

With the school year underway, there is a lot more traffic in the morning and in the afternoon with kids heading to and from school and adults traveling to and from work. The City of Springfield wants to remind you to play it safe. That is why we are sharing these tips to ensure you arrive at school and return home safely at the end of the day.

HAND SIGNALS

It is important to let drivers know if you are stopping or turning while riding your bike. Remember these important hand signals so you can communicate with others while sharing the road.



LEFT TURN



RIGHT TURN



STOPPING



CITY OF SPRINGFIELD OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

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CITY OF SPRINGFIELD OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

BIKE THIS WAY

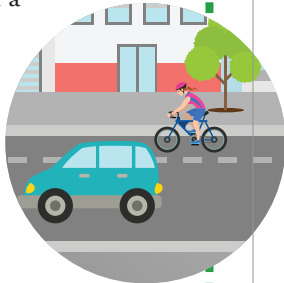


FOLLOW THE RULES

Bicycles are vehicles and must obey all traffic rules, signs, and road signals. Remember, pedestrians have the right of way and you must stop if signs and signals require.



- Always stop at all road crossings, alleys, and driveways and look left, look right, and then look left again before proceeding, even on one-way streets.
- Stay alert for vehicles backing out of a driveway, parking spot, or on a street.
- Ride on the road in the same direction as traffic. Ride as close to the right edge of the road as possible.
- If a bike lane is available, use the lane and stay alert to any road obstructions.
- If a road is unsafe due to heavy traffic, ride only on wide sidewalks. Be aware of any sidewalk obstructions and obey all pedestrian signs and signals.
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Use your voice or bell to let pedestrians know you are passing.



BIKE EQUIPMENT

Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Make sure the helmet is the correct size and securely fastened. The helmet should be level and snug. You should be able to see the edge of the helmet when you look up.



Make sure your bicycle is in working condition before using it. Check the brakes, tires, reflectors, bell, and lights before riding at night.



BIKE SAFELY

Be visible to drivers at all times. Bright clothing or accessories, such as your backpack, can help drivers see you.

Always wear bright, fluorescent, or reflective clothing, such as a vest, and use a light in poorly lit areas, at night, or when visibility is low.

Use a horn, hand signals, and light to be seen when turning left or right and when stopping.

Always keep both hands on the handle bars unless you are signaling or changing gears.

Always be cautious and ride defensively.

Look out and listen for larger and faster vehicles behind you as well as in front of you.

Do not wear headphones that block out sound or electronic devices that distract your attention.

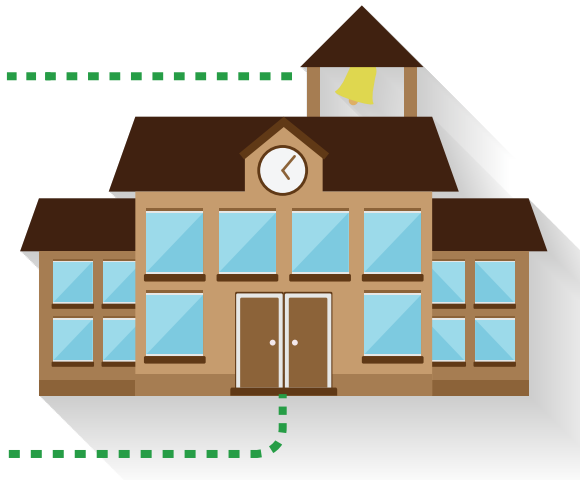


If you are riding with friends, ride in single file on narrow or busy roads or when riding around bends.

Always ride in a straight line and do not weave in and out of traffic or along the road. Be predictable.

If required, walk your bicycle across dangerous intersections and streets.

Watch out for parked vehicles, especially car doors opening unexpectedly.



Watch out for pedestrians crossing the road.

Look out for obstructions in the road such as uneven or rough surfaces, objects in the road, or slippery surfaces.

