

Some Tips For Safe Biking

1. **Obey traffic signs and signals** - Bicycles must follow the rules of the road like other vehicles.
2. **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 bicyclists drive like other vehicles.
3. **Follow lane markings** - Don't turn left from the right lane. Don't go straight in a lane marked "right-turn only."
4. **Don't pass on the right** - Motorists may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right.
5. **Scan the road behind you** - Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving. Some riders use rear-view mirrors.
6. **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.
7. **Wear a helmet and never ride with headphones** - Always wear a helmet. Never wear a headphone while riding a bike.
8. **Dress appropriately** - In rain wear a poncho or waterproof suit. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to temperature changes. Wear bright-colored clothing.
9. **Use hand signals** - Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy, and self-protection.
10. **Ride in the middle of the lane in slower traffic** - Get in the middle of the lane at busy intersections and whenever you are moving at the same speed as traffic.
11. **Choose the best way to turn left** - There are two choices: (1) Like an auto: signal to move into the left turn lane and then turn left. (2) Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far side crosswalk. Walk your bike across.
12. **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.
13. **Look out for road hazards** - Watch out for parallel-slat sewer grates, gravel, ice, sand or debris. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.
14. **If you must ride at night, use lights** - Know the requirements of South Carolina traffic laws.
15. **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.

Some Safety Tips for Pedestrians

1. **Walk on sidewalks.** If sidewalks are not available, walk on the edge of the road or on the left shoulder of the road, facing the traffic flow. Use pedestrian bridges when they are available.
2. **Cross at marked crosswalks or intersections.** Pedestrians are most often hit by cars when they cross the road at places other than intersections.
3. **Look for traffic.** Stop at the curb and look left, right, and left again for traffic. Stopping at the curb signals drivers that you intend to cross. Always obey traffic signals.
4. **See and be seen.** Drivers need to see you to avoid you.
 - o Stay out of the driver's blind spot.
 - o Make eye contact with drivers when crossing busy streets.
 - o Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking near traffic at night.
 - o Carry a flashlight when walking in the dark.
 - o Do not let kids play near traffic or cross the street by themselves.
 - o In bad weather, take care that your umbrella or raincoat does not prevent approaching vehicles from seeing you.

5. **Watch your kids.** Small children should not cross streets by themselves or be allowed to play or walk near traffic. Kids cannot accurately judge vehicle distances and speeds and may make unpredictable movements.
6. **Drinking and walking?** Alcohol can impair the judgment and motor skills of pedestrians just as it does for drivers. Don't take alcohol risks with walking, just as you would not with driving. Take the bus, take a cab, or have a friend drive you home. Beware of the effects of prescription and non-prescription medications and drugs, too.
7. **Obey traffic signals.** At intersections where traffic is controlled by signals or a traffic officer, pedestrians must obey the signal and not cross against the stop signal unless specifically directed to go by a traffic officer.