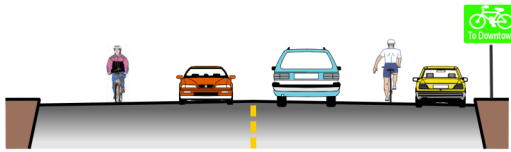


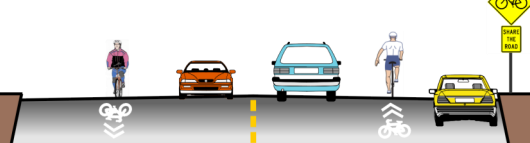
## TYPES OF BIKEWAYS

### BIKE ROUTES



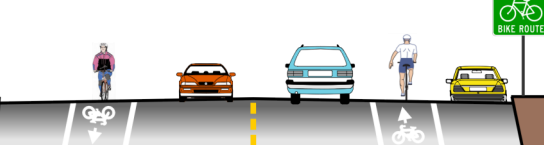
- Cars and bicycles share the lane.
- Many bike routes have signs showing the direction and distance to the destinations (e.g. Downtown, the Riverfront).
- Bike routes are usually on streets that aren't suitable for bike lanes but are relatively good for biking.

### MARKED SHARED LANES



- Cars and bicycles share the street.
- Usually established on streets with moderate traffic, which are not suitable for bike lanes due to space or access issues.
- Special pavement markings direct bicyclist to ride away from parked cars or near the center of narrow lanes. Markings and signals also encourage cars to share the lane with bicyclist.

### BIKE LANES



- Designated space on each side of the street reserved for bicycle use.
- Usually established on streets with moderate/heavy traffic.
- Special pavement markings and signs identify the lanes.

### MULTI-USE PATHS



- Paved paths separated from the road, for bicyclist, walkers, runners, and in-line skaters (e.g. the Pigeon Creek Greenway).

### Evansville MPO

Civic Center Complex, Room 316

1 N.W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Evansville, IN 47708-1833

Phone: 812-436-7833

Website: [www.evansvillempo.com](http://www.evansvillempo.com)



**Evansville Metropolitan  
Planning Organization**

# Bike Smart



## On-Road Bicycling Safety Tips

## SMART CYCLING BASICS

Cycling safety on city streets requires an understanding of traffic rules; lane positioning, turning, passing; trouble situations; and the condition of your bicycle. **This pamphlet shares some of the keys to staying safe while cycling on streets.** Please visit [www.evansvillempo.com](http://www.evansvillempo.com) and navigate to the bicycle and pedestrian page, for more information. Here are some basics for bicycling safely:

### RIDING PREDICTABLY

Being predictable is the key to safe bicycling on city streets. Most bicyclists, and motorists, get into collisions due to their defiance of traffic rules and by operating unpredictably. **If you act like the operator of a vehicle — signaling turns, turning from proper lanes, and stopping at red lights — drivers can predict your actions.**

### TRAFFIC RULES FOR BIKES

If you follow traffic rules, motorists will come to respect bicyclists as drivers of vehicles, which the law says bicyclists are.

- Obey traffic controls: Stop at stop signs and red lights. This will give you street credibility.
- Ride “with” traffic. Riding over the center of shared lane markings (“sharrows”) on streets with parked cars should keep you away from open car doors and passing traffic.
- Give right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles as motorists do. If you don't know the protocol for this, ask a licensed driver.
- Sidewalk riding is illegal in business districts; in other areas yield to pedestrians or walk.

### CONTROLLING YOUR BIKE

Most bike accidents don't involve cars. Control your handlebars and be alert for danger at all times. Never ride your bike while intoxicated.

## TRAFFIC SKILLS

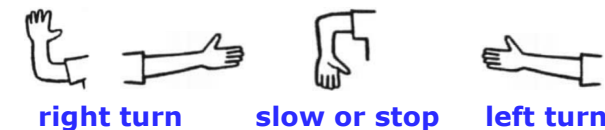
Those who are not comfortable riding a bike in traffic but would like to try should gain skills away from busy roads, then begin riding busier roads during slow hours, such as Saturday and Sunday mornings.



**Looking back:** To ride in traffic you must know how to look back over your shoulder while moving. You should always turn your head to look before

moving right or left in traffic. Practice dropping your chin to your shoulder, turning your head to look behind you while holding your arms and handlebars steady, riding a straight line. If you have difficulty riding straight while looking back, try dropping your left hand to your thigh while turning your head. Keep your eyes 20 to 30 feet in front of you, then up at traffic, and back down. This *scanning technique* will help you see road hazards and traffic simultaneously.

**Braking:** Keep your hands near or over your brake levers. When you brake, squeeze both brakes at the same time. If your back wheel begins to skid, ease up on the front brake. Learn to shift without looking down, and keep pedaling while shifting. Use hand signals to communicate your intentions. Bicycle hand signals as seen from behind:



If you have to move unexpectedly, try to warn drivers by pointing to where you are going. **Making eye contact and waving to alert drivers of your intentions is also helpful, particularly at intersections.**

Young children, typically under the age of nine, are not able to identify and adjust to many dangerous traffic situations, and therefore should not be allowed to ride in the street unsupervised. Children who are permitted to ride in the street without supervision should have the necessary skills to follow the “rules of the road.” Refer to our pamphlet entitled “Safe Biking” for more tips on bicycle safety for young children.