Bicycling Safety Tips

1. Always wear a helmet that meets ANSI or Snell standards.
2. Obey all traffic laws. They apply to both motorists and bicyclists.
3. Watch for road hazards — potholes, storm drain grates, broken glass, debris, slick pavement, sand and gravel. Cross railroad tracks at a right angle.
4. Make yourself visible. Equip your bike with all legally required lights and reflectors. Wear bright colors during the day and light colors at night.
5. Ride in a straight line, single file, about a car door's width away from parked cars.
6. Watch for cars entering or leaving driveways, making turns, and doors opening on parked cars.
7. When turning left, either a) Signal, move into the left lane, position yourself to the right of the first car, and turn left into the lane closest to the curb or b) stay to the right, ride straight through the intersection to the far-side crosswalk, and walk your bike in the crosswalk.
8. Ride in the direction of traffic, as far as possible to the right side of the road.
9. Use appropriate hand signals to communicate your intentions to motorists.
10. Use a bike lane or shoulder if available.
11. Don’t weave between parked cars or cars stopped in traffic.
12. Don’t wear headphones or earplugs while riding.
13. Don’t assume that a motorist sees you. Always make eye contact.
14. Pass slower vehicles, other bicyclists and pedestrians to their left.
15. Do not carry heavy packages that interfere with riding safely.
16. Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving into traffic. Use a rearview mirror if necessary.
17. When approaching an intersection, look behind you before moving onto the line separating the right-turn lane from the right lane of traffic. If no right turn lane is available, position yourself in the middle of the right lane. If the lane is wide enough, allow enough room on your right for cars to turn.
18. Keep your bike in good repair. Make sure tires are properly inflated, brakes are adjusted, gears and chains are lubricated, and the seat and handlebars are comfortably positioned.

California Vehicle Code

This is a summary of the bicycle section of the California Vehicle Code. Check the vehicle code at www.leginfo.ca.gov for more detailed information and exact wording.

21200 — Bicycle riders have all the rights and responsibilities of vehicle drivers.
21200.5 — It is unlawful to ride a bicycle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
21201 — The following equipment is required on bicycles ridden at night:
   a. A white headlight, or white lamp attached to the rider, visible from 300 feet in front of and from the sides of the bicycle
   b. A red reflector visible from 500 feet when illuminated by a motor vehicle’s headlights
   c. A white or yellow reflector on each pedal visible from 200 feet to the front and to the rear of the bicycle
   d. A white or yellow reflector on each side of the front of the bicycle, and a white or red reflector on each side of the back of the bicycle, or reflectorized tires

Points to Remember

Never walk or stand in front of oncoming traffic while loading or unloading your bike.

The bike racks are easy to use. You can load or unload your bike in under 20 seconds.

The bike nearest the bus can be unloaded without removing the front bike.

The bike rack touches only the rubber tires and will not scratch or damage your bike.

How to Use the Bike Rack on OCTA Buses

Loading Your Bike
Be prepared to load your bike when the bus approaches. Remove water bottles, pumps and other loose items. Alert the coach operator that you are going to use the bike rack.

Unload Your Bike
Before the bus approaches your stop, tell the coach operator that you will be removing your bike.

Stay away from the bus with your bike.