

Gilroy Moves Safely General Traffic Safety Tips



Share the road with all other users, no matter what type of transportation you choose to use. Car drivers should use extra caution while driving near pedestrians and bicyclists.

Safety Tips for Walkers

- Walk on the sidewalk. Always use sidewalks when available. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left facing oncoming traffic.
- Look before you cross. Look left, right, and left again before crossing a street.
- Use the crosswalk and obey traffic signals. Always cross at corners or at a marked crosswalk, where drivers expect you.
- Make eye contact. Don't assume drivers see you. Make eye contact with drivers before stepping off
 the sidewalk.
- Be alert and avoid distractions. Look for cars from all directions before entering the street including from behind you.
- Be visible at all times. Wear bright or light-colored clothing, especially when it's dark and visibility is poor. Carry a flashlight with you. Wear reflective apparel such as vests, bands, or shoes to help drivers see you.

Safety Tips for Bicyclists

- Wear your helmet. It's the law for children and youth under 18. Helmets should fit snug and level on your head above your eyebrows. Always buckle your helmet under your chin.
- **Be predictable.** Obey all stop signs and traffic signals. Ride on the right, in the same direction as traffic. Follow the same rules of the road as car drivers.
- Be visible. Wear bright clothing, use a headlight (white), and taillight (red).
- **Be alert.** Watch out for drivers turning left or right, or coming out of driveways. Avoid the door zone from parked cars. Yield to pedestrians.
- Share the path. Pedestrians have the right of way on walkways and paths. Give an audible warning when you pass on your bicycle. Keep to the right and pass on the left.

Safety Tips for Drivers

- Obey all traffic laws. Always follow the speed limits.
- Stay alert and avoid distractions! Scan the road and sides of road for pedestrians and bicyclists. Stay off your phone. Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists in crosswalks and intersections! Pedestrians and bicyclists have the right-of-way when entering or occupying the crosswalk. Slow down as you approach a crosswalk or intersection to avoid a crash.



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Safety Tips for Drivers, Continued

- Bike lanes are for bicyclists. Never block or park in a bike lane.
- **Bicyclists are motorists too!** They have the same right to be in the center of most road lanes, especially if there is a sharrow symbol.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk or intersection. There may be people crossing that you cannot see.
- Look out for bicyclists. Look over your shoulder for bicyclists when opening your door while parallel parked.
- Pass bicyclists at a safe distance. Passing cyclists too closely is dangerous and illegal. The driver
 must allow at least three feet when passing a bicyclist a distance mandated by state law.
- Be cautious when backing up. Pedestrians and bicyclists can move into your path.

Safety Tips for Transit Riders

- **Don't run to catch a bus or train.** Running to catch a bus or train can be dangerous, especially if the operator is pulling out of the stop or station.
- Walk your bike or skateboard. Walk your bike or skateboard while on the train platform.
- Safely load and unload your bike. To load your bike, stay on the curb until the bus comes to a complete stop. To unload your bike, exit from the front of the bus and remind the operator that you have to remove your bike.
- For more information on transit safety, visit the website of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) at: http://www.vta.org/safety.



Be Safe! Avoid texting, phone calls, or other distractions while walking, biking, and driving.

Visit sccphd.org/gilroymoves to learn safe tips to get around Gilroy safely.

