



Biking 101 combines the experiences of hundreds of people to help instill the knowledge you need to be a confident rider whether you're new to urban bicycling or have done it for years.

In these pages you'll learn about choosing a bike, how it should fit, riding safely, useful accessories, how to combine bike and transit trips, and general tips and information to help make your commute a wonderful, fun experience.

When you choose to bike - to work, run errands, or for recreation - it just might be the moderate exercise you've been looking for to improve your lifestyle. The key is making your bike ride as SAFE, CONVENIENT, and COMFORTABLE as possible.

BIKING 101 GUIDE KEY

Yellow box is for more emphasis

and Red box is for the most emphasis

When you see the keystone symbol it's a reference to Pennsylvania's state law.



Biking 101 Guide is a BikePGH publication.

Bike Pittsburgh is transforming our streets and communities into vibrant, healthy places by making them safe and accessible for everyone to bike and walk. Learn more at BikePGH.org or flip to page 28.

The following people were instrumental in the creation of this guide: Lou Fineberg, Lucinda Beattie, Tim Cimino, Eric Davis, Mary Franzen, Mac Howison, Stephen Patchan, Jan Sciulli, Stuart Strickland, and Brad Quartuccio.

Illustrations by Glen Johnson - plasticarm@gmail.com

Please email comments and/or suggestions about Biking 101 Guide to info@bikepgh.org

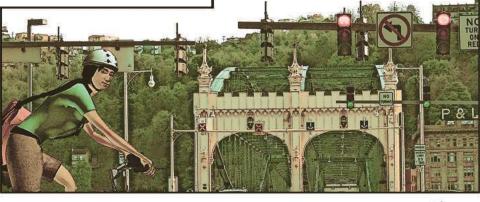








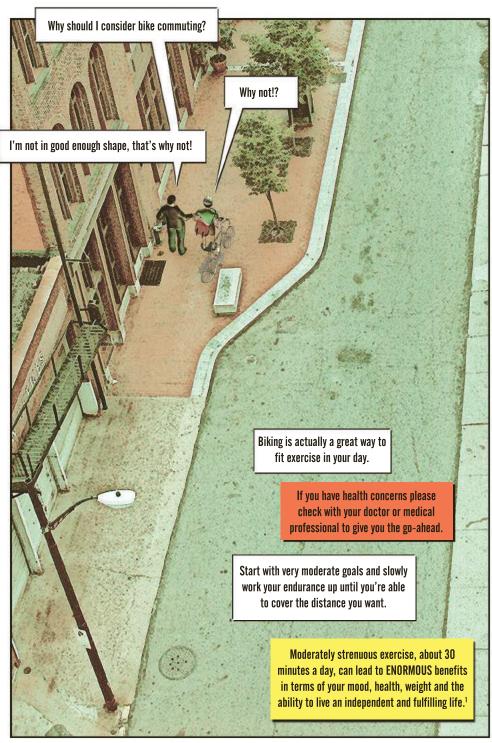




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¹Mayo Clinic (2008, January 4). Moderate Exercise Yields Big Benefits. ScienceDaily.

WHICH BIKE?

Make your commute as COMFORTABLE, CONVENIENT and SAFE as possible. Your bike should be a pleasure to ride.

Just about any bike will do. BUT if you really want to enjoy the ride and have fun, it's worth giving it some thought.

You can buy a brand new bike, or fix up an old one.

Start by finding a bike shop that you LIKE and a salesperson you TRUST. Look around and ask questions.

Note if the person you're talking to is Patient, Knowledgeable, and if they provide you with a range of OPTIONS.



ELECTRIC ASSIST BIKES provide support on hills, or longer commutes, that might be the difference between choosing to bike commute or not.

Bicycles have three contact points with your body — the HANDLEBARS, the SEAT, and the PEDALS.



ROAD BIKES are best if speed is a priority.



FOLDING BIKES might be a good option if you use several transportation modes for your commute.



CYCLOCROSS

Allows for wider tires than traditional road bikes.

