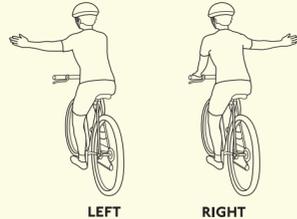


Rules of The Road

Obey Traffic Signs and Signals

In order to be taken seriously, bicyclists must obey traffic laws and be courteous to other road users. Every time bicyclists run through a red light, ride in a pack, impede traffic or ride the wrong way, they enforce the notion that bicycles do not belong on the road. Always ride in the same direction as traffic, never against it. Follow the rules of the road.



LEFT

RIGHT

Use Hand Signals

Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do on the road. Signaling is required at least 100 feet before a turn or stop unless you need both hands to control the bicycle. If you have an available hand, let drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists know where you're going. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy and self-protection.

Ride Consistently

Ride as close as practical to the right. Exceptions to this rule include: when traveling at the normal speed of traffic, when avoiding hazardous conditions, when preparing to make a left turn, or when using a one-way street.

Use Lights at Night

Use a strong headlight and rear light and/or red reflector at night and when visibility is poor. Wear light-colored clothes with reflective tape for extra protection. If you ride in an area with few streetlights, a solid beam front light or flashing LED light will help illuminate the way.

Ride Single File

Be safe and ride single file. Bicyclists can ride side-by-side when they don't impede the normal movement of traffic.

On-Street Markings

Using Bike Lanes



Bike Lanes give bicyclists and motorists their own, assigned and separate spaces on the road. A bike lane is a portion of the roadway that has been designated by striping and pavement markings for use by bicyclists. Bike lane markings include a solid line and a stencil of a person on a bike with an arrow above to indicate the proper direction for travel. Bicyclists should always ride in the direction indicated by the arrow painted on the street.

Sharrows

A "sharrow" is a pavement marking that includes a bike stencil with two arrows above it. These markings are painted on streets that are good for bike traffic, but are too narrow for separate bike lanes. Sharrow markings indicate to motorists and bicyclists that they must use the same space on the street as they travel. Sharrows are also used in locations where a bike lane ends and bicyclists must merge with other traffic.

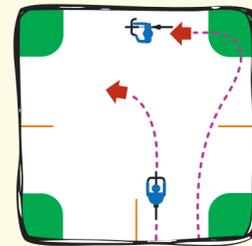


Safety Tips for Bicyclists

Avoid Road Hazards

Watch out for sewer grates, oily pavement, slippery manhole covers, gravel and ice. Cross railroad tracks at right angles because those tracks can be slippery when wet. Slowing down in tricky areas decreases your stopping/braking distance, which gives you more time to react to the unexpected.

Choose the Best Way to Turn Left



There are two ways to make a left turn:

- 1) Like a motorist: look back over your shoulder, signal, move into left lane and turn.
- 2) Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far-side crosswalk, then walk your bike across the intersection.

Carry Identification

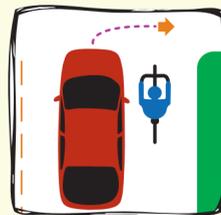
It is a good idea to carry identification in case of an accident or if stopped for a traffic infraction.

Dress Appropriately

Wear a hard-shell helmet whenever you ride. Wear light-colored clothes at night to make yourself as visible as possible. Also, layering can be key in staying comfortable when riding in wet or cold weather. Leg bands are a cheap and easy way to keep your pant leg free of chain grease.

Don't Pass On the Right

Drivers may not look for or see a bicyclist passing on the right. You could be seriously injured if a motorist does not see you. When stopping in traffic, it is safer and more courteous to hold your place in the line of traffic.



Go Slow On Sidewalks and Multi-Use Paths

Pedestrians have the right of way on walkways. You must give an audible signal when you pass, using either a bell or your voice. Cross driveways and intersections at a walker's pace and look carefully for traffic. Bicyclists are not allowed to ride on sidewalks in downtown Columbia.

