Wichita's Bikeways

On-Street System

Since 1973, the City of Wichita has maintained an 80-mile system of signed, on-street bike routes. These routes were selected on the basis of safety, aesthetics, and access to points of interest. Simply by following the universal green cycling emblem or using this map, you can enjoy a relaxing outing almost anywhere in the city.

River Trails

Wichita's scenic bike trails along the Arkansas River make it easy, safe, and enjoyable to ride from the south end of Wichita to the north. These trails were built for the exclusive use of bicyclists and provide easy access to the tri-park area (Sim, Oak Park and Riverside) with such local attractions as Cow Town, the Art Museum, and the tennis complex. At the south end of the trail, one can enjoy boating, fishing, pony rides, train rides, and miniature golf at Watson Park.

Downtown Bikeway

Teamed up with Wichita's River Trails, the Downtown Bikeway makes a good commuter system as well as a safe and convenient way for bikers to enjoy the city's downtown attractions. Various schemes have been used to identify and separate the bike paths from cars and pedestrians. These include signing, ground markings, planters, benches, etc. Bicycle storage facilities are located at strategic locations along the bikeway.

Canal Hike and Bike Trails

Another bonus for cyclists throughout Wichita, and particularly in east Wichita, is the construction of hike and bike trails underneath and adjacent to the I-135 Canal Route. With appropriate landscaping, lighting, and open space, the hike and bike trails will not only improve the visual aspects of the corridor but improve its usefulness as well. As was originally intended, the project will serve as an example of how an interstate highway can be used as a multi-purpose facility.

Many bicycling events are held during the annual Wichita River Festival.

Did You Know That . . .

1. Wichita has the largest, most active bicycle club in Kansas. It's called the Oz Bicycle Club, and it combines the varied interests of touring, racing, commuting, and leisure bicyclists — both young and old alike. For more information, visit your local bicycle shop or write to: Oz Bicycle Club, Box 1133, Wichita, KS 67201.
2. In 1972, for the first time in history, the bicycle outsold the automobile.
3. The first bicycle was built in 1816 by a German forester named Baron von Drais. However, Scotsman Macmillan in 1835 is given credit for creating the first practical bicycle because he was the first to get the rider's feet off the ground and onto pedals!
4. The bicycle is 28 times more efficient in the use of energy than the automobile.
5. The average trip length to work in Wichita is 5-1/2 miles (an easy ride on a bicycle!)
6. Separate bikepaths provide more safety for bicyclists.
7. The highest speed ever achieved on a bicycle is 140.5 mph by Dr. Allen V. Abbott in Utah on August 25, 1973.
8. The longest tandem bicycle was built in Denmark in 1976. It seats 35 people, weighs 1-1/3 tons, and measures 72 feet in length!
9. On June 19, 1976, William Van Puyenbraek of Belgium stayed stationary on a bicycle without support for 5 hours 52 minutes.
10. The transcontinental record is 13 days 1 hour 20 minutes from Santa Monica to New York by John Marino, Summer 1978. He will attempt to break this record in 1979.
11. The 64-acre plant of TI-Raleigh Industries at Nottingham, England, is the largest factory in the world producing complete bicycles, components, wheeled toys, and baby carriages.
12. Cycling has been on the Olympic program since the revival of the Games in 1896.

Telephone Numbers to Know

For information concerning the licensing of bicycles, call the City Treasurer's Office at **268-4553.**
If your bicycle is stolen, call the Police Emergency Number found in the front of the telephone directory to report the theft.
In order to improve the Wichita Bikeway System it is important that we hear from you. Please give us your comments and suggestions about hazardous crossings, route changes, path extensions, etc. Your comments will be appreciated. Please call the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department at **268-4391.**

Ride It Right

Observe all Traffic Regulations — red and green lights, one-way streets, stop signs.

Have White Light on Front and an approved reflector in rear. Pedals must also have reflectors.

Always Give Pedestrians the Right of Way.

Never ride a bicycle on a public Sidewalk in the downtown area except in designated areas. However, you may use sidewalks in other areas of the City.

