



## Creating a Bicycle-Friendly Santa Fe

The Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization (SF-MPO) seeks to make bicycling a safer and more convenient form of everyday transportation for citizens and visitors. Santa Fe is an ideal bicycling environment due to its compact size, moderate terrain, and pleasant weather. A bicycle offers an alternative travel choice for those concerned about the environment, and requires relatively little infrastructure. In addition, bicycles can have travel times comparable with automobiles for short distances and are less expensive to own and operate than automobiles.

This map was created through public input to show the perceived suitability of on-street facilities for bicycling. The conditions at specific locations are subjective, always changing, and may vary from what is shown on this map. Please use this map as community-based guidance to help you select a bicycling route that meets your needs and skill level. Always use caution to evaluate the current roadway conditions.

### Bicycling benefits everyone

A bicycle-friendly community is in the best interest of everyone: commuters, recreational bicyclists, merchants, tourists, children, parents, and even motorists.

- Bicycles require only a tenth the parking space of cars, enabling more customers to access stores.
- Children benefit from the ability to travel independently and safely - being hit by cars is a leading cause of death for children.
- Parents benefit by knowing their children are on safe bike routes.
- Bicyclists benefit because they can reach their destinations safely, quickly, and easily using a fun, healthy, and inexpensive mode of transportation.
- Residents benefit from quieter, safer streets with less motorized vehicle traffic.
- Everyone benefits from cleaner air and reduced toxic run-off into local arroyos.
- Motorists benefit - traffic congestion is reduced and parking is easier to find.

More people biking means a higher quality of life in Santa Fe. So, consider biking to your destination.

## Bike To Work

This map is intended to help you plan your bicycling routes in advance. If there are gaps in the suggested routes or no direct routes, try going out on the weekend or after work to explore alternatives. A leisurely ride through neighborhoods along the way may reveal alternate roads that may be perfect for your commute. The more comfortable you are with your route, the easier your commute will be.

### Why ride a bicycle for transportation?

Bicycling is an important form of transportation and can be a very safe way to get around when you are educated about good cycling practices. Riding a bicycle is inexpensive, increases car parking, and decreases taxes used for road repair. Fewer cars means

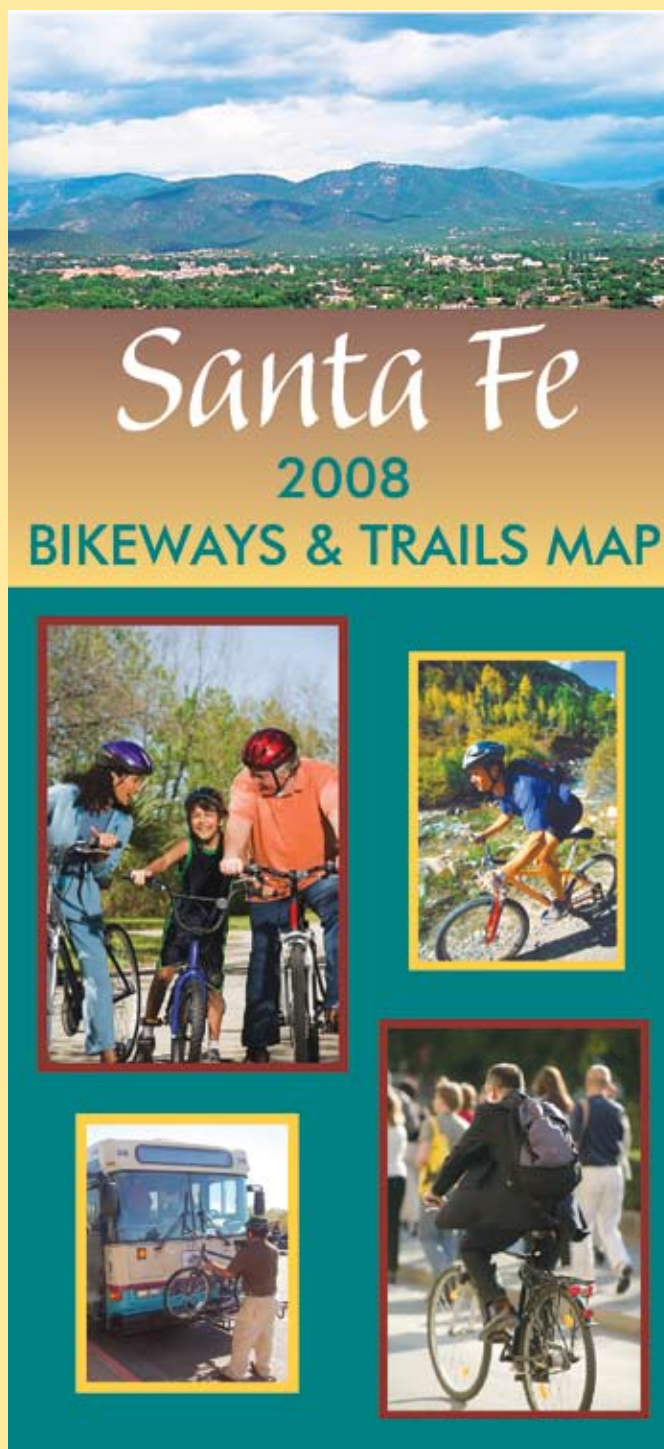
safer communities with less speeding, reduced traffic congestion, and decreased noise and environmental pollution. Bicycling is often faster than driving a car in urban areas and reduces health expenses by creating a more physically fit population. Additionally, the environmental and health effects of a car-dependent world are extensive and far reaching.

