It’s a great day to ride a bike in Philadelphia!

With more than 280 miles of bike facilities across the city and more and more Indego Bike Share bikes, traveling on two wheels is easy, convenient, and fun.

In partnership with the City of Philadelphia’s Vision Zero initiative and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, this guide contains everything you need to know to ride bikes in and around the city. From basic tips for locking your bike to how to use the newest bike facilities, this guide has it all!

This guide also has important information about bike safety, knowing how to safely turn while biking, keeping clear of large vehicle blind spots, and riding predictably, which can help keep you safe while biking.

Led by the City of Philadelphia, Vision Zero is a traffic safety initiative with the goal of eliminating traffic deaths on Philadelphia streets by 2030.

The Bike Nice Campaign educates cyclists about being safe around pedestrians, Philadelphia’s most vulnerable road users.
# Your guide to riding a bike in Philadelphia

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Exercise caution and yield to pedestrians.

Stop at all red lights and stop signs.

Ride in the same direction as traffic.

Do not ride on the sidewalk unless you are 12 years old or younger.
PHILADELPHIA BIKING LAWS

A front light and rear reflector are required by law when riding at night. A front and rear light and reflective materials make you more visible.

Use a bell to signal your presence.

Do not wear headphones when riding.

For more information about these and other laws go to [http://bit.ly/pabikelaws](http://bit.ly/pabikelaws) or Chapter 12-800 in the Philadelphia Legal Code. To report a blocked bike lane call 311 or use the 311 app on your phone.
Follow these tips in addition to the Philly biking laws to ensure a safe ride every time.

**SAFETY TIPS**

**Put your phone away.**
Texting or talking while riding takes your eyes and ears off the road.

**Be mindful of mobility-impaired persons.**
Be predictable and respectful.

**Do what you can to be seen.**
In addition to your lights, wearing something bright and reflective makes you more visible to others on the road.
Wear a helmet every time you ride. People biking with helmets are 72% less likely to sustain a traumatic brain injury.

Wear it low and level. Wear your helmet level on your head, about two fingers-widths above your eyebrows.

Buckle the strap. Always buckle the chin strap. The straps make a “Y” around your ears for a snug fit.

Do not wear a damaged helmet. Replace your helmet after any crash and whenever you see signs of damage.

Did you know? The Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia does bike light giveaways, in addition to offering free helmets at their classes and rides. Come to one today! Learn more: http://bit.ly/bcgpcalendar
BIKING WITH CHILDREN

FOR CHILDREN 12 AND YOUNGER:

Children should ride on the sidewalk while you ride on the street.

Let the child set the pace.

Children should stop at driveways and intersections.

Cross intersections riding side-by-side.

FOR CHILDREN OVER 12 YEARS OLD:

Children should ride in the street while you ride slightly behind.

Let the child set the pace.

Teach the child to make pedestrian-style turns (see page 18).

Cross intersections riding side-by-side.
Philadelphia’s more than 280 miles of bike facilities are classified and marked in the following ways:

**Trails**
Trails are separated from motorized traffic. They provide dedicated space to people walking, biking, and rolling.

**Protected Bike Lanes**
On-street protected bike lanes protect people on bikes from traffic, using parked cars or other barriers, like delineator posts.

**Buffered Bike Lanes**
Buffered bike lanes have painted buffers to provide separation from motor vehicle travel lane and/or the parking lane.

**Bike Lanes**
Bike lanes are painted onto the road and are marked with bike symbols.
Philadelphia’s more than 280 miles of bike facilities are classified and marked in the following ways:

**Neighborhood Bikeway**
Lower volume, lower speed residential streets designed to prioritize bicycles while discouraging motor vehicle traffic and maintaining low speeds.

**Green Paint**
Green paint in a bicycle lane increases the visibility of the facility, identifies potential areas of conflict, and reinforces priority to bicyclists.

**Sharrows**
“Sharrows” remind cyclists and motorists to share the road and be mindful of one another, especially on streets without bicycle infrastructure.

**Bike Signals**
Bike signals are dedicated traffic signals for cyclist at intersections. They protect cyclists from conflicts with turning motor vehicles.
The lines and markings on the road can help you navigate the streets and share the road.

In general, **a dashed bike lane** indicates that cars may enter the bike lane.

**Two-stage bike boxes** provide designated space to wait during pedestrian-style turns (see page 18).

In **mixing zones**, a dashed line indicates that cars may turn across your path. Use the markings to guide you.

**Two-way bike lanes** are indicated by a solid yellow line and directional arrows. Bike on the right side of the lane.
SIGNAL YOUR INTENT
Shown from rear:

LEFT

RIGHT

STOP

WHEN PASSING VEHICLES:

1. Look over your shoulder for vehicles.
2. Signal before making a turn or changing lanes.
3. Look again to make sure it is safe.
4. Make your move.

WHEN PASSING OTHER CYCLISTS:

1. Look over your shoulder for vehicles or bikes.
2. Signal before making a turn or changing lanes.
3. Announce your intention to pass by saying “On your left” or “On your right” loudly.
4. Make your move.
State law gives you the right to ride in the center of a travel lane when necessary for your safety. Always remember to watch for cars and signal so that drivers know where to expect you.

