### Bicycle Safety

#### EYES ON THE ROAD

- Being mindful of road conditions and situations will help you stay safe. Ride defensively.
- **WATCH OUT FOR:**
  - Intersections and driveways – take extra caution and pay attention to cross traffic and turning vehicles. Follow traffic signals.
  - Right hook – be wary of cars making right turns in front of you.

#### SIGNS – BICYCLES USE THEM, TOO

An important part of being safe on the road is using hand signals. Develop a habit of signaling when your direction changes. Hand signals should be used when turning, stopping or changing lanes. Signaling helps others become aware of your presence and shows your intentions to motorists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STOP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Extend your left arm out to the left, parallel to the road and angle your forearm vertically downward.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RIGHT TURN (TWO OPTIONS)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Extend your left arm parallel to the road and angle your forearm vertically upward or use your right arm extended straight out.</td>
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<td><strong>LEFT TURN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Extend your left arm straight out parallel to the road and in the direction of the turn.</td>
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#### LANE POSITIONING (cvc 21202)

Lane positioning, particularly at intersections, tells the motorist the direction you intend to go.

- **RULE OF THIRDS**
  - Left third of the lane to turn left.
  - Middle third of the lane to go straight.
  - Right third of the lane to turn right.

#### RULES FOR BIKES ON METRO BUSES

- **Door zone** – position yourself far enough from parked cars to avoid suddenly opening doors, even when riding in a bike lane.
- Gates, gutters and potholes – avoid gates that can grab your wheels, gutters that can be full of debris and uneven pavement that can cause a fall.
- Hand signals should be used when turning, stopping or changing lanes.

#### RULES FOR BIKES ON METRO RAIL

- **On Metro Rail:**
  - Fuel powered, 3-wheeled, tandem, recumbent and over 6-foot long bicycles, as well as all mopeds and trailers, are not allowed.
  - Failure to obey these rules may result in a citation; ref. PC 640 (b) (9) (A)

#### SIGNALS – BICYCLES USE THEM, TOO

- You are responsible for loading and unloading your bike. Wait until the bus is fully stopped before approaching. Always load your bike from the sidewalk side and never cross in front of the bus to board or exit.

#### LOADING METRO BIKE RACES

**You are responsible for loading and unloading your bike.**

- **IN MOTION**
  - Be alert and let the bus go ahead if it appears to be gaining speed. If you are able to pass a bus, pass on the left. When passing, give yourself enough clearance and always use caution if you need to merge with traffic.

#### SLOWING OR TURNING

- Buses need to frequently pull over, sometimes crossing a bike lane. Watch for bus signaling and do not pass on the side it is turning towards. You may need to wait for the bus to complete its move before passing.

#### STOPPED

- Be aware of the bus re-entering the travel lane from a stop. This may involve crossing a bike lane. Wait for the bus to move before you proceed.

#### UNLOADING METRO BIKE RACKS

- As you near your stop, tell the operator you will be removing your bicycle and use the front door to exit.

#### SIDEWALK CAUTION

- Riding on the sidewalk is NOT safer than riding on the road.

#### BE SEEN – DAY OR NIGHT (cvc 21201)

- The most important part of riding at night is making sure others can see you.
  - State law requires that you have a white front light and a red reflector on the rear.
  - Lights that blink increase your visibility and save batteries.
  - Brightly colored and/or reflective clothing.
  - Attach lights and reflective strips to your bike, helmet, jacket, backpack, etc. to make you even more visible.

#### RESPECT THE LAW

- You have the same rights to the road as motorists; follow the laws (cvc 21200).
- Ride with traffic, never against it.
- Obey stop signs and red lights as you would in a car; this means stop and wait your turn.
- All riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet (cvc 21212).
- It is illegal to wear headphones on the rear. Use a friendly “hello”) and maneuver around them.

- **Alarms and horns:**
  - Use as needed to signal to others.

- **Reflectors and lights:**
  - Make sure reflectors and lights are illuminating properly.

- **Owning a helmet:**
  - All riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet (cvc 21212).

- **Rules for bikes on metro buses**
  - Bikes are permitted on Metro Rail trains at all times.
  - If train is full, please wait for the next train.

- **Line-specific rules:***
  - **Red and Purple Lines**
    - Look for the designated open area to accommodate bikes and other large items at the end of the car. Enter at doors marked with this symbol.

- **Taking bikes on metro rail**

- **Green and Gold Lines**
  - Enter from the middle of train, doors are marked with the symbol to the left.
  - Please stand with your bike in the designated area, also marked with the symbol to the left.

- **Blue and Expo Lines**
  - Please stand with your bike in an available area at either end of the rail car. Exception: Bikes are not permitted in front of the operator’s door in the lead car.

- **Riding near rail – safety first**

- Tracks at rail crossings can catch your front wheel and are slippery when wet. The safest way to approach rail crossings is at a 90 degree angle.

- **Bikeways**
  - Bikeways are marked with the symbol to the left.

- **Bike racks**
  - Bike racks are marked with the symbol to the left.

- **Metro Rail trains at all times.**
  - All riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet (cvc 21212).
LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

The best way to keep your bike safe is to lock it properly. Lock the frame with a sturdy chain or U-lock and secure the wheels (and other quick-release components). Using two locks can help ensure your bike stays where you left it. Metro provides racks at most Metro Rail stations. Bikes that appear abandoned (i.e. missing parts or immobilized) or locked to station railings or furnishings will be subject to removal.

LOCKING WITH ONE U-LOCK
Remove front wheel and place it next to the back wheel. Make sure to put the U-lock around both wheels, the frame and the rack. This will secure both the frame and the wheels.

LOCKING WITH TWO LOCKS
Secure the front wheel with a chain lock (do not lock the wheel to the bike only – secure to rack). Use a U-lock to secure both the back wheel and frame to the rack. This prevents removal of the wheel and secures the frame.

Metro also provides secure bike lockers at some stations. For more information on Metro’s Bicycle Locker Program, please call 213.922.2660.

Metro Bicycle Guide

LOCK YOUR BIKE:
Bike owners are responsible for securing and locking bikes to racks and in lockers. Metro is not responsible for stolen or lost bikes. See the panel to the right for tips on how to lock a bike.