### What equipment do you need?

- Before getting on a bicycle, make sure you have the proper equipment to ride safely and comfortably.
- ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET! Remember that a helmet can reduce the risk of a serious head injury by 85% in a crash BUT WILL NOT prevent an accident. Education is the best way to decrease crash frequency and severity.
- ALWAYS USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT! Use a white light in front and a red light in back. Remember, you are virtually invisible to all motorists at night without lights.
- Additional reflectors on your bike and reflective materials on your clothing and bags will help you be visible at night.
- A good lock will help keep your bike from being stolen; ideally, you want to be able to fit your lock through your frame and one or both wheels.
- A rear view mirror can help you be aware of oncoming cars.
- Fenders can help keep dirt and mud off your clothes.
- Saddlebags, racks and baskets are good ways to carry packages, freeing your hands for safe riding.
- Be prepared for rain, snow or changes in temperature. Dress in layers. Carrying a change of clothes may make commuting to work more appealing.

## Bicycling Resources

## Bicycle Shops



- Questions about this map  
[www.santafenm.gov/sfmpo](http://www.santafenm.gov/sfmpo)  
 City of Santa Fe Police Department  
[www.santafenm.gov/police](http://www.santafenm.gov/police)  
 Reporting Bicycle Theft 955-5000  
 Reporting Loose Dogs 955-2701  
 Reporting Hazardous Road Conditions  
 City of Santa Fe Public Works Department 955-3000  
[www.santafenm.gov/streets](http://www.santafenm.gov/streets)  
 Santa Fe County Public Works Department 992-3010  
[www.santafecounty.org/resident/roads.php](http://www.santafecounty.org/resident/roads.php)  
 Transit Connections  
 Santa Fe Trails - <http://santafetrails.santafenm.gov>  
 North-Central NM Regional Transit District - [www.ncrd.org](http://www.ncrd.org)  
 NM Park & Ride - [www.nmshd.state.nm.us/main.asp?secid=14635](http://www.nmshd.state.nm.us/main.asp?secid=14635)  
 Rail Runner Express - [www.nmrrailrunner.com](http://www.nmrrailrunner.com)  
 New Mexico Department of Transportation  
 Bicycle, Pedestrian, & Equestrian Program - [www.nmshd.state.nm.us/main.asp?secid=11190](http://www.nmshd.state.nm.us/main.asp?secid=11190)  
 Regional Trails Information  
 Santa Fe National Forest - [www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/recreation/trails.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/recreation/trails.html)  
 Cycling Advocacy & Clubs  
 Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico - [www.bikenm.org](http://www.bikenm.org)  
 Chainbreaker Collective - <http://chainbreakercollective.org/>  
 Pedal Queens - [www.pedalqueens.com](http://www.pedalqueens.com)  
 New Mexico Touring Society - [www.nmst.org](http://www.nmst.org)  
 Santa Fe Road Riders - <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/sfroadriders/>

- Bike N' Sport**  
 nmbikensport.com/  
 505-820-0809  
 524 W. Cordova Road, Suite C
- Chainbreaker Collective**  
 866-469-4334  
 1412-1/2 Second Street
- Frankie's Flats**  
 www.frankieflats.com/  
 505-473-1712  
 1600 Lena Street, D-3
- Melo Velo Bicycles**  
 ("RENTALS AVAILABLE")  
 www.sunmountainbikeco.com/  
 505-982-8986
- REI**  
 www.rei.com/  
 in The Railyard  
 505-988-2753
- Rob and Charlie's**  
 505-471-9119  
 1632 Saint Michaels Drive
- Santa Fe Mountain Sports**  
 ("RENTALS AVAILABLE")  
 www.santafemountainports.com/  
 505-988-3337  
 607 Cerrillos Rd. Suite A

## Bicycle Safety Tips

## Riding Tips

Bicycles are vehicles and therefore share the same privileges and duties as other traffic. Laws that apply to motorists also apply to bicycles, and cyclists must follow the rules of the road and obey all traffic signals, signs and lane markings if they are to stay safe and be taken seriously by motorists.