Look out for Cars Pulling Out into Traffic. Keep sharp look-out for sudden opening of auto doors.

Never hitch on Other Vehicles, "stunt" or race in traffic.

Be Sure Your Brakes Are Operating Efficiently and keep your bicycle in perfect running condition.

Never Carry Other Riders - unless it is a parent carrying children under five in an approved seat. Carry no packages that obstruct vision or prevent proper control of cycle.

Slow down at all Street Intersections and look to right and left before crossing.

Always Use Proper Hand Signals for turning and stopping.

Don't Weave In Or Out of Traffic or swerve from side to side.

Try to avoid riding in heavy traffic.

Ride as close as reasonably possible to the right hand curb when riding two abreast — (permitted for persons 14 years or older).

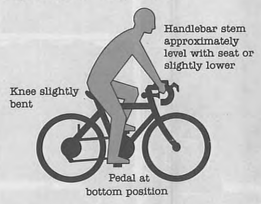
Children should not ride on busy streets.

What All Bicyclists Should Know about Bike Safety

A bicycle is not a toy. A bicycle is a vehicle, and bicyclists and everyone else sharing the roadways will be safest when all bicyclists know and obey the traffic laws and when all motorists realize that bicyclists have a right to the responsible use of the roads.

Ride a Bike that Fits
Proper Frame Fit

Proper Rider Adjustment



Ride Right
Always ride within 5 feet of the far right side of the road, except when persons 14 years or older are riding two abreast, when passing, when turning left, when necessary to avoid unsafe roads, or when riding on a one-way street, in which case the bicyclist may also ride within 5 feet of the left hand curb. Never ride facing traffic. (Only when walking should you face traffic.)

Inspect Your Bike
Keep your bike in good condition. Have your bike inspected yearly to make sure your brakes, wheels, tires, and all parts of your bike are in top condition.

Lock Your Bike
Lock your bike every time you leave it unattended. Use a high quality locking device. The locking device should go through both wheels, the frame, and around a stationary object.

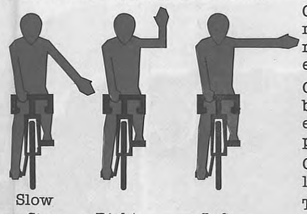
Light Your Bike
If you must ride at night, you must have a front white light and a rear red reflector that can be seen at night. Light-colored clothes are also recommended for night riding.

Ride One on a Bike
Unless you have a tandem bike (a two-seater), don't try to carry anyone else on your bike. An extra person makes it harder to balance, see, and stop. (It's also illegal!)

Ride Your Bike Straight
Always ride in a straight line. Weaving in and out of traffic is dangerous. Car drivers can't always see you.

Obey Traffic Signs
Bicycle riders must observe and obey all traffic signs, stop signs, signals, and other traffic control devices.

Use Hand Signals
Give hand signals to show what you are going to do. Do it well in advance of stopping and turning.



Look and Listen
Be alert when riding your bike. Watch out for cars pulling into traffic, car doors opening, and people walking - who always have the right of way. Listen constantly for traffic approaching behind you.

Use Good Sense
Avoid crowded and high-speed roads. Walk your bike across curbs and busy intersections. Make repairs off the road.

Taking Care of It

You can have a lot more fun - and be a lot safer if your bike is always in top shape. Here's a good maintenance schedule for you:

Oil the bicycle chain at least once a month. Turn the bike upside down, rotate the crank slowly, and oil each section.

On caliper brakes, oil the pivot bolt between the brake arms, and do it every three months. Keep brake pads and rims clean too.

Clean the derailleur and oil it lightly once a month.

The lubricating grease in the head set, wheels and crank should be replaced at regular intervals. This should be done once every year, or as often as the manufacturer recommends.

If you keep your bike clean and dry, the chrome and paint will always look good.

Keep your tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure. This is usually shown on the side of the tire. To check the pressure, pinch the tire. It should feel firm. Whether you're on or off the bike, the tire shape shouldn't change much. If you're adding air, be careful. The tire has a small volume and can be easily overinflated.

When you're traveling a long distance, carry a tube repair kit and a bicycle wrench so you can make emergency repairs.

