



# Courtesy Guidelines

- ✓ **Drive defensively.**
- ✓ **Ride predictably** if on a bike.
- ✓ **Be generous** with space. It is fairly easy to allow at least 3 feet of space between a motorist and cyclist. Slow down if needed.
- ✓ **Be patient.** A cyclist may delay your journey by a few seconds; a careless mistake could change your life.
- ✓ **Respect** bike lanes. They are in place to help channel the paths of cyclists and motorists for more predictable movements.
- ✓ **Yield** to pedestrians.
- ✓ **Respect** private property at all times.
- ✓ **Don't block** the movements of vehicles or of cyclists.
- ✓ **Expect** the unexpected and slow down.
- ✓ **Look** for bicyclists when opening car doors.
- ✓ **Don't tailgate** a vehicle or a bicyclist.
- ✓ **Remember:** use caution always.
- ✓ **Make eye contact** with drivers and cyclists so they are aware of your presence. Don't make assumptions.
- ✓ **Use** bike paths and bike lanes that are in-place for safer riding whenever possible.

Above all, be aware of each other while on our roadways. Taking an extra few seconds to drive/ride/walk safely could prevent an accident or save a life. Children ride to school using these same roads. Many adults bike or walk to work to save fuel costs, stay in shape, and to provide recreation. There is room for us all.

*Courtesy is Contagious.  
Spread it!*



For further information on safety guidelines and laws, please visit:

The City of Grants Pass  
[www.grantspassoregon.gov](http://www.grantspassoregon.gov)

Safe Routes to School  
[www.egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/saferoutes](http://www.egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/saferoutes)

The National Center for  
Bicycling and Walking  
[www.bikewalk.org](http://www.bikewalk.org)

Walking  
[www.walking.org](http://www.walking.org)

Along for the Ride  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

Bicycle Transportation Alliance  
[www.bta4bikes.org/recourse/educational.php](http://www.bta4bikes.org/recourse/educational.php)

League of American Bicyclists  
[www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)



Provided by the  
City of Grants Pass and the  
Josephine County Bikeways  
and Walkways Committee  
[www.grantspassoregon.gov](http://www.grantspassoregon.gov)



Share The Road & trails

Share the road  
more cooperatively  
for safety and courtesy.



These guidelines help remind us of the basic rules of the road and to educate and encourage a safe community for all.



## Driving Guidelines

- ✓ **Avoid** cell phone calls while driving.
- ✓ **Don't pass** vehicles that are stopped at a cross walk.
- ✓ **Allow** a safe distance (at least 3 feet) when over-taking and passing a bicycle.
- ✓ **Pass** a bicyclist safely—it is permissible to go over a double yellow line to do so.
- ✓ **Remember:** cyclists are allowed to occupy the lane in front of you.
- ✓ **Watch** the speed of approaching bicyclists when pulling out of a driveway or intersection.
- ✓ **Wait** before passing bicyclists on narrow sections of roads.
- ✓ **Stop** for pedestrians.
- ✓ **Watch** for bikes on your right.
- ✓ **Check** to see if a cyclist is approaching when pulling away from the curb.
- ✓ **Check** before opening your car door to avoid striking a cyclist.
- ✓ **Don't** honk at a cyclist—it doesn't help. The cyclist is trying to get through traffic just as quickly as you.
- ✓ **Watch** for pedestrians/bicyclists where you don't expect to see them.
- ✓ **Keep alert.** Distractions are unavoidable, but use common sense.

We all have to share the roads that we have available to us. The same traffic laws that apply to motorists also apply to bicyclists. Being erratic in either situation will most likely result in an accident.



## Walking Guidelines

- ✓ **Wear** bright colors.
- ✓ **Walk** on sidewalks where available.
- ✓ **Walk** facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- ✓ **Don't** cross on a red light.
- ✓ **Cross** only at crosswalks or intersections.
- ✓ **Make** eye contact to assure you are seen.
- ✓ **Make** yourself visible.
- ✓ **Use** extra care during dusk/night conditions.
- ✓ **Be aware** of your surroundings.
- ✓ **Do not** dash our between parked cars.
- ✓ **Always** push a stroller in front of you and as close to the curb as possible.

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### A few FACTS you should know...

**FACT** - Most crashes are avoidable.

**FACT** - Most crashes with motor vehicles and bicycles happen at intersections.

**FACT** - Pedestrians account for 10 to 15% of traffic fatalities every year.

**FACT** - Pedestrians and motorists both share in the responsibility of pedestrian safety.

**FACT** - The speed limit is 20 mph or less in school zones.

**FACT** - *Safe Routes to School* programs are part of a solution to increase physical activity and to improve unsafe walking and bicycling for our children.

**FACT** - It costs about \$6,000 a year to own, maintain, and operate a motor vehicle.

**FACT** - You can decrease your gasoline bill by walking/riding to work or school.



## Biking Guidelines

- ✓ **Make** yourself visible.
- ✓ **Wear** bright or reflective clothes.
- ✓ **Use** a headlight at night visible for 500 feet and a red reflector or a red light on the back.
- ✓ **Obey** all traffic laws, signals and signs.
- ✓ **Ride** as far to the right as safe. Take the whole lane only if you are able to ride at the speed limit.
- ✓ **Ride** single file in narrow locations.
- ✓ **Pass** slower bikes on the left when safe.
- ✓ **Do not** ride erratically in traffic.
- ✓ **Use** hand signals.
- ✓ **Keep in mind** the relative speed between you and other traffic; plan accordingly.
- ✓ **Yield** to pedestrians.
- ✓ **Yield** to other vehicles when crossing a roadway.
- ✓ **Use** bike lanes/routes whenever possible.
- ✓ **Be courteous** when interacting with vehicles.
- ✓ **Watch** for children.

### Some bike laws you should know...

**LAW** - If under 16, you must wear a helmet.

**LAW** - Bikes must not use sidewalks on 6th and 7th between "A" and "M" streets or on "G": between 4th and 7th.  
**Walk** your bike on these sidewalks.

**LAW** - Requiring vehicles to provide 3 foot safety **ZONE**. (Grants Pass municipal code 6.20)

**LAW** - Oregon safe passing (3-5 feet) law on roads with speed limits of 35 mph and more. (Oregon SB 108).

**MAKE SAFETY YOUR TOP PRIORITY!**