While following the rules of the road will help you avoid getting hit by a car, your best defense is education; knowing how to ride proactively, strategically and defensively will increase your safety on the road and help you avoid potential hazards before they happen. You want to be as visible as possible but ride with the assumption that cars can't see you. If you learn how and where to ride safely, you won't get hit if a motorist doesn't see you; ride as if you were invisible. Remember, motorists look into the middle of the lane for oncoming traffic, not to the right curb or sidewalk for cyclists.

Always remember that your safety is paramount while riding your bike. Don't count on motorists to know how to keep you safe; if you count on your skills and education, you will be able to enjoy a comfortable, safe, healthy and efficient way get around Santa Fe!

### When should you take up the lane?

The general rule is to ride as far to the right in the road as practicable. You have the right to decide for yourself how far to the right is safe for you to ride, from the right curb to the left curb and any place in between. Bicycle lanes provide a guideline for where you may want to be unless you are making a turn. However, there are times when it is safer to take the whole lane or ride a bit to the left than to hug the right curb.

Some of those situations are:

- On narrow streets or where tight curves in the road reduce visibility for oncoming traffic. Taking the lane prevents cars from passing you.
- If you are traveling about as fast as a car can safely travel. Taking the lane helps you avoid hazards on the side of the road and gives you more space from incoming turning cars, since your ability to stop quickly is reduced significantly when traveling fast.
- When approaching a stop sign where a car could pull ahead of you and turn right, turning into you.
- In a traffic circle or roundabout.
- If there are a lot of side streets, parking lots or driveways where an incoming car won't see you coming from near the curb.
- Where parked cars might mean a suddenly opening car door.

### Why shouldn't you ride on a sidewalk?

Bikes on sidewalks are as threatening to a pedestrian as a car is to a bicyclist. Riding on a sidewalk is more dangerous than riding on a street because when you come off the sidewalk to cross a street, driveway or parking lot, you are invisible to motorists turning or proceeding straight from both streets because they are looking to the middle of the road for other vehicles, not to the sidewalk. Since a bike can move faster than a pedestrian, a turning car won't have enough time to see you if you are moving quickly through a crosswalk or intersection. Also, riding on a sidewalk is illegal in many places.

## If You Encounter Dogs While Bicycling



Even friendly dogs can be hazardous to bicyclists. They may jump at your bicycle or get in front of you and cause a spill.

- Do**
- Tell the dog to "go home".
  - Get off your bike on the side away from the dog and walk away slowly.
  - Squirt the dog with your water bottle.
  - Call the police and tell them of the loose dog.
- Don't**
- Kick the dog. You could lose your balance or injure yourself or the dog.
  - Try to outrun it. The dog may chase you and cause a fall.
  - Hit the dog with anything. This can provoke the dog or its owner to violence.

## Bring Your Bicycle on Public Transit!

Local and regional transit systems help keep you and the environment in shape by making it easy to combine your long rides with the bus or train! Make transit work better for you on both ends of your trip by bringing your bicycle on Santa Fe Trails, NM Park & Ride, North Central RTD buses, and the Rail Runner Express train. Bringing a bicycle along gives you greater freedom and flexibility when you arrive in Albuquerque and other Northern New Mexico destinations served by transit.

### Loading Your Bike

- As the bus approaches, have your bike ready to mount. Remove water bottles, pumps or other loose items that might fall off. Inform the driver that you're loading your bike.
- If the bike rack is folded up against the front of the bus, pull the handle up to release, and lower the rack into its working position.
- Load your bike into the rack, starting with the front wheel if your bike is first, load with the handlebars toward the curb and the wheels in slots nearest the bus. If your bike is second, load with the handlebars opposite.
- Pull the hook out and over the front wheel and release it gently.



### Unloading Your Bike

- Remind the driver that you will unload your bike.
- Pull the hook out and over the front wheel to release your bike.
- Lift or roll your bike out of the wheel slots always moving it toward the curb, and if yours was the only bike, fold up the rack.
- Quickly move away from the bus and signal the driver that it is safe to leave.



## Questions and Answers

### Q: Are there traffic laws that apply to bicyclists?

A: Yes! Bicyclists are governed by the rules of the road. When riding on any roadway, a bicyclist has all of the rights and responsibilities of any vehicle. Observe stop signs, traffic lights and other posted signs. Be sure to signal turns, lane changes and stops. Riding with the flow of traffic increases safety by making bicycles visible and predictable to other drivers. Never ride against the flow of traffic.