A thorough inspection of your bicycle is recommended at least once every year.

Have to go to work?
Need to go shopping?
Have an errand to run?
Want to visit a friend?

Why Not Leave Your Car At Home and Ride Your Bicycle?

You'll get there fast!
You won't have to worry about finding a parking spot!
You'll save on gas!
It's good exercise!
And it's fun!

Why Not Commute by Bicycle?

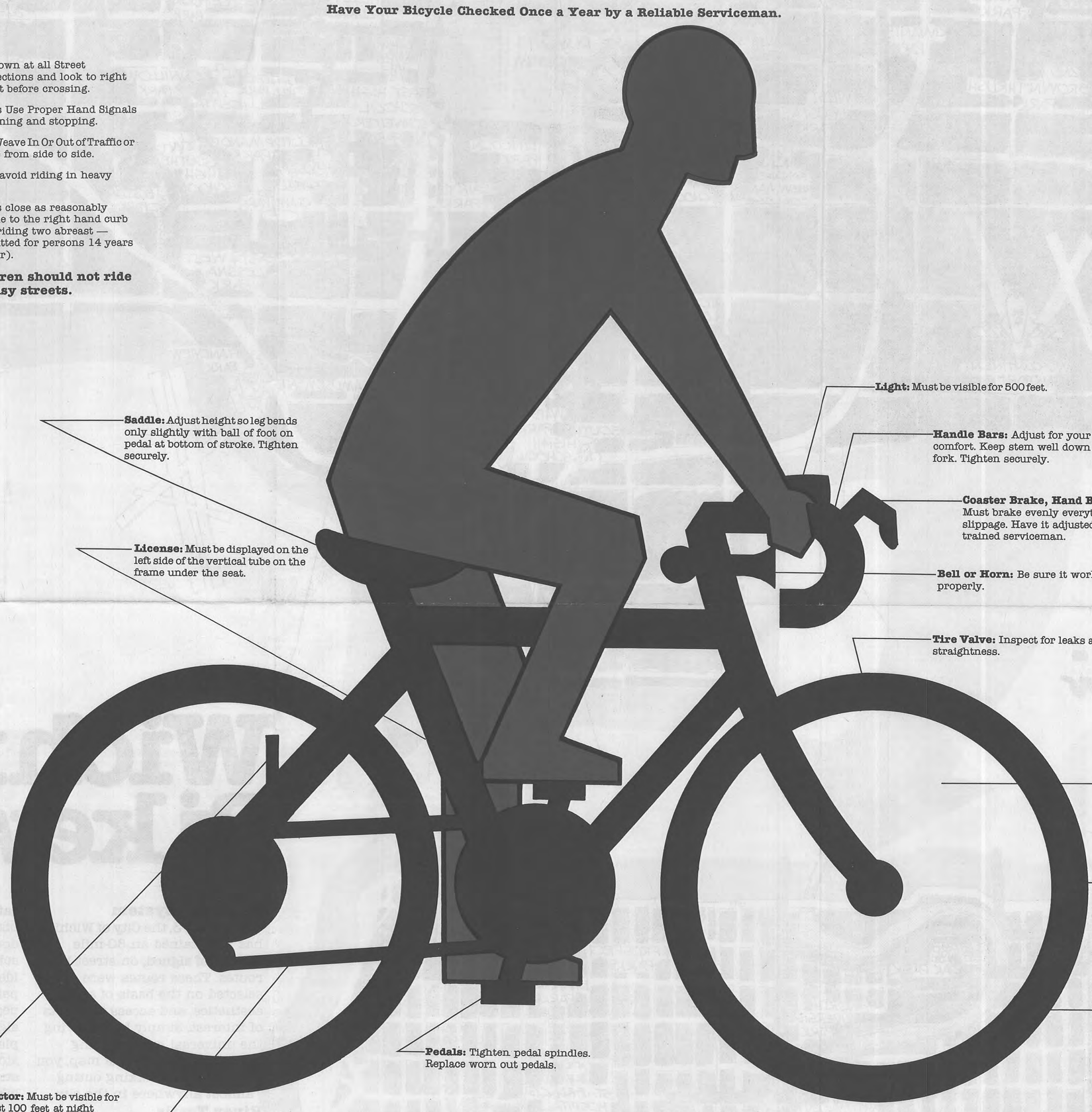
Wichita's Bikeways

the way to go

Funding for the preparation of this map was provided through bicycle license fees.