HYBRIDS are a good option if comfort is your top concern.



MOUNTAIN BIKES are fine too. Adjust components with suspension to rigid and use slick tires insead of knobby You don't have to take what comes with a

for a smoother ride.

new bike or accept what's on an old one. Whatever bike you choose can be



customized over time to your liking.

COMFORT

For many people who have short commutes, SITTING UPRIGHT tends to provide the most comfort. For longer rides people often prefer a range of HAND POSITIONS.

The handlebars play a big part in your riding position.

Riser or swept-back BARS will bring you more upright, while drop bars provide more positions for your hands.



Choose GRIPS or TAPE that feels good to your hands.

For commuting purposes flat pedals are convenient and easy. Some cyclists prefer inserting their foot in toe clips, straps, or cages.

REMEMBER, DON'T OVERTHINK
IT OR FEEL AS IF YOU HAVE TO
CONSIDER SO MUCH BEFORE
YOU START COMMUTING BY
BIKE. GETTING STARTED
IS EASY!



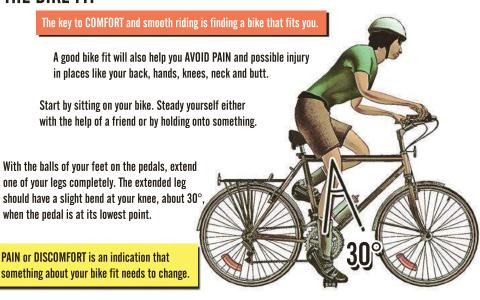
ONCE YOU BECOME A
MORE REGULAR BIKE
COMMUTER YOU'LL LEARN
HOW TO FINE-TUNE YOUR
RIDE AND MAXIMIZE YOUR
COMFORT.

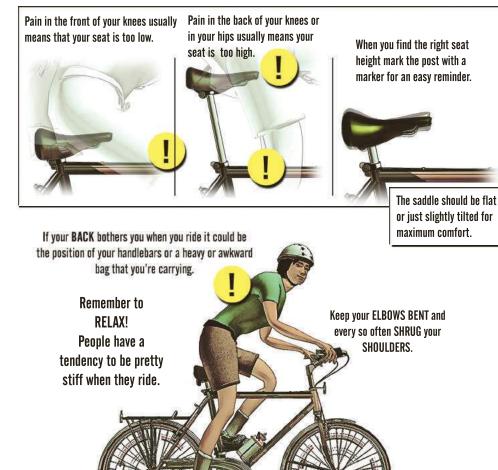


If you're riding mainly on the road or light terrain, use road tires.

Use PUNCTURE RESISTANT tires with a TREAD that meets your needs.

THE BIKE FIT





THE ABC QUICK SAFETY CHECK

ONCE YOU HAVE A BIKE AND IT FITS YOU, IT'S TIME TO MAKE SURE IT'S RELIABLE.



FIRST check the TIRES to make sure they have the right AIR pressure. Look too see that there are no cuts or signs of dry rot.



NEXT squeeze the BRAKE levers and push forward on the bike to make sure the brake pads firmly grip the rims.

The proper air pressure known as PSI (pounds per square inch) is found on the side of the tire. Be sure to look for it in good light. It's often in small print.



If your brake levers come close to or touch the handlebar when braking they need to be adjusted.



THIRD make sure the CHAIN moves smoothly up and down the chain ring and that it's sufficiently lubricated and not rusty.



AFTER the ABC's, look too see if you have QUICK RELEASE parts in places like your wheels and seat post.



Make sure they're TIGHT and in the LOCKED position.

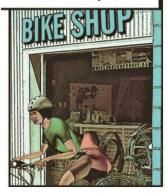
Give the WHEELS a spin to make sure the rims don't rub against the brake pads.



Check the HANDLEBARS to see that they're tight and move in sync with the wheel and not independently.



Bike shops offer a variety of TUNE UPS to make sure your bike is roadworthy.



