

Top 5 Ways to Bike Safely

- **Obey traffic signs and signals.** The same rules that govern the behavior of drivers apply to bicyclists. By following the rules of the road such as stopping at stop signs and red lights, your actions are predictable to drivers and collisions will be easier to avoid.
- **Ride in the same direction as vehicular traffic.** Bicyclists are less visible to drivers when they ride into on-coming traffic. Most bicycle accidents are a result of riding against the flow of traffic.
- **Stay to the RIGHT, unless making a left turn.** Drivers expect bicyclists to ride to the right, and may not be as attentive to or prepared to avoid bicyclists riding in the faster moving left lane.
- **Be Visible.** When bicycling at night, be sure your bike is equipped with a white light on the front and a red reflector (or even a red light) on the rear. Wear light colored clothing as well to increase your visibility to drivers.
- **Always keep at least one hand on the handle bars.** Your safety and the safety of those around you relies on your ability to remain in control of your bicycle. You must be able to swerve or brake on short notice, especially when riding near pedestrians or other traffic.



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Ride Safe



A Quick Guide to
Bicycling in the
Lowcountry



The East Bay Bike Path

Guidelines for Riding Charleston's Bike Paths

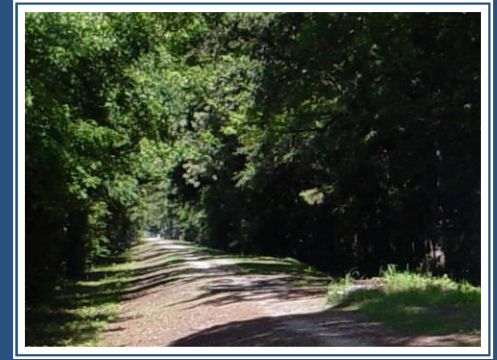
- **STOP** at stop signs and intersections.
- **LOOK** both ways before crossing roads and driveways.
- **RESPECT** everyone's right to use the path, regardless of speed or mode.
- **BE PREDICTABLE.** Ride at a steady pace and look behind you before changing position on the path.
- **STAY TO THE RIGHT** except when passing, to allow room for people traveling in the opposite direction.
- **PASS ON THE LEFT.** Give vocal warning before passing and always yield to oncoming traffic. Be sure to give ample space when passing and remember that young children and animals can behave unpredictably.
- **DO NOT STOP ON THE PATH.** Pull off the bike path to prevent a collision with riders approaching from behind. Do not block the path.
- **BE RESPONSIBLE.** Do not litter and do not trespass on private property abutting the path.



Bicycling Laws of South Carolina

From the Code of Laws of South Carolina
Title 56, Chapter 5, Article 27

- Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle.
- When on a roadway, ride no more than two abreast and stay as far to the right as safety will allow.
- Bicyclists must ride astride the bicycle's permanent seat. Bicycles may not be used to transport more individuals than designed to carry.
- Riders must keep at least one hand on the handle bars at all times.
- When used at night, bicycles must be equipped with a bright white light in the front and either a red light or red reflector in the rear.
- Bicycles must be equipped with a brake.
- It is unlawful to harass, taunt, or throw objects at any person riding a bicycle. Cyclists who experience any of these actions by a motorist should note the tag number and vehicle description and file a police report.
- While state law does not require the use of a helmet, the City of Charleston recommends the use of one for all cyclists.



The West Ashley Greenway

Signs to Know



Always stop at STOP signs to ensure that intersections are clear before safely crossing.



Obey ONE WAY signs. Bicyclists riding against the flow of traffic are more likely to be hit and are breaking the law.



DO NOT ENTER signs prevent vehicles and bicyclists from turning onto a one way street in the wrong direction. Never ignore this sign.



Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks just as cars do. Be cautious and look for pedestrians where this sign is posted.



The Ashley River Road Bike Path