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

**Interview Questions**

**#8, Williamsburg, recruited 9-16, interviewed 9-17.**

**TO101E03.mp3**

*Background Questions:*

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

**39**

1. What is your race or ethnicity?

**White**

1. What is your gender?

**Female**

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

**I finished college.**

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

**I know how to ride bicycles since I was about 8.**

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

**I am biking in Brooklyn for the past 3 years.**

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

**I would say, I think I am more careful.**

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

**Very very mild, nothing really happened.**

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?)

**Saving time on commute, saving money on commute, exercise, a good way to exercise, easier way to part of Brooklyn where there is no other way of getting there easy – it’s the best way of getting there.**

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

**Minimum of, I would say, 5 times a week.**

1. On average, how long (in minutes) did you ride each time you go bicycling?

**About 45 minutes.**

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

**Lots of it.**

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

**Less, way less. I don’t like biking at night – I don’t think it’s very safe.**

*Primary study questions:*

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

**I would say sometimes it’s very scary, especially when you’re just starting -----with time it (*unintelligible word*) more better -- I think the rules and customs for bikes and cars could be a little bit better to make safer for everyone.**

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

**For one, there’s not enough bike lanes, and bike lanes make it way safer, especially bike lanes that are separated, those are the safest to be on, and I do feel safest on those. If I do bike anywhere, I try to stick to bike lanes. Or if those are unavailable, I try to stick to one-way streets because those are also a little safer and usually they have more space for bicycles -- for bikers.**

You anticipated my follow-up question: Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid the dangers? Anything else you want to add?

**I would say also – I would like to see more bicycle lights –** [More bicycle lights?] **– yes, those help a lot. And the rules and customs: who has first *(unintelligible word)* when it comes to cars and bicycles turning, they’re not always clear, and the way the customs are designed, we can’t always see the cars turning, and that sometimes creates problems, especially on two-way roads and two-way streets – there’s no light for bicycles to turn on (*unintelligible word*) sometimes.** [Could you say that again? I think I missed part of that.] **I’m answering that, on the two-way streets especially, unless there is a bike light on the crossing, there is not really a safe way to turn.** [I see, okay – so -- like a signal especially for bicycles?] **Exactly. There are a few such places in Manhattan, but not a lot. Definitely space for improvement.**

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

**The cars that are turning – that is something, and I have seen this few times – either cars that are trying to park and they’re going backwards, they can’t always see you, and that happened to me few times and had to really wait out of the way, which is not safe when there are other cars around you -- cars that are turning and not always use blinkers, you can’t tell – and people opening the door without looking – *(unintelligible)*.**

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

**Just pay additional attention – stay as much as you can in bike lanes.**

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

**Just not paying enough attention, mostly.**

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?

**Try to stay in bike lanes as much as possible – if not, stay in one-way streets as much as possible – do use a helmet – and I know I didn’t have a helmet actually when you saw me. Usually I *(unintelligible)*** [All right. But you would advise them to use a helmet.] **Oh yes, definitely. Especially when you are just starting to bike in New York.**

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.

**Pay attention – be aware of your surroundings – that’s pretty much all you can do to keep safe – if it’s a street that has a bike lane, stay in it as long as possible.**

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

**Lights.**  [Could you say more?]  **If there was more bike lights, that would definitely make them safer. That follows with the second question: traffic signs and signals.**

[f/u Q: So, based on the way things are now, what do you think bicycle riders can do to be safe around intersections or traffic lights and signals?]

**Just paying more attention and – that’s pretty much all it goes down to, you have to be very aware of your surroundings, and very cautious.**

* Traffic signs and signals
* Right-of-way

**Again, same answer. There is now really much confusion to it – cars can’t always see you so you have to be very careful.**

* Pedestrians

**I use my little beeper thingee, because people don’t pay attention in New York – and they are all going to work crossing on red light.**

* Speed

**Don’t go crazy.** [Don’t go crazy?]  **Yeah -- There are some bikers that do.**

* Respect

**Obviously -- everyone should use a bit of respect while biking and driving.**

* Trucks, buses

**Be very very careful – they can’t see you. They’re big and wide and they just can’t see you – and there’s not enough signage. Know when you can go in front of them.** [I’m sorry – what was the last thing you said?] **There just isn’t enough signage on both sides for bikes and buses to know where bikers are allowed – the (*unintelligible*) and they just can’t always see you.**

* Parked cars

**They should be more aware of what -- how they open the door when by the biking lane, but they just don’t pay attention. A lot of accidents happens when they open the door right on the biker.**

* “Taking the lane”

**I’m not sure if I understand this correctly. And I also don’t know if there is a clear rule in New York about which side you should stay in line when you are biking and there is no visible bike lane. In Europe, the norm is you keep to your right, and here it doesn’t seem like this is the rule -- everyone just does what they do.**

[explained the phrase]

**I’ll say that makes a lot of sense and should be a rule if there is no visible bike lane. If there is a bike lane, stick to the bike lane. Because I also see that cars don’t know what to do if you have bikers on both sides, left and right. So don’t be – don’t confuse people, stay on one side so they can predict what you’re going to do.**

* Pet peeves

**Cars that don’t use blinkers and (*unintelligible word*) turn right in front of you. I hate that.**

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

**So I’ll start out -- I would really like to see much more bike lanes everywhere. There is enough roads with enough space on them, it’s just a question of painting them. That will keep everyone safe and just make the commute for everyone a little easier. Actually, the separated bike lanes, those are the safest.**

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