THE HELMET

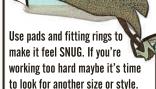
It's t<mark>he LAW in PA for ki</mark>ds under twelve to wear a helmet, but if you're going to ride a bike it's smart to protect your head at any age.



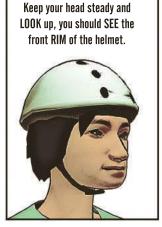
Don't rush fitting a helmet. Make sure the fit is right for your head.

Every bicycle helmet sold in the U.S. must meet the national standard known as CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission). Look for a sticker inside your helmet to confirm it meets the standard.

How the helmet fits your head even before you buckle the strap is important. Rock your head back and forth to see if it feels stable.









Now open your MOUTH wide... you should feel the helmet push down on your head. Close your mouth.
The helmet should be SNUG.



should fit under the strap.

The more VENT space your helmet has the COOLER your head will stay.

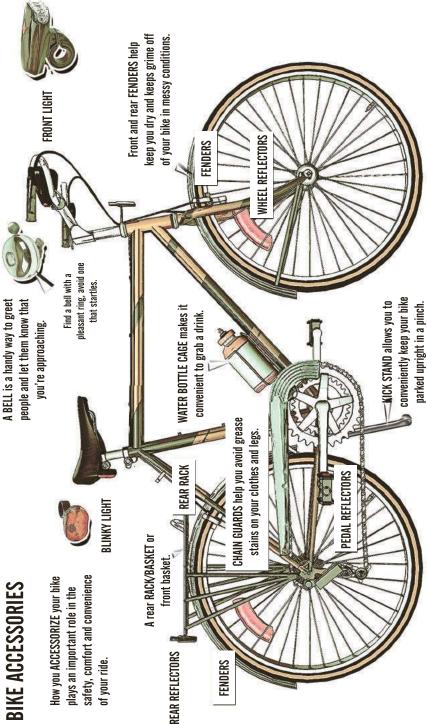


The helmet FIT is so important! If it doesn't fit you right it might not do you any good!!! If you're not able to get a good helmet fit, have a bike shop help you out. A decent shop will be patient and help you get it right.



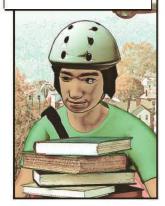






CARRYING STUFF

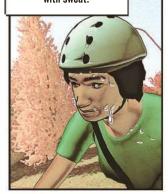
You have plenty of CHOICES when it comes to carrying your things.



Carrying things on your back can be ROUGH on your neck and shoulders, especially if you're carrying some weight.



Even in mild temperatures, your back can get soaked with sweat.



Don't hold things in your hand when riding. It seriously compromises your ability to ride safely.



Adding a pannier or a trunk bag to your rack is a good option.



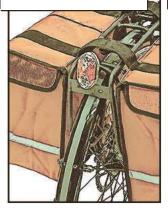
Baskets and crates work well too.



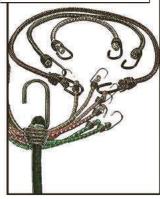
A front basket can be a convenient and easy way to carry items for delivery.



WATERPROOF bags really help keep your things dry.



BUNGEE CORDS are good to have on hand to strap things down.



BIKE SECURITY

Lock your bike with a high quality U-LOCK. They're a proven theft deterrent.



I can't ride to work; there's nowhere to park my bike.

See if bringing your bike inside your workplace is an option.

When locking your bike for longer periods of time lock the frame and both wheels to the rack.

Lock through the frame and one wheel if possible.U-lock

+ cable allows you to easily lock wheels and frame.

Any bike is more VULNERABLE to theft or vandalism the longer it remains at the same location.

Lock your bike CLOSE to where you'll be, in a highly VISIBLE area with lots of pedestrians. Lock near building entrances in WELL-LIT, SECURE areas.



Most bikes that are stolen have cheap cable locks or no lock at all.

Would this be a good place to lock your bike?

Be able to give a good description of your bike. Know the model and year.

