Biking on Streets Safely

Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities of motorists. Knowing and following the rules helps all road users properly anticipate and react to one another.

Laws Protecting Cyclists

All of these ordinances are located in the Municipal Code of Chicago, Title II, Vehicles, Traffic and Rail Transportation.

Failure to Exercise Due Care 9-40-160

Bicyclists are protected from careless driving, similar to the ordinance that protects pedestrians. This simplifies the procedure for police to issue tickets and for prosecutors to bring charges when motorists hit bicyclists.

Turning Left or Right in Front of a Bicyclist 9-16-020(c) (1)

Motorists must yield to bicyclists when turning left at an intersection, as they would to any other approaching vehicle. This type of crash is commonly called “the left hook.”

Motorists are prohibited from turning right in front of a bicyclist. This crash is commonly called “the right hook.”

This is similar to the Illinois statute prohibiting a right turn in front of a mass transit bus.

Overtaking a Bicyclist at an Unsafe Distance 9-36-010(c)

Motorists must pass cyclists with at least three feet of space.

Opening a Vehicle Door Into the Path of a Bicyclist 9-80-035

Also called “door ing,” drivers are prohibited from opening a car door into the path of a cyclist.

Driving, Standing or Parking in Bike Lanes or Marked Shared Lanes 9-40-060

Parking in bike lanes or marked shared lanes endangers bicyclists by forcing them to merge with faster moving traffic.

Theft prevention

Most bike thefts are due to unlocked or improperly locked bikes.

Never leave your bike unlocked, not even for a second.

1. Always use a high quality U-lock as minimum protection by locking your frame and front wheel.

2. For added security, cross lock your bike with a U-lock and cable lock.

3. Another safe way to lock is by removing your front wheel and locking it with the frame and rear wheel.

Using Public Transit

Plan your route using the RTA trip planner online:

http://tripsweb.rtachicago.com/

Track the current status of many CTA bus routes, including arrival times, at ctabustracker.com

Bring your bike on Transit

CTA trains

Bring your bike on all CTA trains except weekdays 7:30am and 4-6pm. No bicycles are allowed on CTA trains on July 3. (Bikes may also be prohibited on crowded trains).

For helpful tips on how to bring your bike on the train, see the bike and ride guide online at www.transitchicago.com.

Metra

Bring your bike on Metra trains. Check the schedule online to see which trains allow bikes at certain time periods: www.metra rail.com. Metra policy requires that bikes be secured once on board. Bring a bungee cord to wrap around your bike and the seat in the bicycle storage area.

Buses

Bike racks are available on the front of all PACE and CTA buses. Visit www.pacebus.com for PACE suburban bus schedule information.

Racks accommodate up to two bicycles at a time. For detailed instructions and photos of how to mount your bicycle on a bus, visit the “Bikes on Buses” guide online: www.transitchicago.com

Street smart cyclist

Make your bike a great form of transportation by adding some inexpensive accessories. A rack allows you to carry things and fenders will keep you dry during a rain. Lights and reflectors make it easier for you to be seen by motorists.

Always wear a bicycle helmet to reduce the risk of permanent injury or death from a crash. Make sure the helmet covers your forehead so that the front of your skull is protected. Check that it is far enough forward by looking up and seeing your face.

The strap adjustments on either side should be directly under no more than two fingers between the strap and your chin. For added security, cross lock your frame and rear wheel.

To secure the bike, when you dismount your bike, be sure to return the red arm to the bike rack.

Bikes on Buses

All CTA buses are equipped with one of two types of bike racks. They differ by the color of their support arms: the Byk Rak has red wheel support arms and Sportworks has yellow or black wheel support arms.

Byk Rak: Swing the red arm out from the bike rack by rotating it counter-clockwise. Place your bike in the rack. Then, pull the arm over the bike wheel to secure the bike. When you dismount your bike, be sure to return the red arm to the bike rack.

Sportworks: Place your bike in the rack. Pull the yellow or black arm outwards away from the rack. Then, pull the arm up over your bike wheel to secure the bike. When you dismount your bike, be sure to push the arm back into place.

Illinois law requires cyclists to have at least a front white headlight and a rear reflector. Make sure motorists see you by wearing lights, reflectors and bright clothing.

http://tripsweb.rtachicago.com/
Each Metra station has regional train lines that connect to surrounding suburbs. Check schedule times and station details at www.mastrains.com.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metra Station</th>
<th>Train Lines</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clybourn Station</td>
<td>Union Pacific North and Union Pacific Northwest Lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Station</td>
<td>Milwaukee District West Line</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millennium Station</td>
<td>Metra Electric and Southshore Lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaSalle Station</td>
<td>Metra Rock Island District Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Buren Station</td>
<td>Metra Union Pacific North Central Service, Metra Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Heritage Corridor, Southwest Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand/Cicero Station</td>
<td>Milwaukee District West Line</td>
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Also use RTA’s trip planner at http://tripsweb.rtachicago.com to determine which routes service your area.