



With more bicyclists out due to the coronavirus pandemic, the St. Pete Bike Club offers these safety tips. Check back frequently as we'll cover a number of issues, including:

- The basics
- The law
- Riding on the roads
- Riding on trails and segregated bike lanes
- Lane positioning
- How to take charge
- Safety check your bike

Today's topic: **The basics**

1. Obey traffic laws. Stop at red lights, and always yield the right of way at stop signs.
2. "Ride big." Your greatest risk is not being seen by motorists. When necessary, especially in urban settings where parked cars may obscure your presence, ride in the middle of the lane. This gives motorists at intersections a better chance of seeing you and discourages motorists behind you from trying to squeeze by you when there is oncoming traffic.
3. If there is a bike lane, use it; it's the law. However, if the bike lane is dangerous because of debris, puddles that obscure pothole, etc., or you need to pass another cyclist, you may leave it. But check behind you first.
4. Signal your moves—turns, lane changes, stopping, etc. Be predictable.
5. Ride with traffic only and use front and rear lights at night, including twilight.
6. Avoid riding on the sidewalk. There are too many intersect points—driveways, road intersections, alleys, and pedestrians, etc., that can cause conflict. While riding on the sidewalk is legal in St. Pete, cyclists must act as pedestrians, and please slow down.
7. Wear a helmet and bright clothing.
8. Don't wear headphones. The ability to hear approaching traffic is one of your greatest advantages. And don't read your phone while riding.
9. Ride at least four feet from any parked cars so you aren't doored, which can be fatal.
10. Make eye contact with drivers. When a car is waiting to enter the road you're on, wave at them to get their attention.