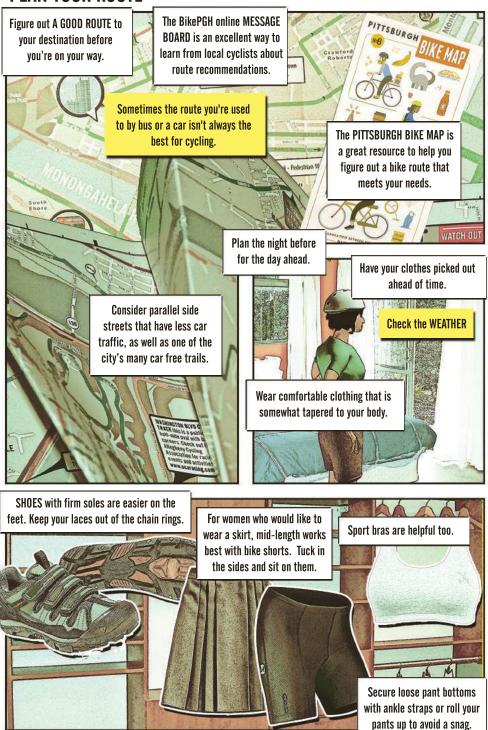


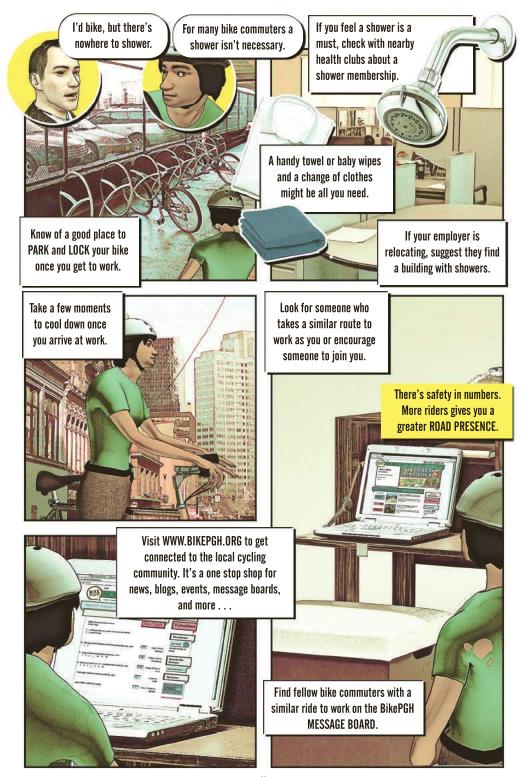
Take pictures of it with identifying features.



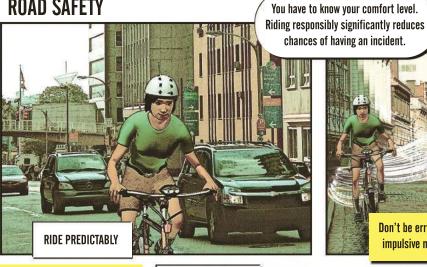
Record the serial number of your bike. Be on the lookout for BikePGH's I HEART MY BIKE photo booth!

PLAN YOUR ROUTE



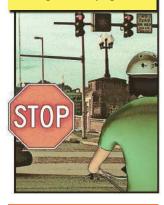


ROAD SAFETY

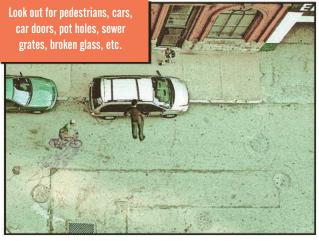




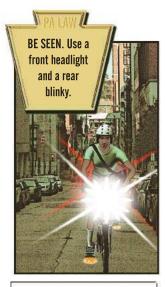
OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS. Stop at red lights and stop signs.

