Follow The Rules Of The Road

- Bicycles must obey the same traffic laws that apply to motor vehicles. For example, cyclists should always ride on the right side of the road with traffic, obey traffic lights, signs, speed limits, and lane markings. On one- way streets, ride with traffic.
- Signal in advance of a turn or lane change, use correct hand signals.
- Be aware that county and town ordinances vary. For instance, many communities require both front and rear lights or reflectors to be installed on bicycles. Some use individual lights, others use strobe reflectors.
- While cycling on a paved road is legal, staying in a single file is legal for allowing traffic to pass on both sides, safely and is courteous.
- Yield to pedestrians, yield to other vehicles where they have the right of way.
- Use both or turn to alert pedestrians and vehicles.
- Never wear headphones; they interfere with your ability to hear traffic.

Wear A Helmet

- Everyone should wear a helmet on every ride, no matter how short. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that helmets reduce the risk of head injury by 85%.
- Helmets are mandatory in Virginia and Washington, D.C.
- A helmet is as much a part of a bicycling as are handkerchiefs. The helmet is the purchase at the retail level of a bicycle.

Share The Road

- When you ride, consider yourself the driver of a vehicle and take your responsibilities as such. Be considerate of motorists and pedestrians. Remember, pedestrians have the right of way.
- Ride far enough out from the curb to avoid the unexpected from parked cars such as pulling out or opening doors. Be aware of potential hazards like glass, road salt, pottery, gravel, railroad tracks and grade changes.
- Because cyclists ride slower and closer than motor vehicles, cyclists need to be more alert than drivers. Don’t assume that motorists or pedestrians see you.
- Be aware of pedestrians and other vehicles. Learn to anticipate their maneuvers.
- Cyclists need to communicate and negotiate with other vehicle types using hand signals, eye contact, verbal warning and being courteous - all help keep the road safe for everyone.
- Keep control of your bicycle; be able to turn to keep your balance or ride with one hand wailing.
- Always slow down before changing lanes and yield to traffic in the new lane or area of travel.

Traffic Caching

- Make sure that you: Cyclists, if you are attached to the bicycle or in a handbag so that they won’t get caught in a wheel.
- Yield to traffic in busier lanes: Ride in the right third of the lane.
- Left most lane is for the fastest moving traffic.
- Slow down before entering a parking area.
- Never use Interstate and Parkway Systems for cycling.

Rules for Motorists Concerning Bicyclists

- Share the road with bicyclists.
- Before passing a cyclist, look to see if there is a buffer between the roadway and your side of the road. If there is a gap, obey the rules. If there isn’t, do not pass.
- Before opening your car door, check behind for cyclists.
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About The OKI Bike Route Guides

The OKI Bike Route Guides are designed to encourage bicycling in the Cincinnati area and to provide bicyclists with a guide to the bike routes in the region. The guides are available in print and online and can be used by bicyclists and motorists to plan their routes safely and efficiently.

Bicycle Safety

- Cyclist first when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.
- Bicycles are considered to be vehicles in the Kentucky traffic regulations, as well as those of Ohio. As such, they are subject to the same traffic regulations as other vehicles.
- Cyclists are required to use hand signals, obey traffic lights and signs, and follow the same rules as motorists.
- The bicycle is a vehicle, not a toy. As such, it must be treated with respect.
- Bicycles should be used only by people who know how to ride them safely and who are familiar with the rules of the road.

Traffic Laws

Traffic Principles - Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.

- Always ride with the flow of traffic.
- Don’t ride on the sidewalk.
- Allow yourself room to maneuver around roadway hazards.

Yield To Traffic In Busier Lanes

- Rides with higher traffic volumes should give way to light traffic.
- Always use signals to indicate your intentions to pedestrians.
- Look behind you to indicate your direction of travel and to ensure that it is safe. Let them know that you are there.

Yield To Traffic In Destination Lane Traffic

- Traffic is your priority traffic lane.
- Making eye contact with drivers lets them know that you are there.
- Signal and move your lane change safely.

Traffic Laws

- Never use Interstate and Parkway systems for cycling.
- Use hand signals to communicate your actions to other vehicles and pedestrians.

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