



# AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR BICYCLISTS FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Obey ALL Traffic Laws and Signals:

- When riding your bicycle on Illinois roadways, **you must obey the same traffic laws**, signs and signals that apply to motorists.
- Bicyclists must ride in the same direction as other traffic. Riding in the opposite direction of traffic is both dangerous and against the law.
- Pavement markings warn and direct drivers and bicycle riders and regulate traffic. You must follow the directions of the arrows painted on those lanes.
- Motorists are required by law to allow a minimum of 3 feet of space between them and a bicyclist when passing.
- If you ride in the dark, **the law requires** that your bike have a front light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet and a rear red reflector visible for up to 600 feet.
- Violations of these statutes may result in a citation and fine.

## Riding on Sidewalks:

- When walking or riding your bicycle on a sidewalk or along a crosswalk you must obey all pedestrian signs and signals.
- Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians on sidewalks or crosswalks. Slow down and go around them when possible.
- When approaching a pedestrian from behind, slow down and give an audible signal to alert them of your presence before passing them.
- By ordinance, bicycles **ARE NOT** allowed on the sidewalks in Uptown Normal and cyclists are directed to use the streets in the Uptown area.

## Arm Signals:

To ride safely in traffic, bicycle riders must use their hands and arms to communicate to other motorists around them. There are four important arm signals you should learn and use every time you prepare to turn or stop. Remember to signal, using your left or right arm, about one-third of a block before you plan to turn so vehicles behind you have ample time to slow down.

## Bicycle Safety:

Bicycle helmets are an essential element of bicycle safety and must be properly fitted and adjusted. Always wear an approved safety helmet while riding to protect your head and brain from injury in case of an accident. **Your eyes and ears are important safety tools when riding your bike. Pay attention to your surroundings and watch other drivers closely to make sure they have seen you and your arm signal.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RULES OF THE ROAD VISIT:

[http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/traffic\\_safety/bike-pedestrian\\_safety/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/traffic_safety/bike-pedestrian_safety/home.html)