

STATE TRAFFIC LAW: Bicycles treated as vehicles!

Traffic rules that apply to motorists also apply to bicyclists.

Because state laws give bicycle riders the rights of vehicle operators, motorists should treat them as such. Specifically, motorists should treat a bicycle as a vehicle for purposes of:

- ▶ LEFT AND RIGHT TURNS
- ▶ PASSING
- ▶ STOPPING AT LIGHTS AND STOP SIGNS
- ▶ YIELDING RIGHT-OF-WAY
- ▶ LANE POSITION

When riding on a roadway, a cyclist has all the rights and responsibilities of a vehicle driver.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 46.61.755

King County Parks **Your Big Backyard**

bicycle club
Cascade
education
foundation

A manual from the King County Parks & Recreation Division and the Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation.

Bicyclists are encouraged to reproduce this manual and share it with motorists and others.

SAFE BICYCLING IN KING COUNTY WASHINGTON

FREE
FREE

Equipment



Maintenance



Locking



Helmets



Traffic Rules



Riding



Hazards



Trails



Cold & Rain



King County

Ron Sims, Executive
in partnership with
Cascade Bicycle Club
Education Foundation



A MESSAGE FROM KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE RON SIMS

As an avid cyclist, I can say from experience that King County is a great place for bicycling. King County has more than 175 miles of trails that connect cities with towns and rural areas. I enjoy the trails for my regular cycling, and used them to train for my Seattle-to-Portland ride.

Bicycling makes for great recreation and exercise—and it’s fun for all ages. Also, our outstanding trail network lets many King County residents bicycle to work. Bike commuting can help ease road congestion and cut pollution-causing exhaust.

Good cycling skills can prevent injuries and make the trails safe for everyone. This booklet highlights important safety information for commuters and those riding recreationally.

I hope you find this new guide to safe cycling in King County useful and keep it as a handy resource. I am pleased to partner on this fine project with the Cascade Bicycle Club that works so diligently on behalf of bicyclists and bicycle safety.

A MESSAGE FROM CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHUCK AYERS

Riding a bike. What could be easier or more fun? If you’re a new rider, a few hours of practice and you’re away. If you’re an adult just getting back into riding, it all just comes back to you.

Riding your bike today is mostly the same as it has been for over 100 years—as is the joy and freedom of doing so! Even the equipment is basically the same: wheels, pedals, seat, handlebars, brakes.

But today, things and people move more quickly. So you and your bike must be prepared every time you bike. It’s not hard; it’s just important for your safety and to get the most joy out of riding.

To help, we’ve produced this booklet. It’s easy to read and full of information to keep you and your bike in good working order. A quick read through will help you prepare and handle your bike for more efficient and safe riding.

So whether you’re a novice or an expert, riding for exercise, pleasure, transportation, or all of these, please take a few moments to read this booklet. It will help you safely enjoy all the benefits that bicycling brings to so many people.

How to Use This Booklet

How should you use this booklet? First, read the Table of Contents. There, we’ve listed everything this booklet covers. If you can’t find what you want, check the list of bicyclists’ resources on the inside back cover.

This booklet is intended for bicyclists above 12 years of age. Parents and teachers can use the booklet to teach younger cyclists how to bike safely.

If you have questions or comments, please call King County Parks & Recreation Division at 206/296-8687 or the Cascade Bicycle Club at 206/522-3222.

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