

## 2.9 Cyclists

Points bus drivers should be aware of regarding cyclists

- They are very vulnerable, they are not surrounded by the bodywork of a bus.
- They can be injured quite seriously, even in what may look like a minor incident.
- They can be difficult to see, especially if alongside a bus or not wearing bright clothing.
- They may not realise they could be in the drivers blind spot.
- They often feel threatened when a bus travels close to them, especially at speed.
- They are easily affected by side winds when being overtaken by large vehicles at speed.
- They may ride away from the kerb's edge to:
  - Avoid drains and debris
  - Be seen more easily
  - Discourage bus drivers from squeezing past where the road is narrow, especially when moving off from stationary.

- They may wobble due to external conditions. Road surfaces (potholes), rain, wind and poor visibility make it harder to steer in a straight line.
- They are particularly vulnerable at junctions, especially when the vehicle is turning. This is also true for roundabouts.
- They are permitted to use bus lanes where traffic signs so indicate.

#### How bus drivers can help make cyclists journeys safer

- THINK BIKE. Be aware that there are a lot of cyclists in the West End and City. Expect to see cyclists and give them plenty of room.
- Always check your MIRRORS and your BLIND SPOT BEFORE MOVING OFF< especially at junctions and roundabouts.
- Check your nearside mirror before turning left, so that the bus does not traoc cyclists as its rear comes close to the kerb on the turn.
- Signal well in advance.
- Do not stop suddenly on a roundabout to let other buses out.
- Give cyclists plenty of room when overtaking (they may weave or wobble).
- Do not force your way through when the road is narrow due to traffic islands.
- Respect cycle lanes and advance stop lines at traffic lights. Let cyclists use the box so they can be seen.
- When approaching bus stops or junctions, indicate clearly and well in advance.
- Do not race past cyclists and pull in quickly to get to a bus stop.