Corvallis & Benton County
BICYCLE GUIDE
2014

Corvallis Bikeways
Corvallis has a population of 55,000 people and is the
tenth largest city in Oregon. It is located in a beautiful
natural setting along the Willamette River and has pleasant
neighborhoods, a state university, a diverse economy, and well-planned public facilities.

Bicycles have long been recognized as important
transportation vehicles in Corvallis. In 1973 the
Citizens Advisory Commission on Bicycles was formed.
Today’s Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission,
working in cooperation with City Staff, facilitates public
involvement and advises City Council on bicycle and
pedestrian issues.

Corvallis has one of the best cycling
networks in the country with bike lanes on 89% of all
collector and arterial streets.

The compact size of the city (14 sq miles) combined
with its excellent bicycle system, relatively flat terrain, allow
almost any trip to be made by bicycle in about 15 minutes.
The bicycle is a healthy, non-polluting alternative to the
automobile that helps maintain the quality of the
environment in Corvallis.

For corrections or updates: call the Transportation Program Specialist at 541.766.6916

TIPS FOR THE CYCLIST

Corvallis Parks
Corvallis has a great park system! Cyclists will find many of these facilities useful.

A matrix showing which parks offer amenities such as water, restrooms, or picnic sites can be found at www.corvallisoregon.gov/parks

Sharrow
Sharrow is used to show motorists that cyclists may “take the lane” and helps show cyclists good lane
positioning. Use the sharrow markings to guide
where you ride within the lane.

Ride With The Traffic
Riding against the traffic places the bicyclist in a
location at intersections that may be overlooked by
motorists watching for the normal flow of oncoming
traffic. Riding the wrong direction endangers other
riders and is impractical for motorists. Riding the
wrong direction in bike lanes is a violation and lethal
cause of bicycle crashes.

Be Predictable
Obey traffic signs and signals. Motorists need to
know where you are planning to go, even when you
are in a bike lane. Signal well in advance if you intend to turn or merge into another lane.

Position Yourself Correctly at Intersections
If you are turning, signal appropriately, watch
for cars, and merge carefully to the center of the turn
lane. Make your turn occupying the same space an
automobile would. If you are not turning, follow the
bike lane and watch for cars that may be crossing the
turn lane.

Be Visible
Wear bright and reflective clothing. Oregon law
requires the use of lights when riding after dark.
You must have a white light visible at least 500 ft
in front and a red reflector or light on the rear.

Ride Defensively
Avoid riding in the blind spots of motor vehicle
drivers. Be sure the automobile driver has seen you
before making a maneuver that puts you in conflict
with the automobile. Watch for cars turning suddenly
drivers and intersections. Other hazards to look
for are opening car doors, loose gravel, and rough
pavement. When the road is wet, everything is
slippery. Cross angled railroad tracks carefully to
maintain control of your bicycle. Pedestrians and
roller skaters popping out from between parked cars
can also be a hazard. At intersections, be prepared
cars turning across your path. If in doubt, merge
to the automobile lane to travel through the
intersection.

Wear A Helmet
Head injuries are often severe and debilitating.
A safety approved bicycle helmet can protect you
from head injuries. Youth under the age of 16 are required
to wear a helmet by state law.

Roundabouts
Stay right when using traffic circles. Traffic already
in the circle has the right of way.