

# What Pedestrians Want Bicyclists to Know

## **Sometimes pedestrians do have the right-of-way!**

- Pedestrians have the right-of-way on sidewalks and in crosswalks.
- Pedestrians would appreciate it if you use designated bicycle facilities when possible. If you decide to ride on a sidewalk, be aware of local rules, slow your speed, yield to pedestrians and pass only when there is room to pass safely.
- Pedestrians may walk in the roadway or bike lane when the sidewalk is unusable or missing. Respect the speed and manner in which they travel, especially slower pedestrians and those using strollers, wheelchairs or other mobility devices.
- Keep crosswalks free and clear for pedestrians when you are stopped at an intersection.
- Don't allow your bike to block pedestrians' access to walk light buttons or curb cuts when you're waiting on or near a sidewalk.

## **Don't assume that every pedestrian sees you!**

- Speak or ring a bike bell to alert pedestrians of your approach. Proceed with caution as they may be blind, hearing impaired or physically unable to move quickly.
- Remember to use hand signals. Make your intentions clear ahead of time.
- Make sure that you and your bike have adequate lighting at night or in inclement weather. Be aware that your lights may temporarily blind pedestrians.

## **Learn and observe all traffic laws and signs!**

- Walk your bike in crosswalks and where signs instruct you to walk your bike, such as pedestrian bridges. Remember that when you are walking your bike, you are a pedestrian.
- Obey all traffic lights and stop signs. Pedestrians expect you to observe the rules of the road like other drivers.
- Don't be a "hit and run" bicyclist. If you collide with a pedestrian, stick around until all parties' needs are addressed.

## **Watch and be aware of pedestrians!**

- Watch for, and yield to pedestrians before making turns or leaving driveways.
- On multi-use paths, be aware that blind or disabled pedestrians may not be able to walk on the right or may require more space while being guided by a dog or another person.
- Stay alert! Put away electronic devices. Distracted bicycling is hazardous to all of us.
- Listen! If using earphones, at least one ear must be free of earbuds and earplugs.

# What Bicyclists Want Pedestrians to Know

## **Sometimes bicyclists will share your pathway!**

- Bicyclists are only allowed to ride on some sidewalks. Rules regarding sidewalk riding differ by location. \*
- Bicyclists may prefer to ride on sidewalks when they perceive them to be safer than the streets, when they are less experienced or when they are riding with children.
- On a multi-use path, bicyclists would appreciate it if you walk as far to the right side as is practical and leave room for them to pass.
- If you choose to linger on sidewalks or paths, leave room for a bicyclist to pass at a safe distance. Keep any dogs on a short leash and under your control.

## **Don't assume that every bicyclist sees you!**

- Wear reflective and visible clothing, especially in dark areas.
- Make eye contact with bicyclists if possible.
- Bicyclists cannot stop as quickly as you may think! A bicyclist riding at 15 mph will take at least 8 feet to stop.
- Bicyclists expect you to cross at intersections or in marked crosswalks. Always look both ways for bicyclists before crossing, especially midblock.

## **Learn and observe traffic laws and customs!**

- Obey all traffic lights and stop signs. Bicyclists expect you to observe the rules of the road.
- If you must walk in the roadway or bike lane, if possible, walk facing traffic, closest to the curb. Be aware that bicyclists may try to pass you.
- On sidewalks or paths, it is common practice to allow bicyclists to pass on your left.

## **Watch and be aware of bicyclists!**

- Watch for bicyclists before entering the street, bike lane or separated bikeway. Darting across a street or path may cause the bicyclist to crash into you or to crash when trying to avoid you.
  - Be aware of bicyclists' movements and watch for their hand signals. Look before changing direction.
  - Try to be predictable. Make your intentions clear. Unexpected movements could result in serious injury to you or the bicyclist.
  - Stay alert! Put away electronic devices. Distracted walking is hazardous to all of us.
  - Listen! If using earphones, you still need to be aware of bicyclists.
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# Resources

## **Pedestrian and Bicycle Hazard Report**

Notify us of obstacles or hazards that may inhibit bike or pedestrian travel by using the RTC's Hazard Report. These reports are forwarded to the appropriate local jurisdiction for action. <http://www.sccrtc.org/hazard>

## **Santa Cruz County Bikeways Map**

The SCCRTC Bikeways Map shows bicycle lanes and paths, alternate routes, amenities and bicycle resources within Santa Cruz County. Download the map <http://sccrtc.org/services/bike/>. Pick up a free map at 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, (831) 460-3200 or email [info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org).

## **Community Traffic Safety Coalition**

The Community Traffic Safety Coalition works to reduce traffic related injuries and accidents in Santa Cruz County, while also promoting alternative modes of transportation. For more information, visit <http://www.sctrafficsafety.org/>

## **\*Ordinances Regulating Bicycle Riding on Sidewalks**

Bicyclists are not allowed to ride on sidewalks in the City of Watsonville and City of Capitola. In the City of Santa Cruz, bicyclists are not allowed to ride on sidewalks fronting and adjacent to commercial establishments, stores or buildings used for business or commercial purposes.



*Thanks to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's Bicycle Advisory Committee for its valuable contributions to this brochure.*

Also see our brochure "What Pedestrians and Motorists Want Each Other to Know," available from the RTC.

# What Pedestrians and Bicyclists Want Each Other To Know



## **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Pedestrian Safety Workgroup**



The Pedestrian Safety Work Group is a subcommittee of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee.