

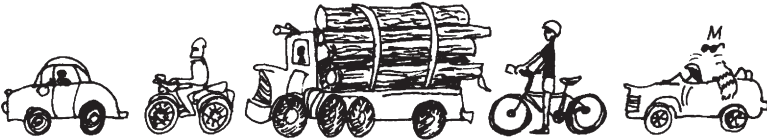
**Say, you're  
not from  
this planet,  
are you?**

**A bicycle safety guide  
for humans (and others)**

Here in **OREGON**



we all use the same traffic pattern on the roads –



– cars, trucks, buses, bikes and cool cats.

That way, we don't crash into each other.

For instance,



is for bicyclists, just as cars and trucks and buses drive on the right.

If you see people bicycling against traffic (yikes!), advise them that it's much **SAFER** to ride **with TRAFFIC**

(and that's why it's **THE LAW**



).

Bikes are part of the traffic picture here, and the rights, regulations, and rules belong to all of us.

**The Basics:**



STOP  
at red  
lights



and  
stop  
signs

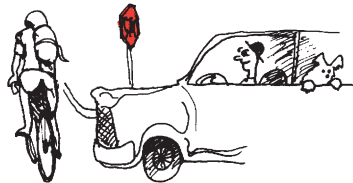


Yes, you! Running a stop sign is the most common way for an adult cyclist to get into a car crash, next to riding on the wrong side of the street (according to Oregon statistics on accidents between bicycles and motor vehicles.)

The more we bicyclists appear responsible, the better we'll be respected by other drivers.

Car drivers\*, likewise, will stop at stop signs for you.

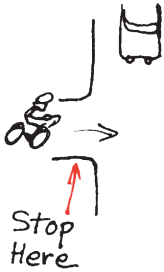
Remember, we're all vehicle drivers sharing the same traffic system.



\* For purposes of this pamphlet, "car drivers" will refer to bus drivers, truck drivers, motorcyclists, and cool cats.



## A special stop for **KIDS**:

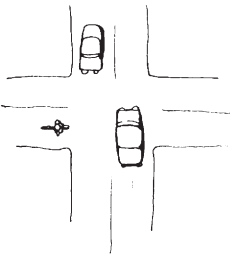


**Stop** every time **before** you go into the **road**. Like: from your driveway, from the store, or from the sidewalk. Otherwise, that car didn't see you, didn't expect you, and **WHAM**. You're history.



## **YIELD** – An Important Concept

The whole concept of “**yielding**” of course applies to bicyclists. Two vehicles cannot occupy the same space at the same time. So the second one **yields** to the first. Sometimes merging lanes are marked to say who should yield.



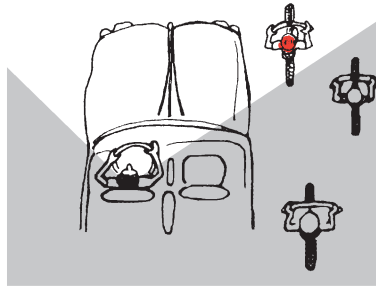
Understand this concept and you'll fit in well with other vehicles sharing the roads.



**WHERE TO BE,**  
or  
“Where to be seen...”

**Ride on the right**, to allow faster vehicles to pass you.

Be careful you don't ride **too** far to the right – that's where the broken glass sits (along with other unpopular items: sewer grate wheel-snatchers, rough pavement edges, slippery wet leaves) – AND you may disappear from the motorist's sight line.



**Do you drive a car?**

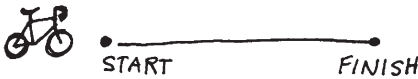
Leave a good space when passing a bicyclist, and don't merge back into the lane until you're sure you've passed. Remember, the bike's moving forward too.

Ride your bike **PREDICTABLY**, so others know where you're going to be.

**NO SURPRISES!**



Bumblebees are exempt from traffic regulations.



But you're not!

Ride in a continuous straight line. If you will be turning, **communicate** ahead of time to those around you.

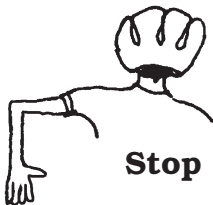
What? Your personal satellite intergalactic telecommunications system isn't hooked up to other Oregon road users?! Then you'll just have to use **arm signals**.