### Q: Do I really need to wear a helmet?

A: Yes! The most severe injuries and most deaths from bicycle accidents result from head trauma, and the majority could be prevented if helmets were worn. Don't let it happen to you, your head is worth the protection.

### Q: Do I need to use lights at night?

A: Yes! A headlight and rear reflector are required by sense and by law. The front light should be white and a rear one red or orange. A front reflector is not a suitable substitute for a front light! Side or pedal reflectors are helpful too.

### Q: Where should I ride on the street?

A: As far to the right as is safe, including the shoulder. If the street is too narrow for both you and a car, remember that you have the right to a full lane. Allow cars to pass whenever possible. Be cautious!

### Q: What causes bicycle accidents?

A: Most bicycling accidents could be prevented by bicyclists paying more attention and obeying the law. Pay special attention to the road ahead and on each side as the majority of bicycling accidents occur there. Practice Defensive Riding!

### Q: What can I do to combat driver inattention?

A: Watch car wheels to know which way the car is turning. Make eye contact with the driver. Wear bright colors.

### Q: Should I register my bike?

A: Yes. If your bike gets stolen, registration information may help police find it. Register at Santa Fe Police Department Records Division at 2651 Siringo Road, Building 1.

## HELMETS SAVE LIVES!



## BE COURTEOUS, BE SAFE

## Here are some basics about being visible and predictable while riding on the road.

- NEVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC**  
It is extremely dangerous and against the law to ride on the wrong side of the roadway. It is also illegal to ride the wrong way on a one-way street.
- RIDE DEFENSIVELY**  
When possible, ride in a straight line, to the right of traffic. For your own safety be as predictable as you can.
- FOLLOW LANE MARKINGS**  
Don't turn left from the right lane. Don't go straight in a lane marked right-turn.
- PASS ON THE RIGHT WITH CARE**  
Motorists may not look for or see a bicyclist passing on the right. They also may not signal their turns.

- CHOOSE THE BEST WAY TO TURN LEFT**  
There are two ways to make a left turn — (1) Like an auto: signal, move into the left turn lane and turn left with the traffic, and (2) like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far side crosswalk and walk your bike across the street.
- OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS**  
Bicyclists must follow the same laws as motorists if they are to be taken seriously.
- USE HAND SIGNALS**  
Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy, and self-protection.
- SCAN THE ROAD BEHIND**  
Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving left. Some riders use rear-view mirrors.
- BEWARE OF PARKED CARS AND PEDESTRIANS**  
Try to ride about a car door's width away from parked cars. Watch for people opening car doors and pedestrians darting out into the street. Don't weave in and out of parked cars.

- BEWARE OF APPROACHING VEHICLES TURNING LEFT**  
Many bicycle accidents in Santa Fe are caused by a motorist turning left and not seeing the approaching bicyclist.
- WATCH FOR CARS PULLING OUT**  
Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they don't see you until you are sure they do.
- MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS**  
Assume that motorists do not see you until you are sure that they do. Eye contact is important, with any driver who might pose a threat to your safety.
- AVOID ROAD HAZARDS**  
Look ahead for parallel-slot sewer grates, gravel, ice, debris, cracks, and potholes. Remember to allow extra distance for stopping in the rain since brakes may be less effective when wet.
- CROSS RAILROAD TRACKS CAREFULLY**  
Cross railroad tracks at a perpendicular angle so your tire does not slip on the rail or drop into the slot, causing a spill. Wet railroad tracks are very slippery.

- DRESS APPROPRIATELY**  
Wear a sturdy helmet to protect your head. Bright colored clothing will make you more visible to motorists. Santa Fe's weather can be unpredictable. Be prepared for rain or snow and sudden changes in temperature. Generally, dress in layers.
- USE A PACK OR RACK TO CARRY THINGS**  
Saddlebags, racks, and baskets are all good ways to carry packages, freeing your hands for safe riding. Never carry more than the design of your bike permits.
- LOCK YOUR BIKE WHEN YOU'RE GONE**  
Lock up to a post or bike rack, threading the chain through both wheels and the frame if you can. Deter thieves by clearly marking the frame and detachable parts with your bike registration number or social security number.
- USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT**  
The law requires a headlight and rear reflector or tail light at night. Wear light-colored clothes with reflective tape for extra visibility. Avoid wearing dark colors and red.
- WATCH FOR CHASING DOGS**  
Dogs are attracted by the spinning of wheels and feet. Ignore them, or try shouting a firm loud "NO". If a dog doesn't stop, dismount with your bike between you and the dog.