

Bicycles are Vehicles and Belong on the Road

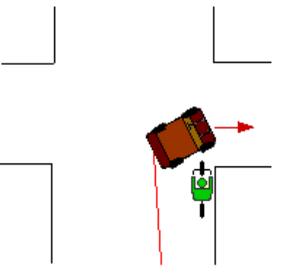
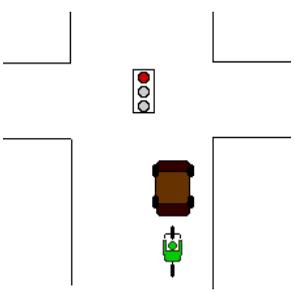
Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as operators of motor vehicles. This means that you are required to follow all traffic rules, and you are allowed to drive your bicycle on any road or highway in the state.

Following the same rules as other vehicles makes you predictable, and significantly reduces the likelihood of a crash. Obeying the law also sends the message that you belong in traffic and that you respect other road users.

Give Respect — Get Respect

Traffic signals are for bicyclists too

Obey all traffic signs and signals. Stop behind the stop line, so pedestrians can cross safely in the crosswalk.

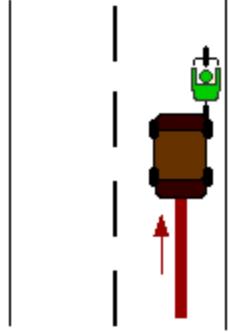


Avoid the right hook

Avoid passing any moving vehicle on the right. If there is a bicycle lane on the right, pass slowly and watch for right turning vehicles.

Don't be invisible!

Bikes should have a front white light, a rear red reflector or light, side reflectors, and pedal (or ankle) reflectors at night.



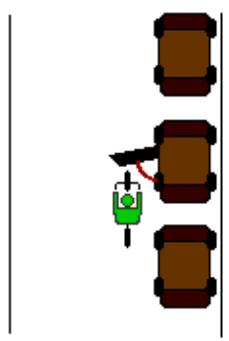
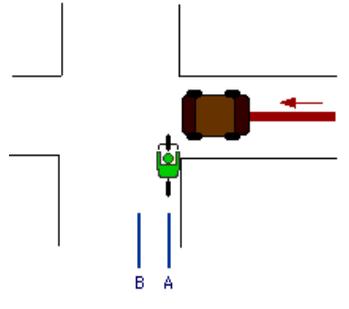
Look and signal before turning

Always look behind you to see if it is clear before turning or changing lanes.

Turn left as a vehicle by merging into the left turn lane or left side of single lane. Or, cross as a pedestrian in crosswalks.

Watch for the right cross

Ride far enough left in the lane (B) so cars pulling out into the intersection or road can see you.



Beware of the door zone

Ride at least 4 feet away from parked cars, even if there is a bike lane or traffic trying to pass you.

Yield to pedestrians

Stop for all pedestrians in crosswalks. Do not pass other vehicles stopped at crosswalks—there might be a pedestrian you can't see coming from the other side.

When on a path or sidewalk, pass other users with care, and announce your presence with a bell or a friendly "Passing on your left".

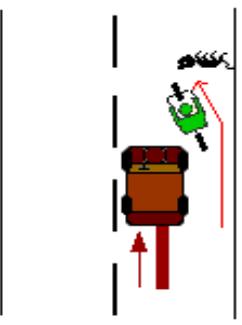
Bike riding on sidewalks is prohibited in business districts. Residential sidewalks are OK to ride on at a slow pace.

Avoid Busy Streets

One of the biggest mistakes that people make when they start biking is to take the exact same routes they used when they were driving. It's usually better to take the streets with fewer and slower cars, as well as street that are wide so there is more room for everyone.

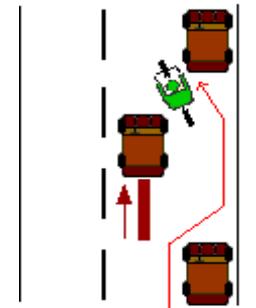
Don't swerve

Ride in a straight, predictable line. Car drivers may not be able to avoid hitting you if you suddenly move into their path.



Ride single file

Unless passing, ride single file. Notify other cyclists of overtaking cars by announcing "Car back".

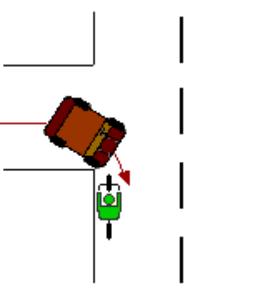


Take the lane when necessary

If a lane is too narrow for sharing with a car, move into the center of the lane. Motorists may act impatient, but they aren't likely to pass unsafely.

Don't ride against traffic

Ride with traffic, in the same direction.



Bike Brookings!



A guide to commuting on a bicycle in Brookings, SD

Go By Bike!

