

Tips for Motorists

Motorists along the corridor often express frustration during “bike tour season.” Common complaints refer to instances of litter, obstructed traffic flow, and issues of trespass. These complaints are understandable, however, just as a few “bad drivers” do not represent the entire automobile-driving public, a few “bad bicyclists” do not represent the majority of responsible, safe bicyclists. The following reminders are designed to encourage motorists to understand and respect the rights and responsibilities of bikers along the M-119 corridor.

Please Do:

- Be patient and courteous—Bikers have a legal right to share the road with motorists.
- Treat bicycle riders the same as drivers of other motor vehicles. If you are to pass, wait until the next lane is clear and give bicyclists the same rights as any other slow-moving vehicle.
- Encourage other motorized travelers to respect the rights of bicyclists.
- Watch and respect our native critters who cross the road.

Please Don't:

- Be rude. Honking or yelling at cyclists is not going to increase your travel speed or create a safe travel atmosphere!

About the M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route Committee

The M-119 Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route Committee is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the scenic, cultural, natural, and historic characteristics of the M-119 corridor through the Townships of West Traverse, Friendship, Readmond, and Cross Village.

The Committee is made up of representatives from the four townships and the Emmet County Lakeshore Association. The Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, the Emmet County Planning, Zoning, and Ordinance Enforcement Office, and the Michigan Department of Transportation are active partners in the Committee's activities. The objectives of the committee, as defined by the corridor's management plan include:

- Balancing growth and development with preservation and conservation.
- Balancing roadside safety with aesthetics.
- Preventing intrusions to scenic character.
- Ensuring that the corridor is marketed responsibly and promoting the use of alternative routes in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation and the County Road Commission, where appropriate.

The Committee receives ongoing staff and technical support from the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments and financial support from the Michigan Department of Transportation.



www.M119TunnelofTrees.org

Share the Road!

Bike
Etiquette
and
Common
Sense
for Travel
along the
M-119
Tunnel of
Trees



Developed by the
M-119 Tunnel of Trees
Scenic Heritage Route
Committee

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Sharing the Road

M-119's scenic "Tunnel of Trees" is enjoyed by many people—full time and seasonal residents, visitors, and vacationers, and those who travel the corridor in automobiles, motorcycles, or bicycles to revel in its natural beauty.



Photo courtesy Michigan Department of Transportation

M-119's scenic "Tunnel of Trees" attracts motorists and non-motorized visitors.

This popular corridor is a quiet residential area. If you travel

M-119, please be considerate of those who live along the corridor by practicing safe, courteous travel behavior.

"Sharing the road" will lead to a safer, more pleasant experience for everyone along the corridor.

Bicycle Tour Planning

If you are planning a large group tour, please contact our website for guidelines that will make your participants' ride safer and more enjoyable. Bike tours are annual occurrences along this corridor offering opportunities to experience the scenic, natural and cultural richness of M-119, in the company of fellow bicycle enthusiasts. The following tips will help bikers enjoy the serenity of M-119 in safety and with respect to area residents and other travelers along this heritage highway.

Tips for Bicyclists

Please Do:

- Enjoy the Tunnel of Trees! You have a right to use this road!
- Explore the culture and history of the route—There are signs along the route which highlight important Native American and European historic sites.
- Ride single file. M-119 is a narrow roadway without a shoulder.
- Ride as far to the right as is practical and safe to avoid road hazards.
- Be predictable—Continue straight ahead at a constant speed to ensure the safety of other riders and motorists.
- Watch for traffic coming from the rear.
- Allow motorists to pass—maintaining the flow of traffic will go a long way to alleviate motorists' frustrations! When traveling with a group, leave a gap for cars every three or four bicycles. This way a motorist can take advantage of short passing intervals and eventually move around the entire group.

- Obey traffic laws, signals and signs.
- Watch and respect our native critters who cross the road.
- Use etiquette and common sense at all times

Please Don't:

- Remove any natural material (such as vegetation) from the corridor.
- Trespass—Private residences line the corridor; these are not "pit stops"!
- Bike against traffic.
- Litter—*Leave only "treadmarks"!*
- Obstruct traffic flow or stop in the road.



Devil's Elbow is one of the historic locations along the M-119 corridor which is marked by signage.

**Developed by the M-119
Tunnel of Trees Scenic
Heritage Route Committee**

**For general information about the M-119
Heritage Route please visit:**

www.m119tunneloftrees.org