



BIKE SMART

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO
Cycling in NYC



nyc.gov/bikes

About Bike Smart

It's never been better to ride a bike in NYC!

With more than 1,000 miles of bike facilities citywide and an expanding Citi Bike fleet, travel on two wheels is safe, easy, convenient and fun.

This guide contains everything you need to know to ride around town, ranging from basic tips for locking your bike to how to use the latest bike infrastructure.

Please pay particular attention to the explanations for safe riding. Our Vision Zero effort to lower traffic fatalities and injuries includes understanding the causes of collisions. Crashes are preventable. 89% of cyclist fatalities occur at intersections. Knowing how to safely turn, keep clear of large vehicle blind spots and ride predictably will help you protect yourself.



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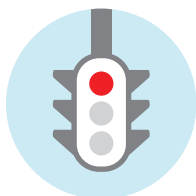
NYC BIKING LAWS



Exercise caution and yield to pedestrians

Tenga precaución y cédale el paso a los peatones

加倍注意给行人让路



Stop at all red lights and stop signs

Deténgase en las luces rojas del semáforo y las señales de pare (STOP)

在號誌轉為紅燈後和 STOP (暫時停車) 標誌前停下



Ride in the direction of traffic

Circule en el sentido del tránsito

順著交通方向騎乘



Stay off the sidewalk unless you're under 13

No use las aceras a menos que tenga menos de 13 años de edad

離開人行道除非您是13歲以下

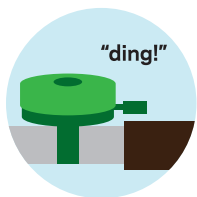
NYC BIKING LAWS



Use a white headlight and red taillight at night

Use una luz delantera blanca y una luz trasera roja por la noche

晚上使用白色頭燈和紅色尾燈



Use a bell to signal presence*

Utilice el timbre para indicar su presencia

使用鈴鐺提示他人

**Whistles and sirens do not meet NYC standards.*



Do not wear more than one earphone while riding

Utilice únicamente un solo auricular cuando ande en bicicleta

騎車時切勿雙耳佩戴耳機

For more information about these and other laws go to nyc.gov/bikesmart.

Safety Tips

Follow these tips in addition to the NYC biking laws to ensure a safe ride every time.



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 or reflective is a good idea.

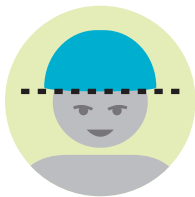
NYC DOT has distributed and fit over 150,000 free helmets since 2007. Call 311 to schedule a helmet fitting!



Helmets in NYC

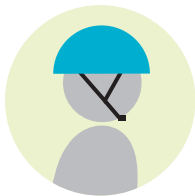
Wear a helmet every time you ride. Helmeted cyclists are 72% less likely to sustain traumatic brain injury.

Helmets only work if you wear them correctly.



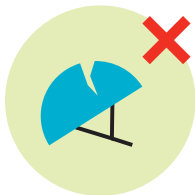
Wear it low and level.

Wear your helmet level on your head, about two finger-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.

Helmets are required by New York State Law for cyclists ages **13 years and younger**.

Look for those who cannot see you!

There are over 175,000 New Yorkers who are blind or visually impaired. As you ride, please be on the lookout for them. They might not see you coming.



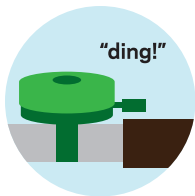
Watch

Look for people using long white and red canes or with seeing-eye or guide dogs.



Wait

If they have started to walk, let them cross the street before moving. Do not bike around a person with a guide-dog, as it can startle the service animal.

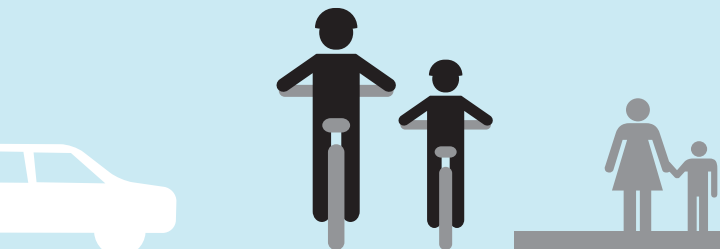


Warn

Use your bell or call out so they know when you're approaching.

