SAFETY & COURTESY TIPS

Be a PAL on Arlington’s Streets

As more people go on Arlington’s Car-Free Diet, there are more cyclists and walkers sharing the street with drivers. Whether you’re on two feet, two wheels or four wheels, everyone needs to be a PAL to safely share the streets.

Being a PAL means being:
- Predictable – travel in a predictable way; don’t make sudden, unexpected moves
- Alert – pay attention to your surroundings and to others
- Lawful – obey the traffic laws, whether in a car, on a bike, or on foot

The street scene below illustrates some useful safety and courtesy tips for walking, cycling and driving.

Walk
- Right-crossing the street only on the “WALK” signal. Do not begin to cross until the walk signal appears.
- When crossing at an unmarked intersection, make your intentions clear to drivers through eye contact or hand signals that allow you to cross. Make sure drivers in all lanes can see you before starting to cross.
- Remember that bikes signal a straight ahead signal. Although cyclists are obliged to stay in their lanes, signal when changing lanes.
- Stay visible after dark and in bad weather with lights, light-colored clothing and reflective gear.
- When sidewalks are not available, walk facing traffic.

Cycling
- Cyclists are expected when they act like and are treated like drivers of vehicles.
- Use bike lanes, trails and designated routes where possible. Avoid on-street cycling when not necessary. Always yield to pedestrians when crossing sidewalks.
- You drive when cycling and it’s legal to stop with lights, light-colored clothing and reflective gear.
- Wear a helmet. Helmets dramatically reduce the risk of head injuries in a crash.

Driving
- Be careful when close to parked vehicles. Parked cars can obscure the presence of people about to enter the roadway.
- Obey posted speed limits. When in doubt, Arlington’s speed limit is 20 mph within 25’ of a sidewalk.
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists in crosswalks.
- Be extra alert at intersections, at night and after dark.

KEY

Walking
Cycling
Driving
Diagram – Not to scale

Cross behind the bus in the crosswalk when available
Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks

Ride at least 5 feet away from parked vehicles
Look over your shoulder before opening your door

Stand on the sidewalk when waiting to cross the street
Do not block the crosswalk
Do not block the crosswalk

Always ride in the same direction as traffic; use hand signals to communicate your intentions
Allow 3 feet when passing cyclists

Ride along the middle of the shared chevron marking to stay out of the door zone

Sharrows signify that cyclists are likely to be present and have a right to share the road with vehicles

Cross the street at marked crosswalks and intersections; before crossing, look left, right, then left again.

Obey all traffic signals – bicyclists are considered vehicles when traveling on the road

Obey all traffic signals; yield to pedestrians and cyclists in crosswalks and when turning right on red

Share the Streets: We’re All In This Together

Whether you are walking, cycling or driving, it’s important for everyone to be a PAL and respect each other’s rights and space. A little courtesy will help everyone reach their destination safely.

For more information on how to safely share Arlington’s streets, visit: CarFreeGet.com, BikeArlington.com and WalkArlington.com.