



BICYCLE

Safety

SAFETY TIPS FOR CYCLISTS

1. Familiarize yourself with state and city laws and obey them.
2. Always wear a helmet.
3. Make eye contact with drivers whenever possible.
4. Ride consistently and predictably. Erratic behavior makes motorists less aware of your presence.
 - Don't veer into a crosswalk and then suddenly reappear on the road.
 - Don't ride through stopped cars.
5. Play defense. Be aware of your surroundings.
 - Know what is behind you and what is ahead of you.
 - Look out for road hazards.
 - Be aware of parked cars where people may open driver side doors without looking. In such situations, ride further to the left in the lane.
 - Don't expect to be granted the right of way.
 - Wait until you have ample time to make your move.
 - Have a mirror on your bike or helmet to make you more aware of your surroundings.
6. Make yourself visible.
 - Wear bright clothing.
 - Use a headlight.
 - Add a flashing light to make drivers more aware of your presence.
 - Make sure your bike has reflective lights in the front, side and rear.
8. Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.
9. Know and use your hand signals.
10. Make sure your brakes are in good condition. Be aware of how road conditions and weather can affect your ability to brake.
11. Ride with the traffic.
12. Avoid distractions.
 - Don't use headphones or listen to music while riding your bike.
 - Don't use your cell phone while riding your bike.

SAFETY TIPS FOR MOTORISTS WHEN INTERACTING WITH CYCLISTS

1. Appreciate the Vulnerability of a Bicyclist.
 - Remember that a car weighs two tons and a bicycle weighs twenty pounds.
2. Bicyclists are considered motorists: they have same rights and responsibilities as motorists.
3. Give bicyclists at least a three foot clearance.
4. Be aware of your surroundings.
 - A majority of accidents with cyclists occur when a driver doesn't see the cyclist.
5. Patience is a virtue. Be patient when driving around bicyclists.
6. Look before exiting your vehicle. A cyclist cannot anticipate when a driver will open a door, but a driver can easily detect a cyclist who may be in the line of danger.
7. Don't honk your horn as you approach a cyclist from the rear as this is more likely to startle them. The better rule is to give the cyclist at least three feet of clearance.
8. Don't tailgate cyclists. Remember bikes do not have brake lights.
9. Don't race cyclists to a stop light, stop sign or right turn.
10. Look out for cyclists when making a left turn.
11. Don't harass or endanger cyclists.
12. Respect cyclists.

TEXAS BICYCLE LAWS

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers.

Bicyclists are required to ride the right curb or edge of the roadway (not necessarily the shoulder), if moving slower than traffic.

Bicyclists must ride only on or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bike.

A bicyclist may not use their bike to carry more persons than the bike is equipped to carry.

A bicyclist may not attach either the person or the bicycle to a vehicle when riding.

A bicyclist may not carry anything that prevents her from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.

Bicyclists must use hand signals to signal a stop, left turn or right turn:

- Stop – Extend the left hand and arm downward
- Left Turn – Extend the left hand and arm horizontally
- Right Turn – Extend the right hand and arm horizontally.

A bike must have a brake capable of making a braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

A person may not operate a bicycle at nighttime unless the bicycle is equipped with:

- A headlamp that emits light visible at least 500 feet in front of the bicycle.
- A rear, red reflector that is visible from a distance of 300 feet, or a rear, red lamp that is visible visible from a distance of 500 feet.

Although state law does not prohibit riding a bike on sidewalks, some local governments have local ordinances prohibiting bicycles on sidewalks.

Bicyclists may stop their bikes on a sidewalk if the bike does not limit flow on the sidewalk.

Bicyclists may take a full lane of travel under the following conditions:

- When passing another vehicle moving in the same direction.
- When preparing to turn left at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway.
- When there are unsafe conditions on the roadway that prevent the person from safely riding next to the curb or edge of the roadway.
- The lane is less than the standard 14 feet in width and lacks a designated bicycle lane: making it unsafe for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side by side.

Bicyclists riding two abreast may not impede the normal flow of traffic.

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