



Safety Tips for Bicyclists

Always wear a helmet.

Always ride with traffic and follow the rules of the road.

- Forget what you might have heard in the past, you are better off riding with the flow of traffic, not against it. You are much more predictable and visible to motorists, especially at intersections and driveways.
- Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars, and use hand signals when turning and stopping.
- Obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings and yield to traffic when appropriate, including pedestrians.
- **Don't ride on the sidewalk.**
- Although you might think it's a safer option, motorists are simply not looking for bicyclists on the sidewalk, especially those riding against traffic. So at every driveway and intersection, you are at much greater risk of being hit by a motorist than if you were riding on the road with traffic.
- Pedestrians will thank you for riding on the road as well.

Ride on the trail, paved shoulder, bike lane, or bike route.

- You still need to follow the rules of the road and watch out for your fellow travelers.
- Ride to the right, signal your turns, obey traffic signs and signals.
- **Be predictable and visible.**
- Try not to be hesitant or do things that motorists and other travelers may not be expecting.
- Make sure everyone can see you and knows where you are and where you are going.
- If riding in the dark, use headlights, taillights and reflectors, and wear reflective materials and brightly colored clothing.
- Do not wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while bicycling.

Watch for stuff on the road or trail that might make you fall or swerve.

- Rocks, trash, storm grates, wet leaves, potholes, gravel, railroad tracks, and even wet pavement markings can all send you flying.
- Also watch for parked cars, doors opening, and cars pulling in and out of driveways.

Watch for turning traffic. Perhaps rather surprisingly, the crash data tells us that getting hit from behind is extremely unlikely. Most car/bike collisions happen at intersections and driveways when motorists or bicyclists are turning. So, at every intersection and driveway, keep a careful eye out for:

- Motorists turning right in front of you-you may be going faster than they think.
- Motorists turning left across your path-drivers are looking for gaps in traffic and may not be paying attention to anything other than other motor vehicles.

Safety Tips for Drivers

Be alert: watch for pedestrians and bicycles at all times

- Scan the road and the sides of the road ahead for potential pedestrians. Scan for bicyclists in traffic and give them the appropriate right-of-way.
- Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians crossing.
- Look carefully behind your vehicle for approaching pedestrians before backing-up, especially small children.
- For maximum visibility, keep your windshield clean and headlights on.
- Bicycles are vehicles and bicyclists may take the entire lane.
- Children and novice riders can be unpredictable; expect the unexpected. Watch for bicyclists before opening car doors.
- Don't drive distracted or after consuming alcohol or other drugs.
- Do not use your cell phone while driving.

Be responsible: yield to pedestrians at crossings

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, whether marked or unmarked.
- Yield to pedestrians when making right or left turns at intersections.
- Do not block or park in crosswalks.

Be patient: drive the speed limit and avoid aggressive maneuvers

- Never pass/overtake a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians.
- Obey speed limits and come to a complete stop at STOP signs.
- Use extra caution when driving near children playing along the street or older pedestrians who may not see or hear you.
- Always be prepared to stop for pedestrians.
- Allow extra time for bicyclists to traverse intersections.
- Recognize hazards that bicyclists may face and give them space to maneuver.

Pass Bicyclists with Care. Treat bicyclists as you would a slow-moving car-don't tailgate

- Do wait until traffic conditions allow you to safely pass the bicyclist.
- Reduce speed when passing bicyclists and allow at least 3 ft of passing space.
- Check over your shoulder after passing a bicyclist before moving back.
- Don't blast your horn in close proximity to bicyclists.

Source: [bicyclinginfo.org](http://www.bicyclinginfo.org) <http://www.bicyclinginfo.org/bikemore/safely.cfm>, [walkinginfo.org/why/tips_walking-safely.cfm](http://www.walkinginfo.org/why/tips_walking-safely.cfm)

1 Summit Grove Drive



Why Walk or Bike to School?

- Increased physical activity can combat a host of health problems facing kids today.
- Replacing car trips to school with walking or bicycling can help reduce traffic congestion around a school
- Fewer vehicle trips means reduced air pollution.
- Coordination among government officials, school administration, law enforcement and parents to create a safe walking and biking environment can enhance safety for all citizens.

Source: International Walk to School Day <http://www.walktoschool-usa.org/why/index.cfm>

Walking/Biking Strategies

Walking School Bus (works for bikes too!): A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. That may sound simple, and that is part of the appeal. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school or as structured as a planned route with meeting points, a timetable and a schedule of trained volunteers.

A variation on the walking school bus is a bicycle train where a group of children and adult leaders ride together to school.

Source: http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/guide/walking_school_bus/index.cfm

Park and Stride/Park and Ride: Parents can identify a parking area close to the school that shortens the walking or biking distance, but is away from the congestion in front of the school. Parking areas may be found at public parks and buildings. Additionally, some churches and large shopping centers may also allow parking for short periods of time.

When Children are Present

The following are common questions and answers related to the use of When Children Are Present Signs:

If I see children on the playground should I slow down? The "when children are present" signs apply to school zones and school crossing zones, which are defined as "sections of streets" in the state law. Since the street sections are composed of the sidewalks, travel lanes, and crosswalks the children shall be present within those areas of the zone for the signs to apply.

Who does this law apply to and how do I identify them? Since the "when children are present" signs are installed in school zones and school crossing zones, they apply to school-age children. Usually, students are carrying books, backpacks and/or lunch bags. They tend to travel between the hours of 6:00-9:00 am and 1:00-4:00pm on weekdays.

Drivers, however, should exercise caution around all pedestrians.

What about weekends and holidays? The signs do not apply when school is not in session.

What do the flashing beacons mean? The beacons are warning devices. They are programmed to flash when children are likely to be walking to school. However, they may be off when children are arriving early or leaving late. Therefore, if you see school-age children walking/biking to or from the school, you are required to slow down in the zone.

OTHER RESOURCES:

www.pedbikeinfo.org
www.pedbikeimages.org
www.saferoutesinfo.org
www.lookoutkidsabout.org
ccsd.net/partnership/saferoutes/

State Laws

Source: Nevada Revised Statutes <http://leg.state.nv.us/NRS/> Chapter 484 Traffic Laws

Definitions

"School zone" means those sections of streets which are adjacent to school property. School zones are posted with a speed limit of 15 mph when children are present.

"School crossing zone" means street sections not adjacent to school property that pupils cross while following a designated walking route to school. School crossing zones are posted with a speed limit of 25 mph when children are present.

"Sidewalk" means the space between the curb or pavement edge and the adjacent property lines intended for the use of pedestrians.

"Crosswalk" means: 1. The area at every intersection from corner to corner, as if lines were drawn to connect the pedestrian paths; or 2. Any portion of a roadway indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings.

"Passenger curb loading zone" means an area next to a curb or roadway edge reserved for the exclusive use of vehicles actively engaged in the loading or unloading of passengers.

2 Summit Grove and Sandy Ridge