Find out more about the **#Cycleyes** program at nyc.gov/accessibility.

Biking with Children



CROSS INTERSECTIONS SIDE-BY-SIDE

For children 13 and younger:

Your child should ride on the sidewalk while you ride on the street.

Let your child set the pace.

Children should stop at driveways and intersections.

Cross intersections side-by-side.

For children 14 and older:

Your child should ride in the street while you ride slightly behind.

Let your child set the pace.

Teach your child to make pedestrian-style turns (see page 19).

Cross intersections side-by-side.

Bike Facilities

New York City's more than 1,000 miles of bike facilities are classified into four categories:



Protected Bike Lane

On-street protected bike lanes are protected from traffic by parked cars or physical barriers. Off-street bike paths exist along much of the City's waterfront and in many parks.



Bike Lane

Bike lanes are painted onto the road, often next to a parking lane, and are marked with bike symbols. Some lanes have a painted buffer to further separate cyclists from traffic.



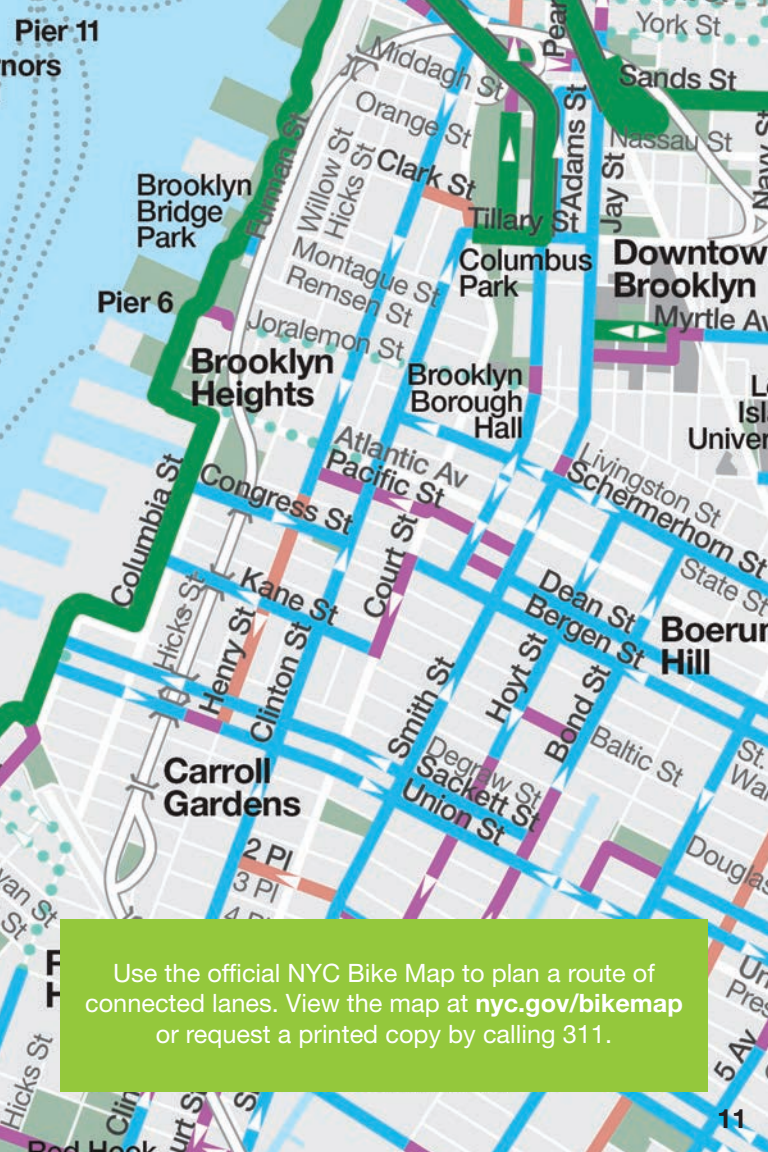
Shared Lane

Shared lanes are used by cyclists and motorists. They are marked by "sharrows" (bike symbols with chevrons) and signs.