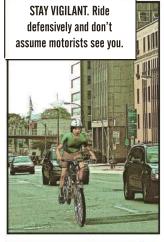


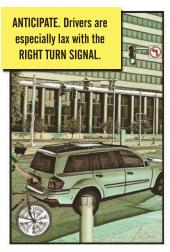


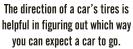










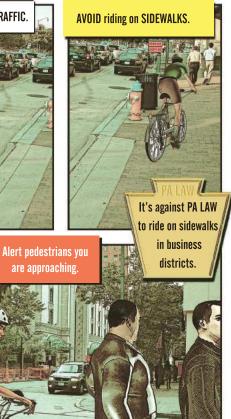






pedestrians. It's

the law.



BE COURTEOUS. Have a good attitude and be respectful to other road users. You're on a bike. HAVE FUN!

Riding against traffic is considered to be UNLAWFUL.



SHARING THE ROAD



When you're moving at the same speed as traffic, or when the lane isn't wide enough for cars to pass you, TAKE THE LANE.

If you find yourself near a motorist that makes you UNCOMFORTABLE, pull aside if it's safe and let them pass.

than traffic. If you encounter a reckless driver get their license plate number. Call 911 and describe the situation.

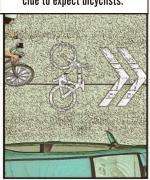
SHARE THE LANE when

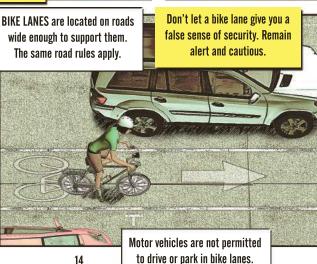
you're moving slower

Try to ride a comfortable distance from the side of the road and at the same time respect cars passing on your left.

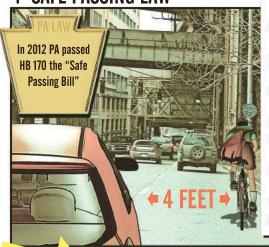


SHARED LANE MARKINGS, aka "sharrows", reinforce the rules of the road and provide a visual clue to expect bicyclists.



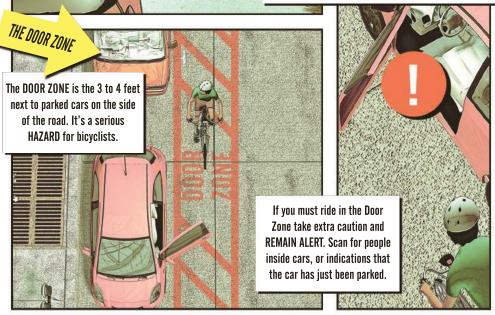


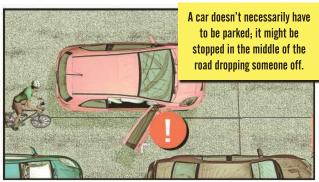
4' SAFE PASSING LAW



- Every car that passes a bike must give a minimum of 4-feet of clearance at a "prudent reduced speed"
- No turn by a motorist may interfere with a bicycle proceeding straight (the classic right hook)
- Bicycles may be operated at a safe and reasonable speed appropriate for bicycles
- Bicycles must be operated in the right hand lane, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of roadway.
- This does not apply to a bicycle using any portion of the road due to unsafe surface conditions.

THE ESSENCE OF THE LAW IS A REMINDER TO SLOW DOWN UNTIL IT'S SAFE TO PASS.





Try to get a feel for what's behind you too in case you have to swerve away from an opening door.



