SHARING THE ROAD SAFELY... RIDE SMART BICYCLING TIPS

Cyclist and Drivers; same roads, same rules, same rights and responsibilities. Please take a moment to read through these tips to learn more about cycling safely. Be polite, alert and smart. Show respect for all users of the road, and you will get respect back as a result.

PROTECT YOUR HEAD

Colorado law requires all bicyclists under the age of 18 to wear a helmet. Helmet and bicycle mirrors improve your overall awareness and allow you to see following vehicles.

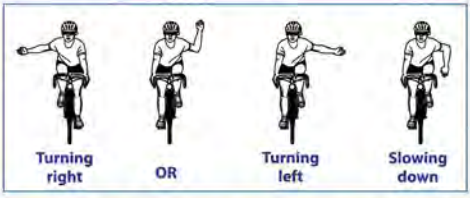
85% of brain injuries can be prevented by wearing a helmet.

NEVER, EVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC

Ride on the right with the flow of traffic–NEVER ride against traffic on the road, in a bike lane, or on a sidewalk. Drivers turning the side cannot see you and approaching drivers will not expect you to be riding the wrong way.

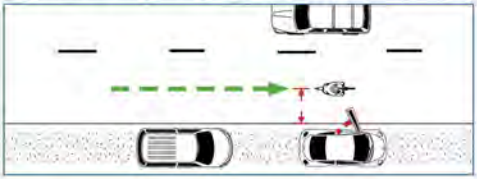
HAND SIGNALS; POLITE AND SMART

Use hand signals to show your intentions and ride in a predictable fashion. Obey all traffic laws, signs and signals.



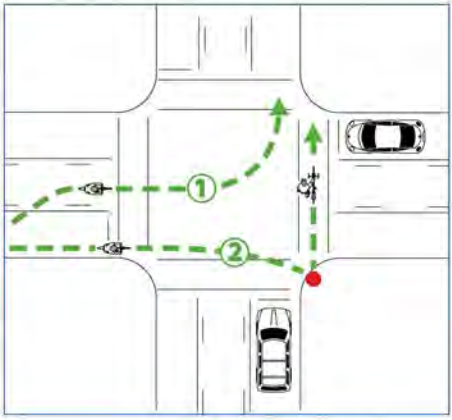
RIDING BY PARKED CARS

Look for people in parked cars ahead of you and ride in a straight line at least 5 feet away from the car. Someone may open the car door in front of you unexpectedly. Be predictable: don't weave in and out of parked cars.



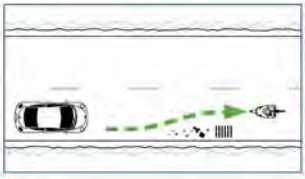
THREE LEGAL WAYS TO TURN LEFT

1. Make a left turn like a vehicle by looking over your shoulder, signaling, and moving into the left turn lane when it is safe.
2. Make a left turn by going to the far side of the intersection, turning your bike, and using the roadway.
3. Make a left turn by going to the far side of the intersection, turning your bike and then walking your bike in the crosswalk.



TAKE THE LANE WHEN APPROPRIATE

1. NOT ENOUGH ROOM: Remember that you may take the lane if the lane is not wide enough for both a car and a bike. Check behind to make sure it's safe, signal your intentions, and take the lane by riding 1/3 to 1/2 of the way into the lane. When safe and possible, move to the right to allow a following vehicle to pass.
2. ROAD HAZARDS: Watch out for glass, grates, oily pavement, loose gravel and railroad tracks. Check behind to make sure it's safe, signal your intentions, and make the move to the left to avoid the hazard.



BE A DEFENSIVE BIKE DRIVER

Be aware of your surroundings, and especially turning and side traffic. Make eye contact with drivers and be sure to get their attention. Don't use headphones or a cell phone when riding. They reduce your ability to hear traffic.

Special thanks to Pima County, AZ Bike and Pedestrian Program for the use of the bicycle safety illustrations.