety, while Brooklyn has great bike lanes, I’ve noticed that a lot of cars will pull over to the side of the street, blocking the bike lanes, which can lead to unsafe biking, having to get around cars to avoid a car pulled over in the bike lane.**

1. For a bicycle rider in Brooklyn, what are the most common dangers or hazards that confront a bicycle rider?

**Cars are the biggest danger – cars not paying attention when turning, or passengers of cars exiting without looking at their surroundings.**

Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid these hazards?

**Pay attention. Try not to bike too incredibly fast, and stay on streets that have designated bike lanes or are safer to bike.**

[f/u Q: Streets that don’t have bike lanes – what would make one street less dangerous than another?]

**Less traffic. I would much rather ride a less trafficked street around Green-Wood Cemetery than I would go down, like, 5th Avenue or 4th Avenue in Brooklyn that doesn’t have a bike lane – it’s, like, three lanes and heavy traffic. So it’s just a less-trafficked street.**

1. Are there dangers or hazards that are difficult or impossible for a bicycle rider to see and react to?

**Again, cars – because cars are moving at a speed faster than bikes are and faster than an operator of a bike can react to. Doors opening are a bit easier to react to, but if somebody is speeding through an intersection to turn left or is running a red light, there’s only so much you can do to react to that.**

With regard to the things you names, are there particular things you do while riding to avoid them?

**I stay in the bike lane as much as possible, I use my arms to signal when I’m getting into a lane to turn, I make sure that intersections are clear and that I have the right-of-way when pulling into the intersection to make a left turn or right turn, so just being aware and assertive in my intent to turn while following safety regulations.**

[f/u Q: Can you describe what you do to make sure you have the right-of-way?]

**Make sure that the walk sign is on, the light is green or that I have a left turn – a turn arrow. So, just following traffic signs that say that I have the right-of-way.**

1. Please describe things you have seen other bicycle riders do that you consider to be dangerous.

**Bike through intersections when they don’t have the right-of-way, especially biking through intersections when there is oncoming, like, traffic in the opposite direction. Texting while biking. Just – just reckless biking in general. Biking quickly. Weaving in and out of cars, not staying in the bike lanes. That’s about it -- yeah.**

1. If it were your job to teach other adult bicyclists how to stay safe while riding in the streets of Brooklyn, what particular instructions would you give them?

**Treat your bike – treat your bike like a car and obey the streets like you’re driving a car. You wouldn’t – you wouldn’t go take a left turn through an intersection when c-- traffic is coming from the opposite direction. Just because you’re biking and it’s easier to maneuver doesn’t mean you should do it.**

1. Imagine for a moment that, right now, you are riding on a Brooklyn street along with other traffic. Tell me all the different things you are doing to keep yourself safe and avoid a crash or collision as you ride.

**I’m focused and attentive to my riding, I am looking ahead, I am biking at a considerable pa– a moderate considerable pace. I -- As I approach an intersection, I am looking at the traffic light, I’m looking at traffic around me. If I need to get over to the left lane, I raise my left arm to show -- to signal that I am merging, and I also make sure that there is space and it is safe for me to merge. As I’m entering the intersection, I’m making sure that it’s clear, I’m not cutting off any bikes, and I have a clear path to make the turn. If I’m listening to music, I have one headphone in and one out, so I can hear traffic around me. I’m wearing a helmet. I think that’s pretty much everything -- yeah.**

1. Now I would like to throw out a few words or phrases and ask you if they trigger any additional thoughts about how to ride safely:

* Intersections

**Right-of-way – (*unintelligible*), but yeah -- make sure you have the right-of-way at an intersection.**

[Right – and we already talked about that. Is there anything else you want to say about that?]

**Just reiterating the point that some bicyclists will barrel through intersections when they don’t have the right-of-way, or they’ll run a red light.**

* Traffic signs and signals

**They’re there for a reason.**

* Right-of-way

**Is the same as a car.**

* Pedestrians

**Ooh – oh yeah, that’s something I forgot, and it inhibits – or -- hurts safety. Sometimes pedestrians will walk in the bike lane, especially in Manhattan on more crowded streets. So, pedestrians: you should always give them the right-of-way, but there’s sometimes where they are not obeying traffic signs or they’re not -- it’s not their time to go but still you need to be cautious and mindful of them even if they’re in the wrong.**

* Speed

**Be moderate. Keep your high speed to parks or areas where it’s safe to bike at high speeds.**

* Respect

**Aretha Franklin. Yeah – respect your pedestrians, your cars, and the rules of the road. And your fellow bikers. Respect all.**

* Trucks, buses

**Big and annoying, and oftentimes the people that park in the bike lanes to unload whatever they have that they’re delivering.**

[Any thoughts on how to ride safely around trucks and buses?]

**Just exercise more caution when moving around them because they are a bit bigger so it might be harder to see oncoming traffic. Yeah, so just exercise more caution than you would a regular-size vehicle.**

* Parked cars

**If you are aware and paying attention, they shouldn’t be a problem, but if you’re texting and not paying attention, you could run into one, which -- fully on you -- you shouldn’t have been texting or distracted.**

* “Taking the lane”

**That makes me nervous. I don’t -- I feel safer in bike lanes. While I trust people’s intentions when driving, a car can cause a lot more damage when you’re in a lane where the cars are driving versus a bike lane. That’s my opinion.**

[On a street where there is no bike lane, how would you feel about being in the path cars are in versus being on the side?]

**Just stay to the – stay to the shoulder, because there are times when I have to ride without a bike lane -- stay to the shoulder. Exercise more caution. It’s definitely doable, I’ve done it. And I’ve done it on busy streets. So just be – be cognizant of your surroundings, share the road, and be extra cautious.**

* Pet peeves

**Cars that are parked in bike lanes, pedestrians walking in bike lanes, bikers not obeying traffic signs and stop lights, and garbage or sharp things in bike lanes that puncture my tires.**

[Any thoughts about riding safely with respect to those issues?]

**Again, share the road, follow the rules of the road, treat your bicycle like it is a car, and just be present, aware, and mindful of your surroundings.**

1. Please feel free to offer any other thoughts about the topics we have discussed today.

**I have no additional thoughts. I think this is a really cool study and I’m glad to be a part of it. Thank you for the opportunity.**

Thank you very much for participating in this research study and especially for taking the time and effort to complete this interview with me.