Signed Route

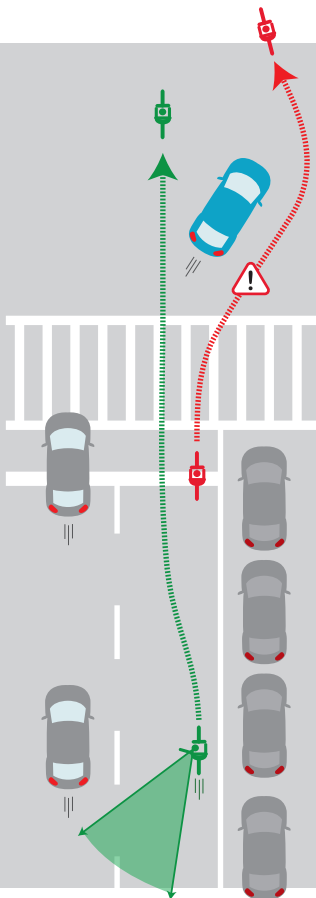
Signed Routes are unmarked streets designated by "Bike Route" signage or a greenway medallion. Following the signs helps guide cyclists along a pre-established route.



Use the official NYC Bike Map to plan a route of connected lanes. View the map at nyc.gov/bikemap or request a printed copy by calling 311.

Navigating City Streets

You have the right to ride in the center of a travel lane when necessary for your safety.



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, and 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.

Don't Get "Doored"

Riding close to parked cars leaves cyclists vulnerable to car doors that are opening. Keep your distance and stay alert.

DO

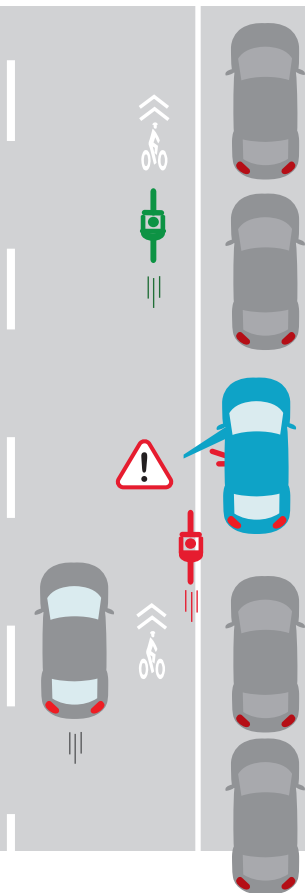
Keep your distance at least 3 feet from parked cars.

Watch parked cars carefully.

Watch car tail lights and taxi on/off duty lights to anticipate driver actions and exiting passengers.

Ride on the center of the "Sharrows."

On shared lanes, the bike symbol and chevron markings are often placed just far enough from the curb to help you avoid car doors that are opening.



Read the Road

The lines on the road can help you navigate the streets and share the road with other users.



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



A mid-block dashed line with chevrons indicates an active driveway.



At intersections, a dashed line with chevrons indicates that cars may turn across your path. Use the markings to guide you.

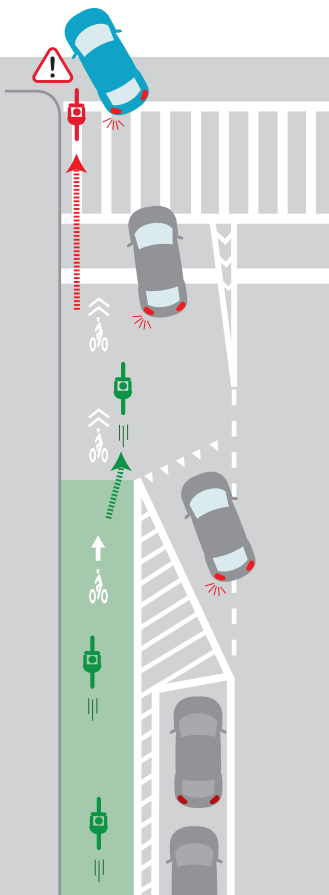


Two-way bike lanes are indicated by a dashed yellow center line and directional arrows.

