BICYCLING LAWS & SAFETY TIPS


Did you know?
Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists. Bicyclists may ride on all roadways unless it is specifically prohibited. When passing bicyclists, motorists must pass at a safe distance. If there is not enough room to pass safety then please slow down and pass when it is safe to do so.

**DO'S**

**Obey traffic signs and signals.** Bicyclists are required to come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights.

**Ride in the middle of the lane in slow traffic.** Slow down, call out or ring a bell before passing other trail users, and always give at least three feet passing distance.

**Use hand signals.** Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy, and self-protection.

**Ride at a safe, controlled speed on shared trails and paths.** Most trails have speed limits of 15 mph or less. While our campus trails and paths don’t have posted speed limits they are commonly set at 15 mph or less.

**Choose the best way to turn left.** There are three ways to make a left turn.
1. Like a vehicle: Signal, look back for traffic, then move into the left turn lane. Turn left when it is clear.
2. Like a bicycle: Ride to the far side of the intersection, move out of the thru travel lane, stop, turn to face your intended direction and then ride thru when the light turns green or traffic clears.
3. Like a pedestrian: Walk your bike across the crosswalks.

**Pedestrians on sidewalks.** Escorted times. In rain, allow three times the normal braking distance.

**Avoid road hazards.** Watch out for parallel-stall drainage grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, detour signage, sand, gravel and debris. Cross railroad tracks carefully at a 90 degree angle.

**Watch for cars pulling out.** Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they don’t see you until you are sure they do. When the sun is in their eyes, drivers may not see you.

**Ride to and see be seen.** Use a strong headlight and rear reflector or taillight at night or when visibility is poor. Wear reflective or fluorescent clothing. Be sure your bike has pedal and side reflectors.

**Secure your bicycle using a cable lock or chain.**
1. DON’T use a cable lock as they are easily cut by thieves.
2. Use a key lock with a 3/8” hardened shackle. Use a special tool to remove.
3. Loop the cable or chain through each of the wheels, the bicycle frame and the frame lock. Pull up all slack in the cable or chain and make sure the lock is as high off the ground as possible.

**DON'T's**

**Don't bike under the influence.** It is against the law to ride a bicycle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**Ear-buds only in one ear.** It is unsafe to wear ear-buds in both ears while riding. You should always keep one ear (traffic side) open to avoid crashing that could be avoided by simply not hearing a threat or potential danger.

**Preventing Bicycle Theft**

1. Locking your bike to a bicycle rack can prevent most bicycle thefts: secure your bicycle using a “U”-type lock for the best protection.
2. On bikes with quick-release wheels, release the front wheel and include it with the rear wheel and the bicycle frame when securing it to the bike rack: or replace QR mechanisms with anti-theft devices that require a special tool to remove.
3. On bikes without quick-release wheels, position the lock through both the rear wheel and the frame when securing it to the bicycle rack.
4. Lock to a rack that is easily seen by lots of people where thieves are less likely to attack.
5. Register your bike with MSU Parking. It’s free and required by ordinance. Go to: tinyurl.com/MSUBikeRules

**Register your bike with MSU Parking.**

**Avoid the door zone.** Ride a door’s width away from parked cars. You have the right to ride in the middle of a traffic lane if it is too narrow to share with a car.

**Scan the road around you.** Keep your eyes roving constantly for cars, people, sand and gravel, grates, etc. Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving.

**Follow lane markings.** Do not turn left from the right lane. Do not go straight in a lane marked right-turn only.

**Keep clear of the door zone.** Ride a door’s width away from parked cars. You have the right to ride in the middle of a traffic lane if it is too narrow to share with a car.

**Yield to pedestrians.** Pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks have the right-of-way. When entering or exiting driveways, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians on sidewalks.

**Obey traffic signs and signals.** Motorists are required to come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights.

**Watch out for parallel-stall drainage grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, detour signage, sand, gravel and debris.** Cross railroad tracks carefully at a 90 degree angle.

**Use a strong headlight and rear reflector or taillight at night or when visibility is poor. Wear reflective or fluorescent clothing. Be sure your bike has pedal and side reflectors.**
SALES

NEW BIKES
MSU Bikes is an authorized Fuji, SE, Breezer, and Kestrel dealer. Popular models are available in-store and other bikes can be special-ordered. Purchase includes assembly by a trained mechanic, the manufacturer’s warranty, and a free 30-day check-up.

USED BIKES
Refurbished used bikes are occasionally offered for sale at our Bessey Hall location. As-is used bikes are sold at the MSU Surplus Store. A large used bike sale takes place there twice a year.

PARTS & ACCESSORIES
We stock common replacement parts such as tires, tubes, wheels, chains, brake pads, and more. Helpful accessories like lights, bells, locks, racks, and baskets are also available.

REPAIR
MSU Bikes is the one-stop location for all of your bike repair needs. We offer a full menu of repair and maintenance services including flat tire repairs, wheel straightening and replacement, brake and shifting adjustments, and tune-ups. Please bring your bike into the Bessey Hall shop for a free estimate.

DIY REPAIR STATIONS
Want to fix it yourself but don’t have the tools? Our Do-It-Yourself bike air & repair stations are free, available 24 hours a day, and are equipped with a stand, basic tools, and a tire pump. There are multiple stations on campus, including one right outside our shop (see map for locations).

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