Smart Cycling
IN SANTA MONICA

BE SMART. BE VISIBLE. BE ATTENTIVE. HAVE FUN!

Safety Tips and Rules of the Road for Cyclists

SANTA MONICA
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians all share the same roadways – and a responsibility to travel safely. Cyclists must obey the same rules of the road as drivers, and officers will enforce these rules as necessary. The goal is for everyone to have fun, enjoy the fresh air, and act in a predictable manner so our roadways and paths provide safe passage for all.

**CONTROL YOUR BIKE**
- Communicate intentions: scan and signal so drivers know where you are going
- Yield before moving laterally
- Always pass on the left and avoid the driver’s blind spot on the right

**FOLLOW THE RULES**
- Obey traffic laws and signs at all times
- Sidewalk riding is prohibited
- Stop at stop signs, signal turns, travel with traffic, and use correct lanes
- Always yield to pedestrians

**RIDE READY**
- Maintain your bike and keep it in good working condition
- Carry ID, phone, money, and a flat repair kit
- Plan your route

**BE VISIBLE**
- When riding at night, a front white headlight, rear red reflector, and wheel and pedal reflectors are required by law
- Wear bright clothes to enhance visibility

**SECURE YOUR BIKE**
- Always carry a bike lock and secure your bike

**USE YOUR HEAD**
- Wear a helmet at all times – accidents happen, and a helmet can save your life
- Never ride while texting or talking on your phone
- Never ride under the influence of drugs/alcohol
Large trucks and buses have a blind spot on the right side. Be on the lookout for turn signals and turning front wheels. It is safer and more predictable to pass on the left.

Left turn options: (1) start from the left side of the bike box and turn in accordance with traffic/signals or (2) stay to the right of the straight thru lane and make a wide box turn.

Right-turning vehicles must yield before crossing a bike lane.

Obey all signals and road signs.

Use the full lane when on narrow streets or moving at the speed of traffic.

Riding on sidewalks is prohibited.

Pass slower moving traffic and turning vehicles on the left.

Always ride in the street with traffic, never against it.

Yield to traffic, including pedestrians. At stop signs, look both ways.

Obey all signals and road signs.

Maintain a safe distance from parked cars. 4’ is the recommended distance. Sharrows indicate ideal lane position.

Use the full lane when on narrow streets or moving at the speed of traffic.

Riding on sidewalks is prohibited.

Pass slower moving traffic and turning vehicles on the left.

Always ride in the street with traffic, never against it.
Riding on pedestrian-only paths is strictly forbidden.

Pay attention to trail types:
- On shared paths, be aware of pedestrians and others who move slowly.
- On separated paths, use only the path designated for bicycles.

Always ride in the direction indicated. Do not veer into oncoming hazards or ride against traffic.

Keep to the right except when passing slow moving riders and traffic.

Path Riding
- Yield to pedestrians
- Ride at a safe pace
- When necessary, verbally advise others when passing

Riding on pedestrian-only paths is strictly forbidden.

Smart Cycling in Santa Monica
Why Go By Bike?

GET HEALTHY
3 hours of biking per week can reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke by 50%!

SHOP LOCAL
66% of bike riders use a bicycle to travel to a destination where they will spend money.

GO GREEN
82% less CO2 enters the atmosphere for every mile pedaled rather than driven.

SAVE TIME
People with bicycles report driving 40% less since they purchased a bike.

GET REGISTERED: NATIONALBIKEREGISTRY.COM
Register your bike in the National Bike Registry. They will send you a Certificate of Registration and a label to identify your bike. This way, if your bike is ever stolen and recovered, it can be returned to you.


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