Walk, Bike, and Drive Safe

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Let’s Start With Two Questions To Ask Yourself

1. What things come to mind about staying safe while traveling around Pontiac?

2. What are your habits when driving, riding a bicycle and walking around the city?
Picture Yourself In All Roles

- Driving
- Riding a bicycle
- Walking
What Do You Know About Being Safe In All Three Roles?
Now let’s take a closer look at how to stay safe
As a walker, a bicyclist, and a driver.
How To Walk Safely

Walking Safety Video
Walk Safe Takeaways

• Obey all traffic signals

• Be aware and look both ways before crossing the road

• Cross at marked crosswalks

• Yield to cars and bicycles when crossing outside of a marked cross walk

• Allow vehicles enough time to yield prior to entering the street

Information from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Other Safe Walking Information

- Assume drivers and bicyclists DO NOT see you
- Stop and make eye contact with the driver before crossing the street
- Wear bright, reflective clothing and wearable lights when walking in the dark or in bad weather
- Be proactive to avoid distractions while walking (examples: look up from the cell phone or take out your earbuds)
How To Bicycle Safely

What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know

Information from the League of Michigan Bicyclists
Things To Consider

- Safety equipment
- Signaling
- Bicycle maintenance
- Laws

Information from the League of Michigan Bicyclists
Safety Equipment

- A properly fitted helmet
- Lights on the front of the bike
- Reflectors on the back and sides of the bike
- Closed toe shoes
- Bright, reflective clothing

Information from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Signaling: Verbal and Visual

- **To turn left:** Hold your arm straight out to the left and say left turn.

- **To turn right:** Hold your right arm straight out OR hold your left arm out with your hand facing up to the sky to make an L shape and say right turn.

- **To stop or slow down:** Hold your left arm out and point it down towards the ground and say stopping.

Information from the League of Michigan Bicyclists
Bicycle Maintenance

*Check your bicycle before riding*

• Make sure the brakes work properly

• Make sure there is air in your tires

• Make sure the chain of your bike is working properly

• Make sure any lights on your bicycle are working

Information from the League of Michigan Bicyclists
Bicycling Laws

- Follow traffic signs and signals
- Ride with the flow of traffic
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping
- Yield to people walking on sidewalks and crosswalks

Information from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and the League of Michigan Bicyclists
Safety Tips For Riding

• Wear a properly fitted helmet

• Be aware of turning vehicles at driveways and intersection

• Give a verbal warning before you pass people that are walking or bicycling

Information from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Stay Aware and Be Visible

• Take steps to get rid of distractions

• After dark wear reflective clothes, use a reflective rear light, and a white headlight while riding
  – [https://semcog.org/walkbikedrivesafe#4038432-resources-to-share](https://semcog.org/walkbikedrivesafe#4038432-resources-to-share)
How to Drive Safely Around Bicyclists

Three Feet Video

Information from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
How to Drive Safely Around Walkers and Bicyclists

• Leave at least **three feet** when passing bicyclist, *it’s the law*

• **Share the road** - bicycles are legally allowed to ride on the road even if there is a bike lane

• **Be aware** of and yield to walkers

• **Adhere to the posted speed limit**
How To Drive Safely Around Walkers and Bicyclists Continued

• **Stay out** of bike lanes

• **Leave cross walks open**, park elsewhere

• **Stop** behind another vehicle that is stopped for bicyclists or walkers

• **Focus** your attention on driving when behind the wheel

• **Drive sober** – stay free of drugs or alcohol while driving

Information from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Staying Safe Is Everyone’s Responsibility

Whether traveling in a car, on a bicycle or by foot get familiar with ways to keep everyone safe!
Thanks For Being Here!

Any questions?

Before you leave you have a chance to take a brief survey about physical activity and how you want to be informed about what’s going on in Pontiac.

We need your input!
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