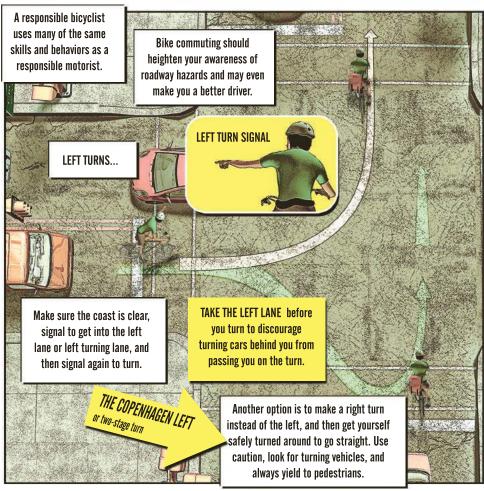
INTERSECTIONS

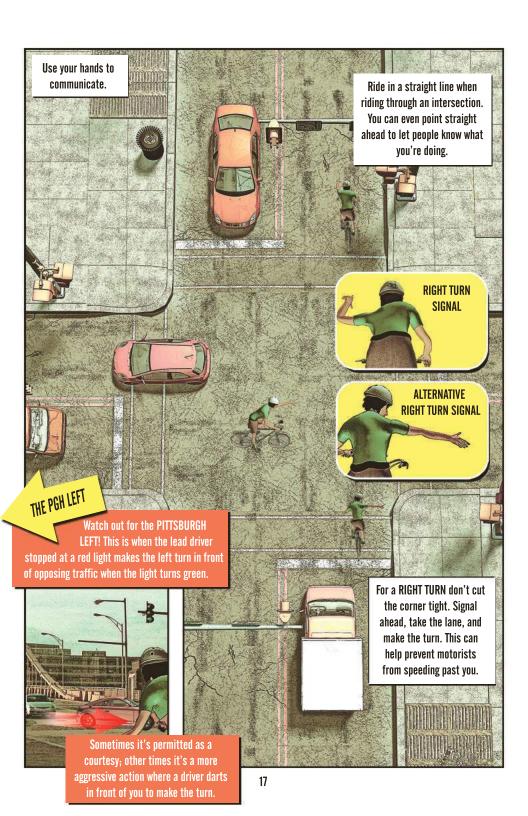
INTERSECTIONS pose a higher risk for incidents and collisions for all road users, so be aware as you approach them.



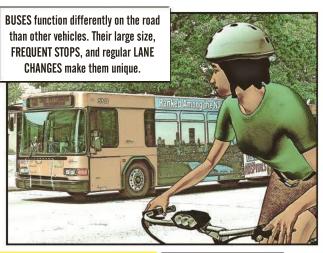


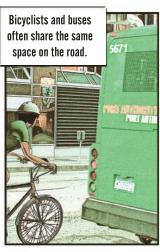




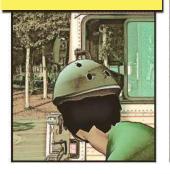


RIDING ALONGSIDE BUSES





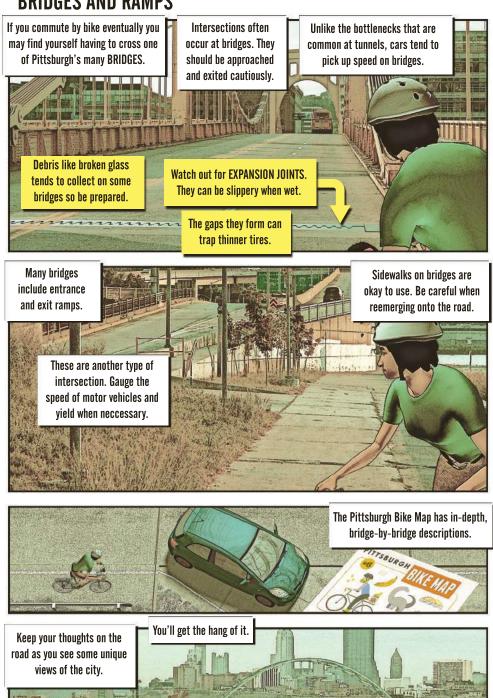
When you're sharing the road with buses remember that the driver has to deal with larger than usual BLIND SPOTS on the left and right.

