



WABA
WASHINGTON AREA
BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

BIKE SAFETY TIPS FOR PEDESTRIANS



1

PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY

Bicyclists are required to yield and be courteous to pedestrians. It's not the pedestrian's responsibility to stay out of the way. It is up to bicyclists to negotiate space in a way that is comfortable and safe for people walking.



2

BICYCLISTS DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO RIDE IN THE BIKE LANE

There are no laws in DC, Virginia or Prince George's County that require bicyclists to ride in a bike lane when one is provided. In Montgomery County, bicyclists must use marked bike lanes when one is available, except when making turns or it is unsafe to do so.

3

BICYCLISTS ARE ALLOWED TO RIDE ON THE SIDEWALK, BUT NOT EVERYWHERE

Bicyclists often ride on the sidewalk when they don't feel safe riding in high-speed traffic or when there is no bike lane or trail available. When riding on the sidewalk bicyclists should go slowly and be considerate of pedestrians. Rules on sidewalk riding vary throughout the region. Visit waba.org/bikelaws to check rules in your area.

4

BICYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS CAN USE THE CROSSWALK TOGETHER

If a bicyclist does not want to navigate a tricky intersection through traffic. They can always hop off of their bike and navigate the intersection as a pedestrian. As always, they must be courteous of those walking through the crosswalk.

5

BICYCLISTS SHOULD USE PROPER PASSING ETIQUETTE

Bicyclists should either ring their bell or say "passing" when passing pedestrians on their left. Bicyclists should slow down and give pedestrians as much space as possible when passing on sidewalks or trails.

