

## **Bike Laws and Safety Tips**

## **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 expect the unexpected. Remember, no matter who is at fault in an accident, the bicyclist loses.
- » Be Equipped You will ride easier and safer if you and your bike have proper equipment.

## Summary of Oregon Bicycle Laws

### **Bicyclists must:**

- » Obey traffic lights, stop signs, one-way streets, and other basic traffic laws.
- » Ride as far "as practicable" to the right (or to the left or right on a one-way street).
- » Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Give audible warning when overtaking a pedestrian on a sidewalk.
- » Keep at least one hand on the handlebars. Keep control of 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 ahead and a red reflector or lighting device visible from at least 600 feet
- » Keep brakes adjusted so that, when braked, your bicycle skids on a clean, dry pavement.
- » Ride astride a fixed seat (kiddie seat and tandems acceptable). Riding "double" is prohibited.
- » Ride no more than two abreast.

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# **Use Lights At Night**

The law requires a strong headlight (visible from at least 500 feet) and rear reflector or taillight (visible from 600 feet behind) at night or when visibility is poor. Wear lightcolored clothing with reflective tape for extra visibility.

**Obey Traffic Signs**,

Bicyclists must obey the rules of

the road. Be visible, predictable, and flow with the traffic stream.

**Signals and Laws** 

**Never Ride** 

**Against Traffic** 

Motorists are looking left for

traffic, not for cyclists on the

way riding cyclists are twice

as likely to get in an accident

traffic, EVEN in a bike lane.

**Use Hand Signals** 

you intend to do. Signal as a

of protection.

right angle.

Hand signals tell motorists what

matter of law, of courtesy, and

**Avoid Road Hazards** 

wet leaves, gravel, and ice. Lane

markings and manhole covers

Cross railroad tracks close to a

**Use Bicycle Traffic** 

**Detective Devices** 

Look for a small, white bicycle decal in the pavement at an

intersection. Place your bicycle

over it to change the traffic

**Pulling into Your** 

Until you make eye contact, assume that a stopped motorist

in a driveway or cross street

has not seen you approach.

Be Prepared for a

**Stopped Vehicle** 

Path

can be slippery when wet.

Watch out for drainage grates,

sewer covers, oily pavement,

as those riding with traffic. It is against the law to ride against

wrong side of the road. Wrong



### near you. **Don't Weave**

**Know What's** 

**Behind You** 

between Parked Cars

your path.



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

Look over your shoulder, or use

a mirror, to keep track of traffic



#### **Use Caution when Passing**

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



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

Get in the middle of the lane at busy intersections whenever you are moving at the same speed as traffic. Don't forget to signal when moving to the center of the lane.



#### **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.







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 or cities represented, and the City of Portland. Thanks to Portland Metro for the graphical icons. Printing funded by Cherriots Trip Choice. This map is also available at www.mwvcog.org



### 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