**DO**

- Be predictable. Always use hand signals to communicate your intentions.
- Look, signal, and look again before you change lanes.
- Take the lane. Take the lane when preparing to turn, in areas with low visibility, in places where the street is too narrow to allow a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side, or where there is an obstruction you need to go around.

**DON’T**

- Do not weave from lane to lane or between moving vehicles.
AVOID GETTING “DOORED”

Riding too close to parked cars can put you at risk of injury if a car door is opened in your path. Keep your distance and stay alert.

**DO**

Ride at least 3-feet from parked cars.

Watch parked cars carefully.
If you see movement, a door may open. Watch car tail lights and taxi on/off duty lights to anticipate driver action and exiting passengers.
Never assume the driver can see you. Trucks and buses have larger blind spots than cars.

**DO**

- Position yourself well behind the truck when it is turning.
- Allow the truck to make the turn before advancing.
- When riding with or alongside buses, show caution. Buses frequently stop and pull to the curb.

**DON’T**

- Do not squeeze between a truck and a row of parked cars.
BIKING NEAR TROLLEYS & BUSES

Some SEPTA vehicles, like trolleys and buses on narrow streets, can’t always pull to the curb to pick up and drop off passengers.

**DO**

Expect frequent stops. Some trolleys and buses stop on every block.

Slow down when approaching a trolley or bus that is stopping.

Yield to people getting on or off transit. Be patient and wait your turn to pass.

**DON’T**

Do not squeeze around people getting on or off transit.
Mixing zones are the spaces near intersections where cyclists and turning vehicles merge.

**DO**

Look for turning traffic. Merge in front of or behind cars.

Take the full lane as necessary.

**DON’T**

Do not hug the curb.

Do not pass between a turning vehicle and the curb.

If vehicles are turning in front of you, move away from the direction of the turn.
BIKE TURNS: PEDESTRIAN STYLE

Turn with pedestrian traffic when the light changes if vehicle traffic is heavy or when you are not comfortable changing lanes.

1. Pull over in front of the crosswalk and out of through traffic.
2. Wait for the green light and then move ahead.
BIKE TURNS: VEHICULAR STYLE

Turn with vehicle traffic when it is safe to change lanes and you want to maintain your speed. This turning style is for more advanced cyclists.

1. Look and double-check for oncoming cars. Signal with your hands.
2. When it is safe, carefully move into the left-hand lane.
3. Complete your turn like any other vehicle.
BIKE TURNS: USING A BIKE BOX

Bike boxes may be installed in places where two bike facilities intersect. They are designed to increase the visibility of cyclists stopped at red lights, and give them better turning positions.

1. Only enter the box on a red light.
2. Position yourself ahead of the cars.
3. Turn when the light turns green.
**DO**

Use a U-Lock and/or heavy chain. More than one lock will help prevent theft.

Lock your wheels to your frame.

Lock all “quick release” parts.

Use designated bike racks where available.

Leave space for people to pass.

**DO**

Look up!

Make sure you can’t lift your bike over the object to which it is locked.

**DON’T**

Do not lock to trees or SEPTA railings.

Do not leave your bike for an extended period of time.

Do not block access.
WHAT TO DO AFTER A CRASH

STEPS TO TAKE IMMEDIATELY:

1. Call 911 or go to the nearest Philadelphia Police District Station.
2. Get the information you would in a car crash. This includes license plate numbers.

ONCE THE POLICE ARRIVE:

1. Request an incident report from the Police.
2. If doored, ask the officer to cite the motorist.

IN THE DAYS AFTER THE CRASH:

1. Contact any witnesses.
2. Write your own detailed description of what happened.
3. Get a bike repair estimate from a bike shop.
4. Contact a lawyer.

For more information on any of the above, visit www.bicyclecoalition.org/ride-your-bike/what-to-do-in-a-crash
PHILLY BIKE RESOURCES

City of Philadelphia
   oTIS - philagov/otis
   Vision Zero - visionzerophl.com
   Indego - rideindego.com
   Better Bike Share Partnership - betterbikeshare.org
   Philadelphia Streets Department - philadelphiastreets.com
   Philadelphia City Planning Commission - philagov/CityPlanning
   Philadelphia Parks & Recreation - philagov/ParksandRecreation

Local Organizations & Resources
   Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia - bicyclecoalition.org
   Neighborhood Bike Works - neighborhoodbikeworks.org
   Bicycle Coalition Youth Cycling - bit.ly/bcgp_campaigns
   Women Bike PHL - bit.ly/fbwbpbl
   Circuit Trails - circuittrails.org
   Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission - dvrpc.org

Local Cycling Groups & Clubs
   Bicycle Club of Philadelphia - phillybikeclub.org/bcpdo
   Fearless Femme Racing - bit.ly/fb_ffr
   Sturdy Girl Cycling - sturdygirlcycling.com
   Pedal Posse Divas - facebook.com/pedalpossedivas
   Pennsylvania Center for Adapted Sports - centeronline.com/programs

Bikes on Transit and Bridges
   Rules for SEPTA, Public Transit, & Bridges - bit.ly/bcgp_transit

National Cycling Groups
   People for Bikes - peopleforbikes.org
   Black Girls Do Bike - blackgirlsdobike.com
   League of American Bicyclists - bikeleague.org
   National Center for Bicycling and Walking - bikewalk.org
Join the thousands of Philadelphians who ride a bike every day.