Remember, cyclists must always travel with the direction of traffic, even in a bike lane.

Mixing Zones

Mixing zones are approaches to 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

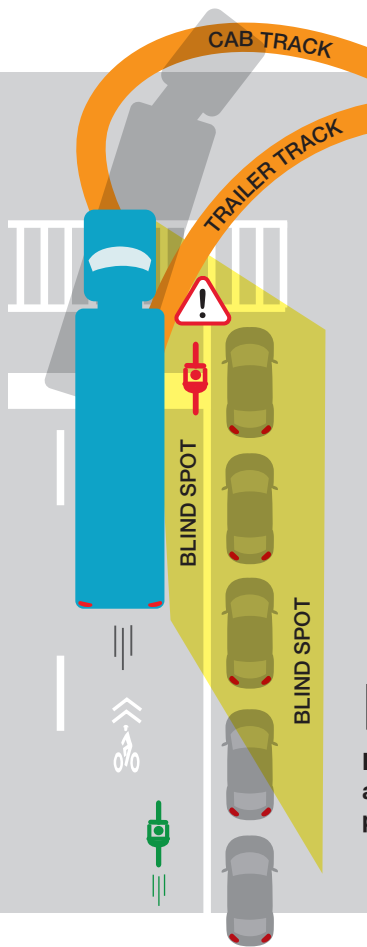
Do not hug the curb.

Do not pass on the left of a turning vehicle.

If vehicles are turning in front of you, move away from the direction of the turn.

Biking Near Large Vehicles

Trucks and busses have larger blind spots than cars. Never assume the drivers can see you.



DO

Position yourself well behind the truck when its turning.

Allow the truck to make the turn before advancing.

When riding with buses show caution.

They frequently pull to the curb.

DON'T

Do not squeeze between a truck and a row of parked cars.

Signal Your Intent



Shown from rear.

LEFT

RIGHT

STOP

Passing Vehicles

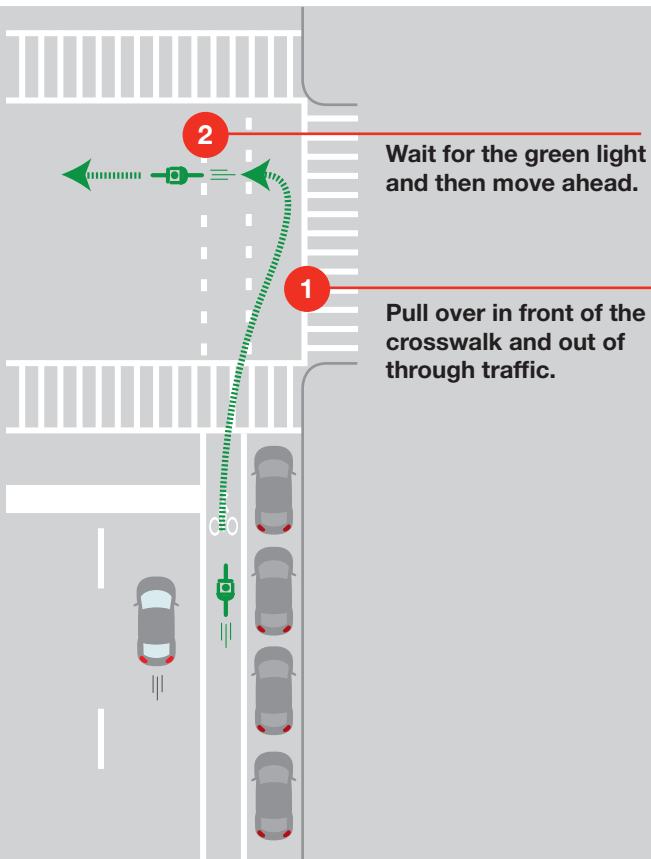
- 1 Look over your shoulder for vehicles.
- 2 Signal before making a turn or changing lanes.
- 3 Look again to make sure it is safe.
- 4 Make your move.

