Savannah is a great place to ride a bike for transportation or recreation. Or both! Because of the city’s warm climate and relatively small size, people of all ages and abilities can ride bikes year round in the National Landmark District and other historic neighborhoods, parks, and scenic routes. Traffic is manageable and cycling provides a leisurely, picturesque backdrop for bicycling. People from all over the world come to Savannah to ride bikes, either with friends and family or with organized tours.

Bicycling is popular with residents, as well. Savannah has the highest rate of bicycle commuting in Georgia and is No. 3 in the South for the percentage of its population getting to work by bike.

Savannah has been a Bicycle Friendly Community since 2013, earning bronze-level status from the League of American Bicyclists. This was in part due to the creation of Savannah’s Bike & Pedestrian Plan in 2013, which is working to make Savannah a safer and more bicycle friendly city.

For more information and to help make Savannah better for bicycling, visit bikewalksavannah.org.

SAFETY CYCLING STRATEGIES

• Always obey traffic signs and signals.
• Ride on the right-hand side of the street when practicable, which means if you can do it safely.
• Yield when changing lanes.
• Position yourself in the lane based on your destination, for example, ride on the left side of the bike if you are making a left turn.
• Wear a helmet! Helmets are required by law for children under 16.

Defensive Bicycling

Bicycles are small,AND motorcyclists are distracted by any number of factors. Never assume a motorist saw you.

• Make eye contact.
• Proceed cautiously through intersections.
• Pay attention. If you live with weakness, make sure the volume is low enough that you can still hear your surroundings.

Predictability

Traffic laws are designed to create predictable behavior, but because bicycles are much smaller than motor vehicles, there is more room for distraction. As a bicyclist, you are more visible when you travel on the roadway, not in a green street. Dismounting is predictable, straight line will significantly reduce the odds of a crash. Travelling by bike is both safe and fun when you know the rules of the road and follow safety precautions. Ignore your bike by checking your tires, brakes and chain before you hit the road. If you are unsure of your bike’s safety, take it to a bike shop.

Put a Lock on it!

• Slow down or dismount if the path is crowded.

Lights and Visibility

Riding in the single file line is a common misunderstanding. Rider visibility can still be improved with the use of lights and reflectors. Reflectors are effective, but equipment is also valuable. If you are on a dark street, try using lights. High visibility clothing is a very important tool. Use a red tail light – it is an additional safeguard for nighttime riding. Reflective tape or fabric is also strongly recommended.

Multi-Use Paths

Multi-use paths are not illegal, multiple uses are not used by people walking, jogging or bicycling. On multi-use paths, bicyclists can endanger other users due to their relative size and speed. Wherever walking and bike paths exist:

• Ride on the right and pass on the left.
• Avoid using your bike bell or a friendly “hello” (“Is it okay?”).  
• Slow down or dismount if the path is congested and always yield to pedestrians.

HELP, THERE WAS A CRASH!

If you are involved in a crash involving a bicyclist, motor vehicle driver, or pedestrian, please contact the Savannah Police Department at 911 or 912-652-4600 to provide information.

If you see roadway conditions that are hazardous, call 233-7433 (which will contact the City of Savannah’s Department of Public Works – Street Services) or go to the City’s website.

ABOUT BIKE WALK SAVANNAH

Bike Walk Savannah is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to provide a safe place for people—to better ride and walk in Savannah. We work to create a connected community that is inclusive and vibrant with walking and biking opportunities. Join us throughout the year for:

• Friendly face-to-face rides.
• Neighborhood walking groups.
• Family friendly activities.
• Educational programs.
• Volunteer opportunities only.

Stop in and see us at 1301 A. Lincoln St., at the corner of Lincoln and Henry Streets.

SUPPORT PEOPLE-POWERED MOBILITY IN SAVANNAH—BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Bikewalksav@Bikewalksavannah.org

Bikewalk Savannah is supported in part by the City of Savannah and the State of Georgia.

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