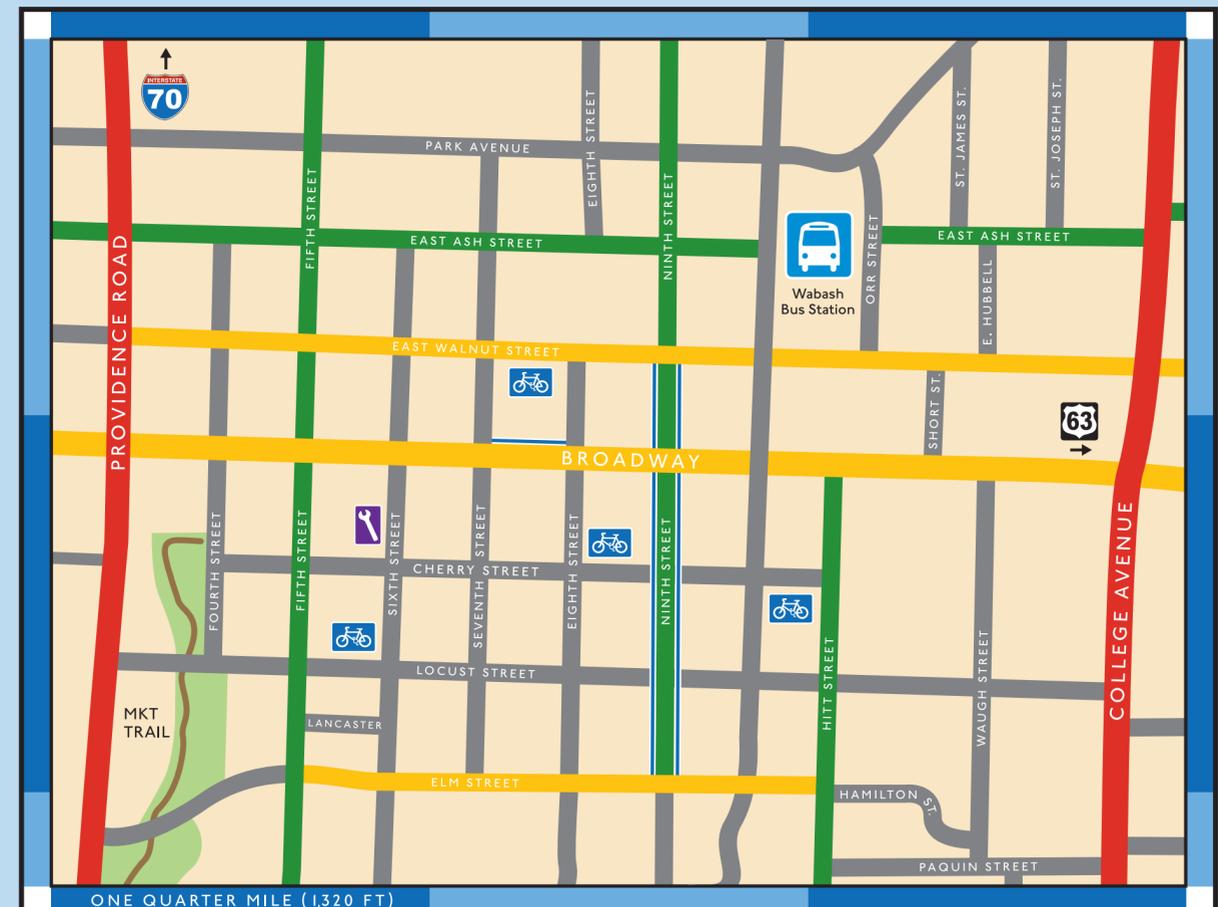
Get the Green Light

Bicyclists must be in the right spot to signal a traffic light. If you come to a red light and see this symbol on the street, position your bike directly over the middle line of the symbol. This will activate the traffic signal. If a car is already present at the signal, it will activate the signal for you.



For more information on bicycling in Columbia, contact:

getabout
COLUMBIA
www.getaboutcolumbia.com



Downtown Columbia

GREEN ROUTES

Streets that have low to medium traffic volumes, slower motor vehicle speeds, or wide pavement widths. Includes streets with established bicycle traffic. Suitable for riders of average skill.

YELLOW ROUTES

Streets that experienced riders use for commuting and cross-town traveling. Includes streets with medium to high traffic volumes. These routes may be intimidating to less experienced bicyclists due to traffic conditions. Suitable for riders with above-average skill.

RED ROUTES

Routes with high traffic volumes and speeds, narrow street widths, or difficult intersections. Can be safely ridden, but avoid if alternate routes are possible. Requires frequent interaction with motorists. Suitable only for experienced riders confident in traffic.



Indicates bicycle parking available in city parking garages (near entrances).



Indicates location for bike repair.

Indicates bicycle parking on streets (racks located on parking meters).

REMEMBER!
Bicyclists are **NOT** allowed to ride on sidewalks in downtown Columbia.