Passing Cyclists

- 1 Look over your shoulder for vehicles or bikes.
- 2 Signal before changing lanes.
- 3 Announce your intention to pass by saying "On your left" or "On your right."
- 4 Make your move.

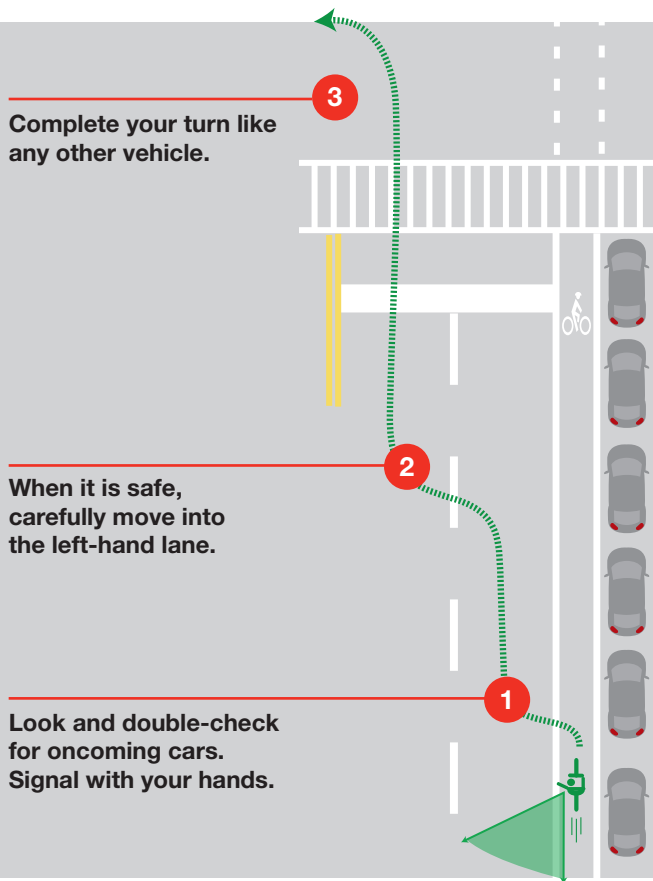
Turns: Pedestrian Style

Turn with pedestrian traffic when the light changes if vehicle traffic is heavy or when you aren't comfortable changing lanes.