🍏 For the Environment

Bicycles do not pollute, they keep tons of **waste out of the landfills, and don't require** huge roadways or parking lots. Cycling is also **the world's most efficient form of transportation!** The average car motor uses around 50 to 80 times more energy than a cyclist!

🍏 For Convenience

Bicycles can take you door-to-door. No circling for a parking space. Shopping by bike is also fun and easy if you have the right equipment.

🍏 For Your Health

When you commute by bicycle, you don't have to make time for exercise — it becomes a normal part of your daily routine. Bicycling lowers your blood pressure, and leaves you with much less stress than driving a car. As a **bonus, you'll probably be much more awake** when you arrive at work in the morning.

🍏 To Save Money

By going car-free or car-light you can save on fuel, maintenance, and traffic tickets. If you **can eliminate your car entirely, you'll save an** average of \$5000 a year in payments, insurance, and maintenance costs!

**More information about
Bike Friendly Brookings
can be found through:
www.cityofbrookings.org**

Getting Started

Before you just jump on the bike that's been sitting in your basement for years, here are some suggestions that will make your commute better.

The Bike

A **"commuter", "city", or "hybrid" bike is** designed for shorter trips in busy traffic, and inclement weather. These bikes have lights, 1.25 to 1.5 inch tires, straight or upright handlebars, and racks to carry bags or briefcases. However, any bike can be used as a commuter bike. So, what about that old bike in the basement? Sure! But, look it over first to make sure **it's in working order. If not, bring it into your** local bike shop and ask them to suggest modifications or new equipment.

Parking

Where should you store your bike and equipment while you are at work, school, or the store? Designated parking areas or wherever you can! Ask if there is a place to park inside and make sure to lock your bike to something solid. To lock the bike, put a U-lock through the front wheel, the frame, and the rack or bike ring. Use a cable lock to secure the back wheel if you like. And consider using a small saddle lock to keep your seat from disappearing, too. Take all removable lights and computers off.

Also, make sure to register your bike with your **city's or town's police department for free, and keep a copy of your bike's registration number** in your wallet.

Essential Equipment:

You should have at least:

- a front white light and a rear red light
- racks and/or panniers to carry stuff
- a good, solid lock — or two
- a helmet that fits correctly

- **wear comfortable clothes** — use reflective ankle bands on baggy pants, and remember: layers, layers, layers!
- **wet/cold weather gear like a raincoat, gloves,** a balaclava or scarf, and fenders for your wheels
- **a small tool kit with the basic wrenches for your bike's type of bolts, patch kit, tire levers,** and a tire pump
- **a change of clothes and a washcloth if you** need to look professional at your workplace (you may even be able to shower at work if you get particularly sweaty)

How to Get From Point "A" to Point "B"

Before you even get out there into traffic, make sure you are familiar with the rules of the road.

Once you have become comfortable riding your vehicle in traffic, you can take the most **direct route to work or school. If you aren't yet** comfortable with lots of other traffic, give yourself some extra time, and locate a route with residential and/or wide, quiet streets. Either way, make sure to always take up as much **space as you need for safety, and don't let other** traffic push you into the gutter. Bicyclists have the same right to the road as everyone else!

Have Fun

You need a good attitude to have an enjoyable **commute these days. You'll probably encounter** some bad driving, and maybe even get a few remarks tossed your way by impatient motorists, **but don't let them get to you. If some one** calls you a less than proper name give them a big friendly wave and keep on going, content in the knowledge that you are enjoying your commute as much as you possibly can. Make sure to **take in a little atmosphere too, while you're** riding — watch the kids playing in the park, listen to the birds, and try to get a whiff of the local bakery's bread and pastries. Commuting doesn't get much better than this, does it?

SHARE THE ROAD

A Few Thoughts for Motorists

Motorists must respect the rights of other road users, including bicyclists. Do your part by being a safe and courteous driver.

Share the Road with bicyclists: Allow **three feet of passing space** between the right side of your vehicle and a bicyclist just as you would with a slow-moving vehicle. Maintain this distance **even if there are designated bike lanes.**

Do not pass bicyclists if you will be making a right turn immediately afterward. Always assume bicyclists are traveling through the intersection.

Before opening your car door, look for bicyclists who may be approaching.

Do NOT pass bicyclists if oncoming traffic is near. Wait as you would with any slow moving vehicle.

Reduce your speed when passing bicyclists, especially if the roadway is narrow.

Don't blast your horn when approaching bicyclists — you could startle them and cause an accident.

Give bicyclists adequate space to maneuver. Recognize situations and obstacles which may be hazardous to cyclists, such as potholes, debris and drain gates.

A Brookings Parks & Trails map is available through:

www.cityofbrookings.org

An Oakwood State Park Trail Map is available through:

<http://www.sdgfp.info/Parks>