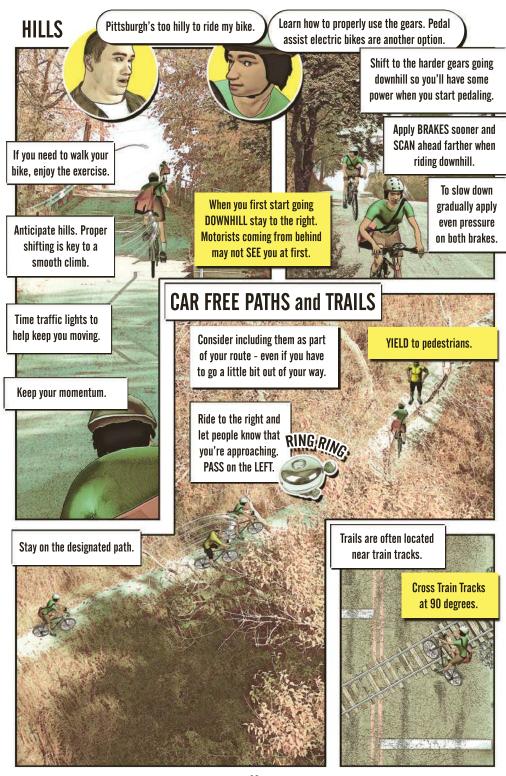


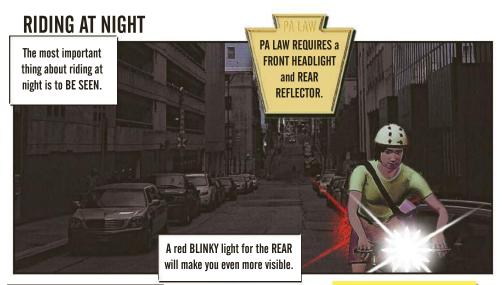


Bicycles are prohibited from using designated bus lanes.

BRIDGES AND RAMPS



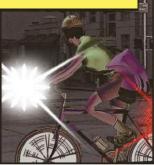


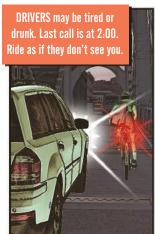


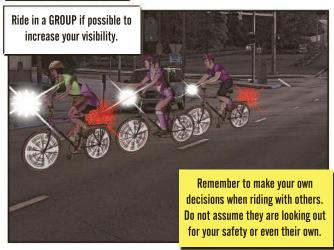
REFLECTIVE ANKLE STRAPS not only secure pants, but they're an excellent way to get noticed.



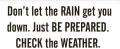
Test out your visibility with friends, to see just how visible you are at 500 feet. With fewer cars on the road at night don't be fooled when the streets seem quiet. Remain cautious and alert.







RIDING IN THE RAIN



Invest in some gear to help keep you warm and dry.

Keep a WATER-RESISTANT WIND BREAKER with you in case the weather takes a turn for the worst.

For heavier rains choose a shell and pants that are WATER-PROOF and BREATHABLE.

On warm days with light rain try wearing shorts, shirt, and shoes made of fabrics that don't absorb water. When you get to work change into something dry.

Fenders are essential for keeping water from spraying on you.



RIDING TIPS

Slow down

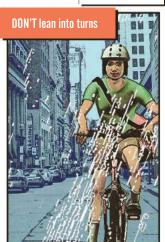
Keep tires properly inflated

Roads are MOST SLIPPERY at the start of a rain. Mud and oil mix with water to create a slick surface.



Metal surfaces, lane markings, wet leaves, and puddles tend to be slippery when wet.





If the rain is too much load your bike on transit to get you on your way.



COLD WEATHER COMMUTING

When it gets COLD, LAYERING is the key to staying warm.

When you're dressed for the cold your body warms up pretty fast.

It's better to start your ride feeling a little cold, otherwise you may arrive to your destination overheated.

Start with a BASE LAYER against your skin like soft thin wool or active wear that doesn't absorb water.

> For the MIDDLE LAYER a form-fitting wool sweater or fleece is a good choice.

> > If needed, a weatherproof shell makes an excellent THIRD LAYER.

EXTREMITIES like your head, ears, hands, and feet are most VULNERABLE in the cold.

OVERLAP CLOTHES at points where they meet, like the neck, wrists, waist, and ankles. Pull cinches tight on clothes that have them.

Some helmets now come with detachable ear flaps.

To keep your head and face warm a BALACLAVA or hat and scarf around the face will help keep you warm.