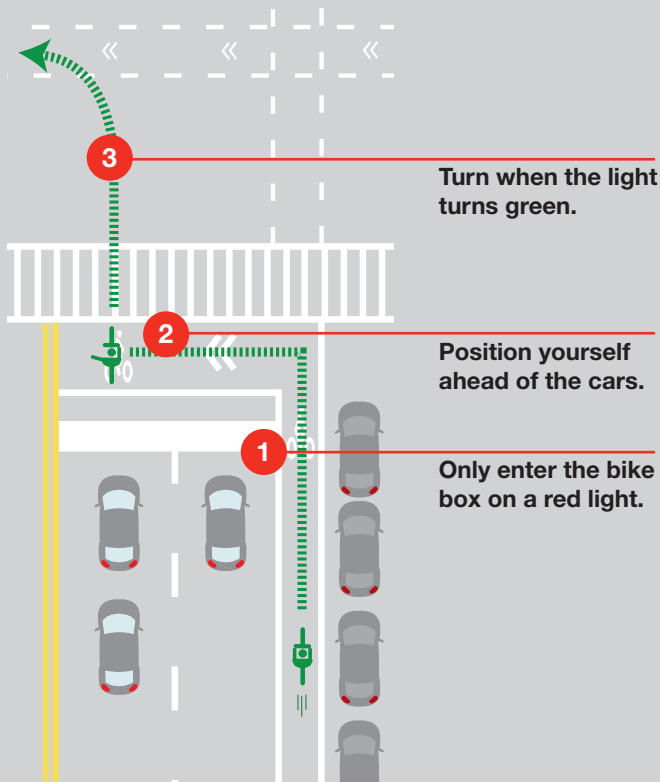
Turns: Vehicular Style

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



Turns: Using a Bike Box

Bike boxes are installed where two bike facilities intersect to increase the visibility of cyclists stopped at red lights. It also gives cyclists a better position to turn. Only use a bike box when you approach the intersection at a red light.



Lock It Right

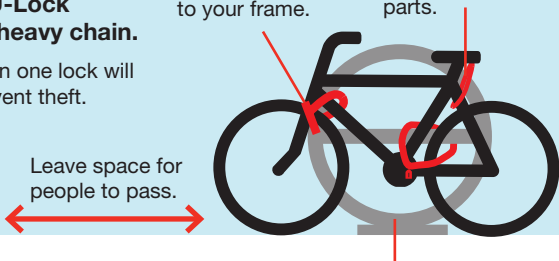
DO

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.

NO



YES



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 subway railings.

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

Do not block access.



Bring Your Bike Inside

If you work in a commercial office building with a freight elevator, the “Bikes in Buildings” law provides a way for your employer to request indoor access for your bicycle.

Follow these steps:

1 Assess Needs

Employer assesses the number of bikes it would like to accommodate.

2 Submit Tenant Request

Employer files a Tenant Request for bike parking with the Building Owner or Manager.

3 Building Owner Implementation

Within 30 days of receiving Tenant Request, Building Owner must implement and post a *Bicycle Access Plan*

or

Request an exception for A) alternate bicycle parking facilities or B) the absence of freight elevators in the building within 15 days of receipt of Tenant Request.



For details and forms visit
www.nyc.gov/bikesinbuildings

NYC Bike Resources

City of New York

NYC Dept. of Transportation Bicycle Program nyc.gov/bikes

NYC Dept. of City Planning nyc.gov/planning

NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation nyc.gov/parks

Citi Bike citibikenyc.com

Cycling Education and Advocacy Organizations

Bike New York bikenewyork.org

Bike the Bronx bikethebronx.com

Biking Public Project facebook.com/BikingPublicProject

Kidical Mass NYC facebook.com/kidicalmassnyc

Recycle-A-Bicycle recycleabicycle.org

QNS Bike qns.bike

Star Track Cycling startrack.nyc

Transportation Alternatives transalt.org

Cycling Clubs

Century Road Club Association (Competitive) crca.net

Fast & Fabulous (LGBT) fastnfab.org

Five Borough Bicycle Club (Recreational) 5bbc.org

Major Taylor Iron Riders (Recreational) majortaylorironriders.com

New York Cycle Club (Recreational) nycc.org

OUTCYCLING (LGBT) outcycling.org

Staten Island Bicycling Association (Recreational) sibike.org

WE Bike (Women) webikenyc.org

Weekday Cyclists in NYC (Recreational) weekdaycyclists.org

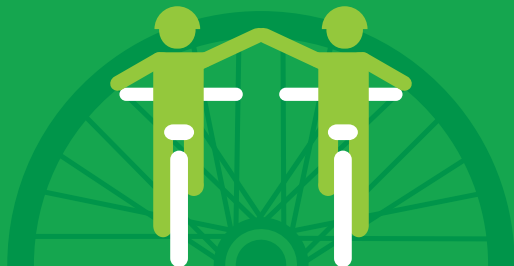
National Cycling Groups

Bikes Belong bikesbelong.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 New Yorkers
who ride a bike every day.**



For a free NYC Bike Map
call 311 or visit nyc.gov/bikes



NYCDOT



NYC_DOT