**Biking in Dallas and Monmouth/Independence**

**How to Ride in Traffic**

- Be Predictable - Ride so drivers can see you and predict your movements. Remember that the rules in the drivers manual apply to bicyclists also.

- Be Alert - Ride defensively and inspect the unexpected. Remember, no matter who is at fault in an accident, the bicyclist always bears some liability.

- Be Equipped - You will ride easier and safer if you and your bike have proper equipment.

**Summary of Oregon Bicycle Laws**

- All traffic laws, road signs, one way streets, and other basic traffic laws apply to bicyclists as well as drivers.

- Ride as far as “practicable” to the right (or to the left if it is a one-way street).

- Yield the right of way to pedestrians. Stop at all traffic signs when overtaking a pedestrian on a sidewalk.

- Keep at least one hand on the handlebars. Keep control of your bicycle at all times.

- When riding from sunset to sunrise or whenever visibility is poor, use a headlight with a white light that is visible from at least 500 feet away. Also, use an orange or white light front and rear for lighting a bicycle visible from at least 500 feet behind.

- Keep brakes adjusted so that, when braked, your bicycle skids on a clean, dry pavement.

- Ride beside a head-on (double-site) pedestrian and signal when passing.

- Ride no more than two abreast.

**Bike Laws and Safety Tips**

**Use Lights At Night**

- The law requires a strong headlight (visible from at least 500 feet) and rear reflector or taillight (visible from 500 feet behind) at night or when visibility is poor. Wear light-colored clothing with reflective tape for extra visibility.

**Obey Traffic Signs, Signals and Laws**

- Bicyclists must obey the rules of the road. Be visible, predictable, and flow with the traffic stream.

**Never Ride Against Traffic**

- Bicyclists are looking left for traffic, not for cyclists on the wrong side of the road. Slowly and carefully check the road to the left before entering the traffic stream. It is against the law to ride against traffic.

**Use Hand Signals**

- Hand signals tell extensions what you intend to do. Signal in a matter of law, of courtesy, and of protection.

**Avoid Road Hazards**

- Watch out for drainage grates, sewer covers, oil paint, wet leaves, gravel, and ice. Law requires that washable covers can be ignored when wet.

**Use Bicycle Traffic Detective**

- Look for a small white bicycle decal in the pavement at an intersection. Place your bicycle over it to change the traffic signal.

**Be Prepared for a Stopped Vehicle Pulling Into Your Path**

- If you make eye contact, assume that a stopped-rear ended. Check the clear space behind the car. Check to see if any object is in front of your bike. Be prepared to brake quickly.

**Ride Slowly on Sidewalks**

- Pedestrians have the right of way. By law, you must give an audible warning when preparing to pass (call out, or ring a bell or horn). Riding on sidewalks is not allowed in all locations.

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This map was produced by the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments using information from previous Salem-Keizer, City of Dallas, Polk County, and Marion County bicycle maps. Other information came from maps and websites of the counties and cities. Redrawn by Compass Design. Several other sources contributed to the development of this map. Map copyright 2013 Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) and Compass Design. This report is intended for use by government officials, businesses, and other users of the map. The map should be altered for public display or damaged in any way. The map is published on the web for public display for any damage or loss of the map. No warranty for accuracy or completeness of information contained in the map.

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**Know What’s Behind You**

- Look over your shoulder, or use a mirror, to keep track of traffic behind you.

**Don’t Weave between Packed Cars**

- Ride as close as possible to the right. Ride consistently, and always scan parked vehicles for people who may open a door in your path.

**Use Caution When Passing**

- You may pass a slowed or stopped traffic on the right only when it is safe. Be very cautious when overtaking cars and stay out of a motorist’s blind spot as a driver may not signal when turning.

**Ride in the Middle of the Lane in Slow Traffic**

- Get in the middle of the lane at busy intersections whenever you are entering the same lane as traffic.

**There are Two Ways to Make a Left Turn**

1. Signal, move into the left lane (or left side of lane) and turn left.
2. Ride straight to the far side crosswalk and walk your bike across.

[www.orbike.org](http://www.orbike.org)