

Safety Check



From the Safety Chick

2009 - Think Safety First

Bicycle Safety Tips (from the City of Austin, TX)

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/bicycle/pwbisafe.htm>

OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS

Bicycles must drive like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.

NEVER RIDE WITH HEADPHONES; ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET

Always wear a helmet. Never wear headphones while

NEVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC

Motorists aren't looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. State law and common sense require that bicycles drive like other vehicles.

USE HAND SIGNALS

Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, of courtesy, and of self-protection

DON'T WEAVE IN BETWEEN OR LEAVE THE CURB BETWEEN PARKED CARS

Don't ride out from between parked cars. Motorists may not see you when you enter traffic.

FOLLOW LANE MARKINGS

Don't turn left from the right lane. Don't go straight from a lane marked "right-turn only" unless "except bikes" is posted

RIDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LANE IS SAFEST WHEN:

- 1 the lane is too narrow to share safely
 - debris or glass is on the edge
 - obstructions force you away from the edge
 - traveling the same speed as traffic

2

CHOOSE THE BEST WAY TO TURN LEFT

There are two ways to make a left turn. (1) Like an auto: signal, move into the left turn lane and turn left. (2) Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far-side crosswalk. Walk your bike across

DON'T PASS ON THE RIGHT

Motorists may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right. Pass on the left like other vehicles.

MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS

Assume that other drivers don't see you until you are sure that they do. Eye contact is important with any driver which might pose a threat to your safety.

SCAN THE ROAD BEHIND

Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving. Some riders use rear-view mirrors, but still look before turning.

AVOID ROAD HAZARDS

Watch out for parallel-slat sewer grates, gravel, ice or debris. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

KEEP BOTH HANDS READY TO BRAKE

You may not stop in time if you brake one-handed. Allow extra distance for stopping in the rain, since brakes are less efficient when wet.

BE VISIBLE: WEAR BRIGHT COLORS IN DAYLIGHT AND USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT

Check the local law requirements for a white headlight and a rear reflector or taillight.

KEEP YOUR BIKE IN GOOD REPAIR

Adjust your bike to fit you and keep it working properly. Check brakes and tires regularly. Routine maintenance is simple and you can learn to do it yourself