



Rules of the Road

Bicycles are vehicles and share the same privileges and duties as other traffic. Laws that apply to motorists also apply to bicycles. Cyclists must follow the rules of the road and obey all traffic signals, signs and lane markings.

Where do I ride?

The law is for bicyclists to ride as far to the right in the road as practicable. You have the right to decide for yourself how far to the right is safe for you to ride.

If you are traveling about as fast as a car can safely travel, you can take the full traffic lane. Taking the lane helps you avoid hazards on the side of the road, holds your place in a traffic cue, and lets you take a left turn when you so desire.

Stay in the bike lane if one is available, unless you are preparing to turn or crossing an intersection. Remember, cars will enter and cross the bike lane when turning, entering and exiting the roadway.

Why shouldn't bikes ride on the sidewalk?

Riding on a sidewalk is typically more dangerous than riding on a street because each cross-street, driveway, or parking lot becomes a possible point of conflict with turning motorists who are focused on the roadway. Sidewalks often provide poor riding surfaces with utility poles, sign posts, curbs, and other obstacles, including pedestrians.

Tips for a Safe Commute

- NEVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC
- RIDE DEFENSIVELY
- FOLLOW LANE MARKINGS
- PASS ON THE RIGHT WITH CARE
- CHOOSE THE BEST WAY TO TURN LEFT
 - (1) Like an auto: signal, move into the left turn lane and turn left with the traffic
 - (2) like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far side crosswalk and walk your bike across the street
- OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS
- USE HAND SIGNALS
- SCAN THE ROAD BEHIND
- BEWARE OF PARKED CARS AND PEDESTRIANS
- BEWARE OF VEHICLES TURNING LEFT
- WATCH FOR CARS PULLING OUT
- MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS
- AVOID ROAD HAZARDS
- DRESS APPROPRIATELY

Wear a sturdy helmet to protect your head and bright colored clothing to make you more visible to motorists
- USE A PACK OR RACK TO CARRY THINGS
- LOCK YOUR BIKE WHEN YOU'RE GONE
- USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT

The law requires a headlight and rear reflector or tail light at night. Wear light-colored clothes with reflective tape for extra visibility. Avoid wearing dark colors and red
- WATCH FOR CHASING DOGS

(source: santafempe.org)



DRIVE LESS BIKE MORE



Creating a Bicycle friendly County

A bicycle-friendly community benefits everyone! commuters, recreational bicyclists, merchants, tourists, children, parents, and even motorists. A bicycle offers an alternative travel choice for those concerned about the environment and requires relatively little infrastructure. In addition, bicycles can have travel times comparable with automobiles for short distances and are less expensive to own and operate than automobiles.

What equipment do you need?

Before getting on a bicycle, make sure you have the proper equipment to ride safely and comfortably.

Always wear a helmet:

Remember that a helmet can reduce the risk of a serious head injury by 85% in a crash, but will not prevent an accident. Education is the best way to decrease crash frequency and severity.

Always use lights at night:

Use a white light in front and a red light in back. Remember, you are virtually invisible to all motorists at night without lights. Additional reflectors on your bike and reflective materials on your clothing and bags will help you be visible at night.

Lock it up:

A good lock will help keep your bike from being stolen; ideally, you want to be able to fit your lock through your frame and one or both wheels.

Other helpful gear:

- Rear view mirror
- Fenders can help keep dirt and mud off your clothes
- Saddlebags, racks and baskets
- Layers for rain, snow or changes in temperature



Bring Your Bicycle on Public Transit

Atomic City Transit makes it easy for you to combine bicycle transportation with a trip on the bus. Securely park your bike at a bike rack or locker before you get on, or bring your bicycle on the bus to extend your travel range at the other end of the trip.

Loading Your Bike onto a Bus:

- As the bus approaches, have your bike ready to mount. Remove water bottles, pumps or other loose items that might fall off
- Inform the driver that you're loading your bike
- If the bike rack is folded up against the front of the bus, pull the handle up to release, and lower the rack into its working position
- Load your bike into the rack, starting with the front wheel of your bike first - load with the handlebars toward the curb and the wheels in slots nearest the bus. If your bike is second, load with the handlebars opposite
- Pull the hook out and over the front wheel and release it gently

Unloading Your Bike from a Bus:

- Remind the driver you will unload your bike.
- Pull the hook out and over the front wheel to release your bike
- Lift or roll your bike out of the wheel slots always moving it toward the curb, and if yours was the only bike, fold up the rack
- Quickly move away from the bus and signal the driver that it is safe to leave

Hit the Trails for Your Commute

Utilize Los Alamos County's extensive Trail Network and take the scenic route to work. With over 150 miles of developed trails, there's a trail outside everyone's front door. Remember to follow these important trail etiquette tips each time you hit the trails:

- Be Courteous to Others
- Bikes Yield to Pedestrians. If you're riding downhill, you should also yield to uphill cyclists
- Stay Right Except to Pass. Move to the side of the trail when passing on narrow trails. Stop, if necessary before passing
- Ask for an equestrian's direction to pass. When you approach an equestrian, stop and say "hello!" Your voice tells a horse you are human, not a predator.
- Warn others before passing with use of bell and/ or voice (e.g. "on your left")
- Obey speed rules. Obey the 15 mph speed limit, and maintain control of your bike; slow to 5 mph when approaching other users and blind turns
- Do not block trail
- Be aware of your surroundings
- If using headphones, only wear one side to ensure you can hear what is going on around you
- Keep dogs on a leash and under control

