



Bicycle Safety

Rights and Responsibilities

In general, bicyclists on public roadways have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers and are subject to the same state laws and local ordinances. For everyone's safety, observe these bicycling rules and safety tips.

Wear Appropriate Clothing

Wear light, bright and/or reflective clothing at all times of the day and night to improve your visibility. Dress in layers and bring gear for unforeseen changes in weather.

Always Wear an Approved Helmet

Always wear your helmet fitted and adjusted properly. Helmets should fit snugly so they do not move around while riding.

Watch for Cars

Always assume that motorists do not see you. Keep an eye out for cars pulling into traffic from parking spaces, driveways, and intersecting streets. Make eye contact to assess your safety before proceeding in front of a vehicle. Watch out for car doors opening into the travel lane.

Watch for Hazards

Watch out for sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, city pavement, snow, and ice. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

Be Courteous and Respectful on Trails

Show courtesy to all trail users. Adhere to trail hours and restrictions. Respect the rights of property owners along the trail.

Safety Accessories

Water bottles, tire repair kits, mirrors, locks and first aid kits help make each trip safer and the bicyclist more self-sufficient.

BIKES AND STATE LAW

Ride as Far to the Right as Practicable

Bicyclists should keep as far to the right as practicable, moving left to avoid hazards and to position themselves in the appropriate designated through or turn lanes.

Use Lights and Reflectors at Night

State law requires a front white light visible for 500 feet and a red reflector visible for 600 feet at night. A flashing rear light is recommended. More reflectors and stronger lights make you more visible.

Use Hand Signals

Hand signals tell pedestrians and motorists what you intend to do. It is state law that you use signals.

Always Yield to Other, Slower Trail Users

When operating on a shared use trail or sidewalk, bicyclists must yield the right of way to pedestrians and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian. When overtaking, announce your intentions by saying "passing on your left" or ringing your bell.

Keep to the Right and Ride Only Two Aboard

No more than two bicycles shall ride side by side on a public roadway. When riding in a group, form a single file line when other road users are present.

Ride with traffic

Motorists are not looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. State law requires that cyclists ride with the flow of traffic.

Carrying Items

If you plan on carrying any packages, bundles or objects, you must be able to keep both hands on the handlebars. A variety of racks, packs, and trailers can be fitted to your bicycle to transport goods.

