

CYCLE TRAINING UK

Driving Instructor Training

Cyclist Awareness Course for Driving Instructors

October 2014

- CLIENT:** Lambeth Council
- BACKGROUND:** Lambeth Council commissioned Cycle Training UK (CTUK) to design a course to help driving instructors understand what new drivers need to know about sharing the road with cyclists.
- OVERVIEW:** Driving instructors and cycle trainers compare teaching techniques and methodology. Instructors get a practical experience of riding bicycles on road and discuss key points that drivers need to know to ensure low risk interactions on the road.
- AIMS:** Driving instructors will develop a short in-car teaching module for new drivers based on their experience of riding on the road and discussions in the classroom.

In the classroom: Driving instructors discuss their experience of cycling and of teaching driving. Discuss common myths and misconceptions around cycling, and develop some teaching points for them to use with new drivers.

During the on-bike section: The driving instructors begin with learning/refreshing their basic bike control, then go on road to explore how trained and untrained cyclists ride on the road and in different types of infrastructure, then focus on what drivers should do in these places.

Results: The driving instructors had not really appreciated the amount of space cyclists needed to avoid hazards such as car doors opening or positioning to ensure they are in sight of drivers wishing to join a main road from a side road. At the end of the session there was an understanding why cyclists need to ride centrally in the lane sometimes.

"The course was very informative especially the experience of getting on a bike and considering the kind of space drivers should be taught to give cyclists when sharing the road. I will be encouraging other driving instructors to attend this" Tom Kwok, Diamond School of Motoring

"I found it enjoyable and informative. I thought the pace, content and amount of practical cycling was just right. I found the last location quite interesting - it's where a cycle lane brought cyclists into potential conflict with traffic turning left off a busy highway. We got into the cyclist's mind and the difficulties they face at this and similar junctions, and how drivers need to behave there" C. T. Driving Instructor

"There was a surprising number of issues that the instructors picked up from the course, especially about cyclists' positioning, some Highway Code points, and more surprisingly some myths about cycling such as why cyclists are exempt from 'road Tax' (VED). The instructors were very engaged and serious about learning the right messages to pass on to learner drivers." David Dansky, Cycle Training UK



info

Cycle Training UK is delivering sessions to driving instructors on the following dates in Hackney:
Sunday 14th December (10:00-13:30)
Sunday 25th January (10:00-13:30)
Sunday 8th March (10:00-13:30)

For more information
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