BICYCLE SAFETY BULLETIN

Whether you're a daily rider who uses your bicycle to get around town, or a weekend warrior who rides in your free time, bicycle safety is important to everyone! Part of being a safe rider is being a responsible rider, and that means sharing the road- not just with cars, but with pedestrians too! Most riders don't realize that traffic laws and ordinances apply to everyone sharing the road, not just motor vehicles! Just as riders rely on motorists to follow traffic laws and ordinances in order to stay safe on the roadway, motorists and pedestrians rely on riders to follow them too! If you’re a ride, recognizing the traffic laws and ordinances that apply to you will not only keep others safe, but will protect you as well!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Under the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code, a bicycle being ridden on the highway IS considered a vehicle, and as such riders are subject to the same “rules of the road” as any other motorist.
- Not only are riders expected to follow the provisions of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code when riding their bicycle on the highway (such as stopping at stop signs and red signals, riding the correct way on one way streets, yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk and even speed restrictions), riders are subject to the same penalties as motorists. Police Officers CAN issue traffic violations to riders who are observed breaking the law.
- Riders CAN face the same civil penalties as a motorist if their actions result in an accident or injury.
- Riders also CAN face the same criminal penalties as a motorist! Not only does this include possible charges if their actions result in property damage or injury to another, this also includes D.U.I. If an Officer determines a rider is operating a bicycle while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, they CAN be arrested and charged with D.U.I. under the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code.
- Riders are expected to utilize the roadway and follow traffic patterns like any other vehicle, however the City of Philadelphia has enacted a special ordinance designed to protect pedestrians on the sidewalk. It states that “no person 12 years of age or more shall ride a bicycle upon any sidewalk in any district.” It also states “whenever any person is riding on the sidewalk” (after exiting the roadway and reaching your destination) “such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.” A Police Officer CAN issue a traffic violation with a fine of $55.50 to riders observed violating this ordinance.

Don’t let an un-necessary accident or traffic citation spoil your ride! Follow the rules of the road and stay safe on the highway!

See something? Say Something.
For more information, contact the South Street Station Community Relations/ Crime Prevention Officer.
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