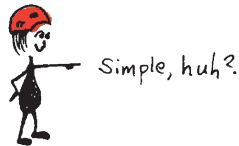
**Left turn**



**Right turn**



**Stop**



Simple, huh?

You may have learned this signal for a right turn, which is useful if you're driving a car. Unless your arm is 8 feet long,



this



won't work.

But on a bike in Oregon, you may use either.

### Why Cars and Bikes Collide

– Most Common Causes –

1. Cyclist rides into the street without checking for traffic (most of these cyclists are under age 16).
2. Cyclist rides on the wrong side of the street, NOT with the rest of traffic (lots of adults here).
3. Car driver doesn't yield for the cyclist (maybe the cyclist wasn't seen).
4. Cyclist goes through a stop sign or red light.

Don't



**YOU be one of these statistics!**



If you're under 16 years old, you **MUST** wear a helmet when you ride your bike. Everyone ought to!

Any time you want to **move to the left** (like, to avoid a storm grate, to avoid running into a parked car, to get out of a right-turn-only lane, or to merge left):

★ **LOOK BACK** to see when it's clear.

**PRACTICE:** Can you look back and continue in a straight line?

Look back



signal



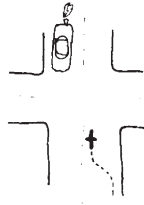
and  
take your space

(Did you **yield**?)

Congratulations! You have **merged left**.

Now if you want to

**TURN LEFT:**



Before the corner, **merge** to the center of the left-turning lane (see above to merge left). Then wait and signal at the intersection until you find a gap in the oncoming traffic, and then make your turn.



On your bike, think of yourself in respect to all the rest of the traffic.



Now,



some roads are better than others for cycling.

Many Oregon cities have **bike maps** that show better routes for bicyclists. Visit their web sites and see.



If you commute by bicycle, you learn what streets are better for cycling.



**If the road feels too busy or too narrow or too dangerous – find another.**

# Bike paths

Yup, same rules apply on separated bike paths.

**Ride on the right**

**Stop at stop signs**

**Be predictable**

**Yield where needed**

**Be visible**

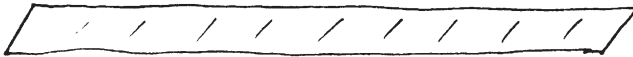
**Be aware of other traffic**

**Brush your teeth**



and **be careful** every time the bike path crosses a road. (Time to stop!)

# SIDE WALKS



**Hey, pedestrians have their rights!**

Walkers come first on the walkways.

Many Oregon cities forbid cycling on sidewalks. If you ride on a sidewalk, yield to the pedestrian and tell him or her you are coming.



Ding, ding!




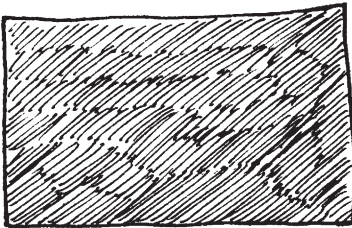
**Caution:** Every time the sidewalk crosses a road or driveway, you're in **BIG TROUBLE** if you don't **STOP** for cars. Car drivers there don't expect you, and you might get squished.

Bikes are small, and we're harder to see.



Find the bicyclist in this picture.  
(Photo  $\frac{1}{1000}$  actual size)

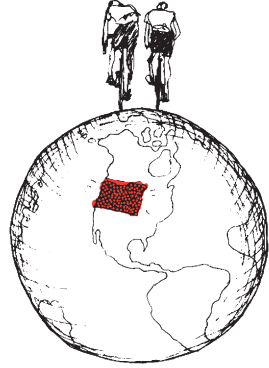
So  wear your **bright** shirt  
and **colorful helmet**.



At night,\* use  
**good lights**,  
front and rear.

\* At night, too many of the car drivers have  
been drinking. Bad news.  
Big trouble.

So, while you're on this planet, enjoy bicycling with Oregon's scenery, its relaxing fields, the challenging hills, the varied terrain — and enjoy it safely and smartly.



WAIT!! Aren't you going to tell them about shifting, stopping quickly, or car doors? Maintenance, group cycling skills, or railroad tracks? What about accidents, or the coast route, or bike clubs?

And flat tires, gravel, and unfriendly cats?



There just isn't space here.

You can learn these skills (and more) through a bicycle safety education course in your community.



**Transportation Safety *The Way To Go!***

[www.oregon.gov/odot/tsd](http://www.oregon.gov/odot/tsd)