

Requirements for Cyclists

- Obey all traffic signals and signs. Failure to stop or yield is a leading cause of accidents involving cyclists and motorists.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with the flow of traffic. It is against the law to ride against traffic and is another leading cause of collisions.
- Use hand signals to warn of upcoming turns, lane changes, slowing and stopping. A vehicle has turn signals and brake lights to indicate a change in direction or speed, but a bicycle does not.
- Cyclists should not ride more than two abreast. If a cyclist is being overtaken by another vehicle, they should ride in single-file.
- When riding at night, both a white front light and a red rear reflector are required. It is also a good idea to wear white or reflective clothing at night and bright colors during the day.
- It is extremely important for all cyclists to wear a helmet to reduce the risk of injury or death if involved in an accident. However, it is the law that all persons under 18 years of age must wear an approved helmet. A helmet must fit properly to provide the maximum protection. It should fit snug but not pinch. The chin strap should be adjusted so that the helmet fits level on your head and does not rock back to front or side to side. Bicycle helmets should meet ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standards or the Snell Memorial Foun-

ation's Standard for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling. Watch for cars exiting driveways and cross streets. Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they don't see you until you are sure they do. Drivers may not see cyclists if the sun is in their eyes.

- Avoid road hazards. Watch out for parallel-slat sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, sand, gravel and other hazards. Cross railroad tracks carefully at right angles.

Can I ride my bike on a sidewalk?



The City of Thousand Oaks has adopted rules which permit a cyclist to ride on sidewalks in Thousand Oaks unless otherwise posted. However, cyclists shall yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians.

What is the most common cause of bicycle accidents?



Data on bicycle accidents show that the single most common cause of accidents is that cyclists ride on the wrong side of the street. When motorists are turning at intersections and cyclists are riding in the wrong direction, drivers do not see them because they are not expecting cyclists to be traveling in the opposite direction against the traffic flow. *Cyclists should ride with the traffic flow, not against it.*

Are the loop detectors within left-turn lanes at signalized intersections sensitive enough to recognize the presence of a cyclist?

Most of the traffic signals in the City of Thousand Oaks have loop detectors where green left-turn arrows are provided. The "inductive loop detectors" are tuned to detect the presence of a motor vehicle. Field tests reveal that there is enough metal built into the frame of a bicycle to trigger a green left-turn arrow when a vehicle is not present.

The City of Thousand Oaks has initiated the use of more sensitive bicycle detectors at all new traffic signals where left-turn arrows are provided near bike routes and bike lanes. The first installation was completed at the intersection of Erbes Road and Hillcrest Drive. Special pavement markings have been installed at traffic signals that can detect the presence of a bicycle at a left-turn lane. These locations will be limited to intersections which connect to existing and future bicycle routes/lanes, where bicycle traffic is expected to be greatest.

Bike Paths, Lanes, and Routes

- A bicycle path or trail is physically separated from motorized traffic by an open space barrier. The most common bicycle path and trail in Thousand Oaks connects Green Meadow Avenue along the south boundary of the Los Robles Golf Course to Moorpark Road. Cyclists are not required to use bicycle paths but are encouraged to do so when available.
- A bicycle lane is a portion of roadway which is designated exclusively for use

by cyclists and is marked with striping, signage and pavement markings.

- A bicycle route is a segment of a system of bikeways designated by the City of Thousand Oaks with appropriate directional/informational signs and markings. Usually, vehicles and cyclists are required to share the same lane of travel.

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Bicycle Safety



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Informative Facts

