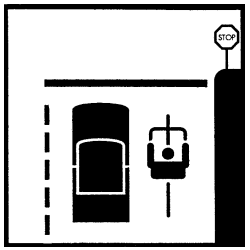
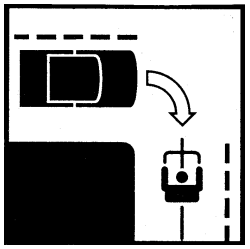
MISSOULA BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS



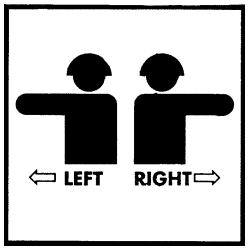
OBEY ALL REGULATORY SIGNS AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Bicycles must be driven like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.



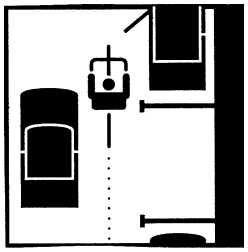
NEVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC

Motorists are not looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. Ride with traffic to avoid potential accidents.



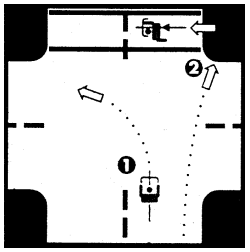
USE HAND SIGNALS

Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do. Point in the direction of your turn. Signal as a matter of courtesy, safety and as required by law.



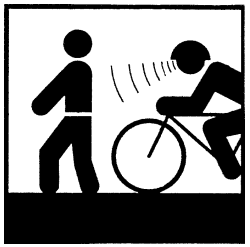
RIDE IN A STRAIGHT LINE

Whenever possible, ride in a straight line, to the right of traffic but a car door width away from parked cars.



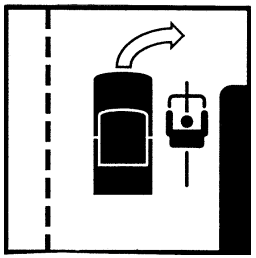
CHOOSE THE BEST WAY TO TURN LEFT

There are two ways to make a left turn: 1) Look back, signal, move into the left lane, and turn left; 2) Ride straight to the far-side crosswalk, then walk your bike across.



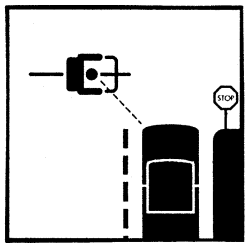
YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians have the right-of-way on shared trails. Give them an audible warning when you pass. You cannot ride on side walks in business districts or if you are over 14.



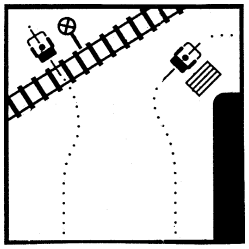
DO NOT PASS ON THE RIGHT

Motorists do not expect a bicyclist to pass on the right, and they may not see you. Pass on the left side of vehicles



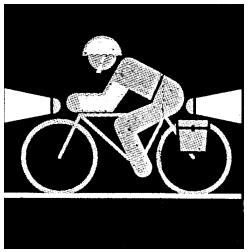
WATCH FOR CARS PULLING OUT

Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they do not see you until you are sure they do.



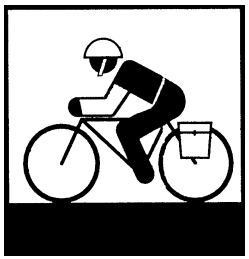
AVOID ROAD HAZARDS

Watch out for sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, gravel and ice. Cross railroad tracks at right angles. For better control across bumps and other hazards, stand up on your pedals.



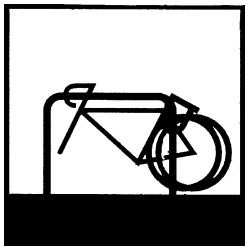
RIDE A WELL-EQUIPPED BIKE

Be sure your bike is adjusted to fit you properly. Outfit it with a water bottle, tool kit, fenders (for rainy rides), and bike bags. Always use a strong headlight and taillight at night and in poor visibility.



DRESS APPROPRIATELY

Wear a hard-shell helmet whenever you ride. Wear light-colored clothes at night. Bright clothes aid visibility.



LOCK YOUR BIKE

Buy the best locking system you can afford: none is as expensive as a new bike. Lock the frame and rear wheel to a fixed object.

City of Missoula Bicycle/Pedestrian Office 435 Ryman Missoula, Montana 59802 552-6352