Ride It Safely

Have Your Bicycle Checked Once a Year by a Reliable Serviceman.



Saddle: Adjust height so leg bends only slightly with ball of foot on pedal at bottom of stroke. Tighten securely.

License: Must be displayed on the left side of the vertical tube on the frame under the seat.

Reflector: Must be visible for at least 100 feet at night and be state approved.

Chain: Check for damaged links and a snug (but not too tight) fit. Clean frequently and lubricate with light oil.

Pedals: Tighten pedal spindles. Replace worn out pedals.

Wheels: Tighten wheel nuts. Wheels that wobble are unsafe.

Tires: Inflate to correct pressure. Check tires frequently. Remove imbedded glass, cinders, etc. Don't ride on worn out tires.

Spokes: Replace broken ones promptly. Keep them tight.

Tire Valve: Inspect for leaks and straightness.

Handle Bars: Adjust for your comfort. Keep stem well down in fork. Tighten securely.

Coaster Brake, Hand Brakes: Must brake evenly everytime. No slippage. Have it adjusted by a trained serviceman.

Bell or Horn: Be sure it works properly.

Light: Must be visible for 500 feet.

Always Ride With Caution • Take Good Care of Your Bicycle

License Your Bicycle

Bicycle laws require that a bicycle be licensed before operating it. Before a license will be issued, each applicant must present his bicycle for an official inspection. Both the inspection and the license are available at all retail bike and repair shops. Licenses are valid for the duration of bicycle ownership. The cost of the license is $3.00. A portion of this license fee will be used for signs, maintenance, and establishment of bicycle routes.

Protect your bicycle - lock your bicycle every time you leave it unattended. Use a high quality locking device, and avoid devices which can be easily picked, broken or cut with wire cutters.

When you are not riding, keep your bicycle in a locked shed, garage or basement. Never leave your bicycle in a yard or driveway where it could be seen and stolen. If you have home owners or apartment insurance, check to see if the policy covers bicycles. When your bicycle is licensed and inspected, keep your copy of the license application for reference in case your bicycle is lost or stolen.

Lock your bicycle properly - A locking device merely slipped through the front sprocket on your bicycle does not provide adequate protection against theft. To properly lock your bicycle and provide maximum protection, loop the locking device through the frame and rear wheel, then around a post or other stationary object. Attach the lock and make sure it is fully locked. Keep in mind that it is illegal to park a bicycle in any public place that is within one block of an area designated for parking bicycles.

Important Elements of the Bicycle Ordinance

These regulations apply to bicycles whenever a bicycle is operated upon any sidewalk, street, highway, public park and playground or other property owned or under the jurisdiction of the city, or its agencies.

License Required
Before operating a bicycle, a $3.00 license must be obtained and placed on the bicycle. No fee is charged to the physically incapacitated whose only means of transportation is a specially constructed bicycle. Licenses expire upon the transfer of ownership of any bicycle, unless the transfer is within the family, then the new owner has ten days to apply for a new license.

Destruction of Licenses or Serial Numbers Prohibited
It is unlawful to remove or alter licenses, or the frame serial number of any bicycle.

Lamps, Brakes and Other Equipment
For night riding, the bike has to have a white headlight visible from 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear visible from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when in front of a car. Pedals with reflectors visible from 200 feet are also required.

All bicycles must be equipped with brakes.

Traffic Regulations
Bicyclists must obey all traffic ordinances and speed limits.

Bicyclists must ride with traffic and within 5 feet of the right hand curb of the street, except when persons 14 years or older are riding two abreast, when passing another vehicle, when turning left, when necessary to avoid unsafe road conditions, or when riding on a one-way street in which case, the bicyclist may also ride within 5 feet of the left hand curb.

