

SAFETY TIPS

(From the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee)

DRIVERS:

Be Alert: Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists at all times

- Remember, it is the law in Maryland that use of hand held devices is prohibited when driving.
- Keep your windshield and lights clean to ensure that you can see and be seen.
- Scan the road ahead constantly. Be aware of what other drivers are doing.
- Watch for pedestrians, particularly small children who may not be looking when playing by the road.

Be responsible: Yield to pedestrians at crosswalks and give bicyclists room

- Remember, it is the law in Maryland that drivers must yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
- Do not block crosswalks or intersections.
- Be aware of the location of bicyclists.

Be patient: Don't exceed the speed limit and avoid aggressive maneuvers

- Obey speed limits and come to a **complete stop** at all STOP signs.
- Don't pull past a STOP sign before stopping. Stop at the sign and pull up gradually to make sure you can see any oncoming traffic. Be particularly careful at intersections with limited vision due to trees, bushes, or other obstacles.
- Do not tailgate. Keep your distance. Ask yourself, if the car in front of me stopped suddenly, could I stop in time to avoid rear-ending him?
- Do not pass school buses that are loading or unloading passengers. They have cameras and will take your picture.

BICYCLISTS:

Always Ride With Traffic and Obey the Rules of the Road

- Always ride with the flow of traffic, not against it.
- Don't weave in and out of traffic or across the road.
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- Obey traffic signs and signals, including STOP signs. Cyclists and vehicles should share the rules of the road as well as the road.

Be Predictable and Visible

- Try not to be hesitant or do things that motorists may not be expecting, such as suddenly stopping or turning without warning.
- Make sure others, including pedestrians and motorists, can see you and where you are going.
- Wear reflective clothing, especially at night. When riding at night always use headlights and taillights.
- Do not wear headphones or talk on a cell phone when cycling.

Wear a Helmet at All Times

- Montgomery County law **requires** that all children under the age of 18 wear a bicycle helmet. The Law of Common Sense requires that **all** cyclists wear a helmet.
- Make sure the helmet is properly fitted and properly worn