Bicycle Safety

EYES ON THE ROAD

Being mindful of road conditions and situations will help you stay safe and arrive on time. Ride defensively.

WATCH OUT FOR:

- Intersections and driveways – take extra caution and pay attention to cross traffic and turning vehicles. Follow traffic control signals.
- Right Hook – be wary of right turning cars in front of you.
- Door Zone – give yourself enough distance between you and parked cars to avoid suddenly opening doors, even when riding in a bike lane.
- Storm grates and gutters – both can cause you to fall. Avoid grates that can grab your tire and gutters that can be full of debris.
- Uneven pavement like potholes and sharp objects such as small pieces of glass and metal can jar you and cause a flat.
- Rail crossings – the tracks can catch your front wheel and are slippery when wet. The safest way to approach rail crossings is at a 90° angle.

Bikes & Buses – Both Belong

Because of their size and frequent stops, buses deserve extra attention when you are riding with them. Pass buses on the left. Buses pull over to facilitate easy boarding/exiting by bus riders. Passing on the right puts you at risk of a bus turning into you (e.g. “right hook”). Buses have large blind spots that make it difficult for bus operators to see you. Give buses 5 feet of clearance when passing on the left.

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

The best way to keep your bike safe is to lock it properly. In addition to locking the frame with a sturdy chain or u-lock, secure the wheels (or other quick-release components). Using an additional lock will ensure your bike is the just the way you left it.

Metro provides racks and lockers at many Metro Rail and Orange Line Stations. For more information about renting a locker, please call 213.922.2660.

RESPECT THE LAW

> You have the same rights to the road as motorists; follow the laws (cvc 21200).
> All riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet (cvc 21212).
> It is illegal to wear headphones on both ears while you ride (cvc 27400).
> Obey stop signs and red lights as you would in a car; this means stop.
> Ride with traffic, never against it.

BE SEEN – DAY OR NIGHT (cvc 21201)

Using your bicycle for trips at night can be a lot of fun. 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.
- Wear brightly colored or reflective clothing.
- Attach a rear tail light and reflective strips to your bike, helmet, jacket, backpack, etc., to make you even more visible.

LANE POSITIONING (cvc 21202)

Lane positioning tells the motorist the direction you intend to go. Use the diagram below as a guide.

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.

SIDEWALK CAUTION

- Riding on the sidewalk is NOT safer than riding on the road.
- Ride slowly and yield to pedestrians.
- A hazardous situation can involve colliding with pedestrians, objects and cars.
- Cars pulling in/out of driveways or alleys onto the street are not expecting a cyclist to dart in front of them.
- Riding on the sidewalk may be illegal where you live. Check your city ordinance.
- Pedestrians have the right of way and may not have great mobility (i.e. the elderly, children and disabled). It is your responsibility to safely and courteously alert them of your presence (i.e. bells or a friendly “hello”) and maneuver around them.

RULES FOR BIKES ON METRO BUSES

In using the bicycle rack in front of metro buses you must be prepared to:

- Wait for the next bus if the rack is full.
- Remove ALL loose items not attached (i.e. bags on handle bars, backpacks, helmets, etc.) and take them with you onto the bus.
- You are responsible for loading and unloading your bicycle.
- Just before your stop, tell the bus operator that you will be getting your bike from the rack.
- Never cross in front of a bus.
- Never try to retrieve something that rolls under the bus.
- Tandem and recumbent bicycles are not allowed.
- Folding bikes can be taken inside the bus. Make sure it is properly folded.

RULES FOR BIKES ON METRO RAIL

> See peak hour restrictions on opposite side.
> Be courteous to other passengers.
> Never force your way onto a full train.
> DO NOT park your bicycle behind operator’s cab in lead car.
> DO NOT block or obstruct aisles or doorways.
> Give priority to wheelchair passengers in designated areas.
> Hold your bike while riding the train.
> Walk your bike in stations and use elevator or stairs only.
> Folding bikes are encouraged and are allowed during peak hours. Make sure it is properly folded.
> Scooters, tandem, recumbent, 3-wheeled, over-sized and fuel powered bicycles are not allowed.

Failure to obey these rules may result in a citation.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE ROUTE TO YOUR DESTINATION:

- Use the Metro Bike Map and Metro System Map to identify bicycle-friendly networks and transit routes.
- Online mapping tools may be helpful.
- Choose an alternative route if traffic makes you feel uncomfortable. (Residential streets usually have slower traffic and often parallel major roads.)

BE PREPARED:

- Make sure your bicycle is functioning properly. Carry a spare tube, patch kit, pump and tire levers in case you get a flat.

SIGNALS – BICYCLES USE THEM, TOO

An important part of being safe on the road is using the appropriate hand signals. Develop a habit of signaling when your direction changes. Hand signals should be used when turning, stopping or changing lanes. Because bicyclists aren’t always riding in front of cars, signaling helps others become aware of your presence and shows your intentions to motorists.

STOP (figure A)

Extend your left arm out to the left, parallel to the road and angle your forearm vertically downward.

RIGHT TURN (figure B)

Extend your left arm parallel to the road and angle your forearm vertically upward or use your right arm extended straight out.

LEFT TURN (figure C)

Extend your left arm straight out parallel to the road and in the direction of the turn.
Bike Lockers and Racks on Metro

1. Load your bicycle in an empty slot.
2. Squeeze the handle to lower the rack.
3. Load your bicycle out of the rack.
4. Lift support arm up and over the front tire.
5. Board the bus and pay your fare.

Special Hours:

**Bikes (excluding folding bikes) are not allowed on trains weekdays during the following times:**
- **Mornings:** 6:30–8:30 am
- **E evenings:** 4:30–6:30 pm

**Metro Rail Bike Hours**
- Metro Blue Line: Long Beach ➔ 7th St/Metro Center
- Metro Green Line: Norwalk ➔ Redondo Beach
- Metro Red Line: Union Station ➔ Wilshire/Vermont
- Metro Purple Line: Sierra Madre Villa ➔ Union Station
- Metro Gold Line: Union Station ➔ Atlantic

**Additional Information**
- **Emergency/Suspicious Activity?**
  - Sheriff's Hot Line: 888.950.SAFE (7235)
  - 323.563.5000
- **Lost and Found**
  - Metro Customer Center
  - 5301 Wilshire BL (at La Brea)
  - 11am – 4pm
  - It may take up to three days for your bike to arrive at Lost and Found.