Signals to turn or to stop or slow down must be given before turning or stopping.

Carrying Passengers
No more than one person may ride on a single-seated bicycle. Children under five may ride in a bicycle seat attached to the rear, or in back packs.

Bicycles on Sidewalks
Bicyclists on a sidewalk or a crosswalk must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and must give an audible signal before passing any pedestrian.

Parking of Bicycles
It is unlawful to park a bicycle on any public place that is within one block of a bicycle rack or that blocks pedestrian travel or presents a traffic hazard.

Can You Answer these Questions?

1. How often must you get your bicycle licensed?
2. Should you ride with traffic or against it?
3. Do you have to have a light and a reflector on your bike for night riding?
4. Are bicycles allowed on interstate highways or expressways?
5. Must bike riders always yield to pedestrians?
6. Are bicyclists required by law to obey all traffic signs and signals?
7. Is it okay to ride on the sidewalk?
8. What and by whom may bicycle paths be used for?
9. Who has to have a license?
10. Where can you get a bicycle license?
11. How much does it cost?
12. Why must bicycles be licensed?

Answers

1. **Only once** for the duration of ownership. Anytime you buy a bicycle (new or used) you must have it inspected and licensed. That license, which must be displayed on the left side of the vertical tube of the bicycle remains valid as long as you own the bike.
2. Always ride **with traffic**. Only when walking should you go against traffic.
3. **Yes.** The law requires you to have a white front light and a rear reflector for night biking.
4. No. Bicyclists are **not** allowed to ride on interstate highways or expressways.
5. **Yes.** Bicyclists must always yield to people who are walking. They have the right of way.
6. **Yes.** Bike riders must obey all traffic signs and signals just as motorists must do.
7. **Most of the time.** The only time a bicyclist may not ride on a sidewalk is in the congested downtown area. Of course, the new downtown bike path allows you to ride safely and legally in the downtown area as long as you stay on the path that was designed for bicyclists. If you must go off the path, either walk your bike on the sidewalk or ride on the far right side of the street.
8. Bicycle paths may be used **only for bicycling** and **only by bicyclists** on a bicycle. Scooters, mopeds or skateboards are not allowed on bicycle paths.
9. **Anyone owning a bicycle** who rides on the streets, sidewalks, parks, or bike paths in the City of Wichita.
10. At any store in Wichita selling bicycles. Or, call the City Treasurer's Office at 268-4553 for further information. After 1) your bike passes inspection, 2) information on your bike is obtained (frame number, etc.), and 3) you pay your fee, a license will be issued to you.
11. The one-time license fee **is $3.**
12. (1) **To increase safety** through inspection. This is particularly important for children. Although the new license ordinance no longer requires annual inspections, regular inspections are recommended.

    (2) **To protect your bike.** In the event that your bike is lost or stolen, the information given at the time of licensing will aid the police in locating your bike.

    (3) **Help the biker and the community** by providing money for maintenance of existing bike routes, establishment of new paths, and for safety and educational material. (License fees helped to pay for this map.)

This is the universal cycling emblem used to identify bicycle routes in Wichita and throughout the world.

Please follow the directional arrows when traveling along the bike routes. An arrow indicates the bike route is changing direction.

A double arrow indicates the bike route continues in both directions. The bicyclist must remember to use proper hand signals for turning and stopping.

This sign indicates that the bicycle route continues straight ahead and to the right. Motorists should be careful in making right turns when approaching or passing a bicycle. Both the motorist and the bicyclist should drive defensively.

This sign indicates that the bicyclist should use the sidewalk. This is for the bicyclists own safety.

This is a bicycle stop sign. Cyclists must stop before proceeding.

This emblem identifies the Wichita CBD or downtown bikeway

Bike crossing signs appear along busy streets. Motorists should be particularly careful and slow down in these areas. Very young children should not travel these areas without adult supervision

This sign indicates that pedestrians and bicyclists share the same sidewalk. Each should use the side of the walk as displayed by the sign.

The arrows indicate that pedestrians and bicyclists share the same sidewalk but will have separated lanes on either side of benches, shrubs or plants.