BE CAREFUL that whatever you use to cover your head doesn't compromise the fit of your helmet.



Buy clothes for your bike commute that are not only functional but that you LOVE.

It adds to the FUN!



BASIC BIKE MAINTENANCE





COMBINING MODES of transportation makes it easier to reduce our dependence on automobiles.





This helps decrease traffic congestion, decrease carbon emissions, relieve the parking crunch, and allows for safer use of bicycles all over Pittsburgh.

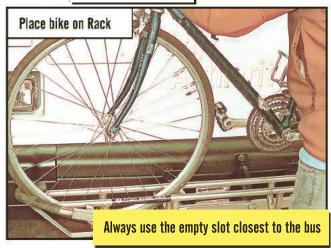


You can place your bicycle for free aboard ALL Port Authority bus routes, the light rail transit system (the T), and the Monongahela and Duquesne Inclines.



LOADING BIKES ON BUSES







To get the most up-to-date information about bikes on transit visit the Port Authority's website.

www.portauthority.org

You can reach the Port Authority by phone too at 412.442.2000.



USE HEALTHY RIDE,

a public bike rental system by Pittsburgh Bike Share

Healthy

REGISTER

4 ways to join: Visit HealthyRidePGH.com or any Healthy Ride Station Kiosk, Download the nextbike app for IOS or Android, Call Customer Service 412-535-5189. Pay As You Go and Membership Options are available.



TRY IT OUT

Bikes come equipped with cable locks, fenders, bells + lights all built in, so you just need to rent, ride and return them.

Try out a bike rental during one of our City Cycling classes. Sign up at bikepgh.org/citycycling.

Get multimodal! You could rent a bike to ride downhill, return it and then use a bus to return uphill.



Stations are located across the city and expanding.

The first 50 stations are featured in our 6th Edition Bike Map, so you can plan your route





Bike Pittsburgh is a bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization. Since 2002 BikePGH has been transforming Pittsburgh's streets and communities into vibrant, healthy places by making them safe and accessible for everyone to bike and walk. For more information visit bikepgh.org

GET INVOLVED BECOME A MEMBER TODAY! bikepgh.org/membership

You can help transform Pittsburgh into a truly bikeable and walkable city. Become a member today at bikepgh.org/memership

PROJECTS

ADVOCACY: We work for policy change and transformation of our urban core by inspiring and advocating within communities to achieve bikeable/walkable streets.

COMMUNITY: We will increase community engagement by focusing on membership, diversity, fun events, and outreach.

EDUCATION: We will educate and train people of all ages and incomes on riding in the city and make drivers more considerate of bicycle riders and pedestrians.

RESOURCES

Visit www.bikepgh.org to get connected to the local cycling community and access to the most comprehensive cycling information in Pittsburgh. It's a one-stop shop for bicycle and pedestrian news, local events, tips on safety and getting around town, bike parking, message boards and much much more. **BikePGH**

412.325.4334

Useful Phone Numbers

Call 311 to report non-emergency City of Pittsburgh road hazards.

Call 911 if the road situation is an EMERGENCY

University of Pittsburgh Department of Parking & Transportation Services 412.624.4034

Carnegie Mellon Parking & Transportation Services 412.268.2052

REFERENCES

Bike to Work Guide: Steps to Encourage Bicycle Commuting at Your Workplace, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation c. 2002

Student Cycling Guide in Chicago, Chicago Department of Transportation c. 2003

Urban Bikers' Tricks and Tips by Dave Glowacz, Wordspace Press c. 1998

bikesafe, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation c. 2002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bike Pittsburgh gratefully acknowledges the following partners for their generous support of this project and ongoing commitment to improving bicycling conditions in the City of Pittsburgh: the Sprout Fund, the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, and the City of Pittsburgh, and all of our sponsors, EQT, Chatham, OTMA, and Healthy Ride.





EQT, an energy leader, is committed to safety from our Downtown office to the communities where we operate... and all roads in between.

That's why we're partners with BikePGH! Be safe wherever the road takes you.

