

# SHARING THE ROAD SAFELY

## Signal your turns

Watch out for drivers turning right in front of you when you are riding straight and make sure you are visible.



## Sharrow

Sharrows, also known as "shared-lane markings," have multiple purposes. They remind motorists of the presence of bicyclists, guide bicyclists to position themselves safely, and discourage wrong-way bicycling. As of this map printing, sharrows can be found in the City of Hilliard on Hilliard-Rome Road and Britton Parkway and in the City of Columbus on North High Street.



## Be visible



Wear bright, noticeable clothing whenever you ride. At night, the law requires you have white front and red rear lights on your bike. Wearing reflective clothing at night is also strongly recommended.

## Wear a helmet and make eye contact

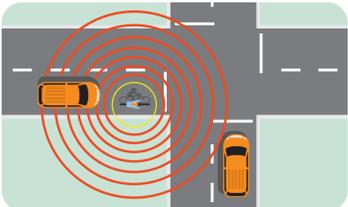
The City of Columbus requires all bicyclists under 18 to wear a helmet when riding. But it's advisable to wear a helmet at all ages! National studies have shown that 85% of brain injuries can be prevented by wearing a helmet. Let drivers know you are paying attention, and make sure they see you. Even with eye contact, some drivers may not act correctly, so be prepared!

## Don't wear headphones or earbuds!

You need to be able to hear what is going on around you when you ride. Wearing headphones or earbuds could cost you your life!

## Ride defensively

Be a smart bike driver! Stay aware of your surroundings at all times. Try to anticipate what is going to happen, and always watch out for traffic to the sides and behind you. Cyclists are safer with a rearview mirror.



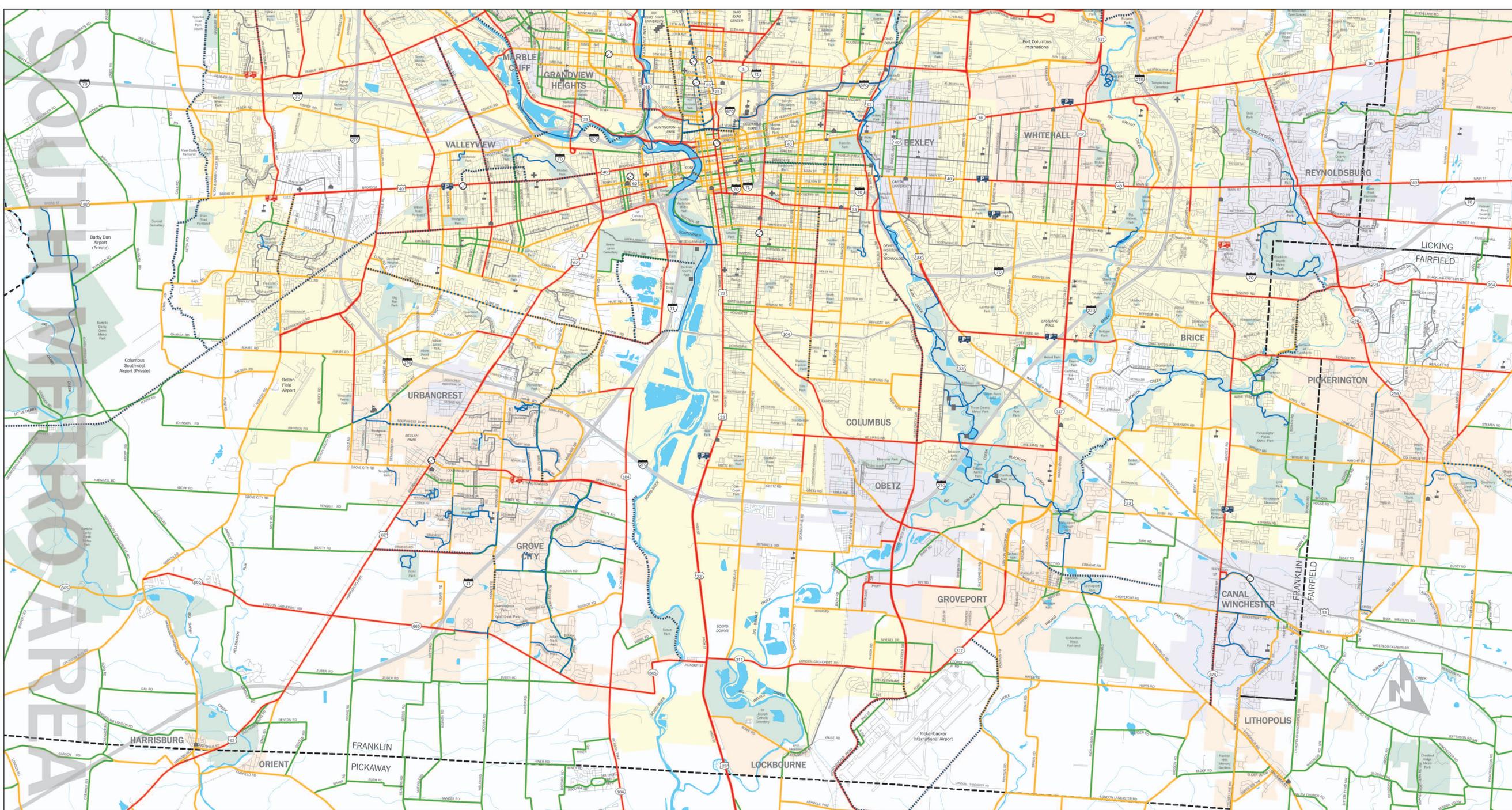
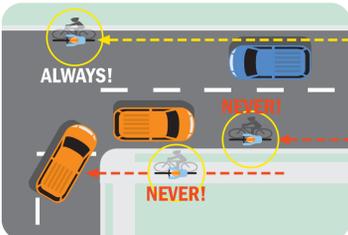
## Obey traffic signs and signals

Stop at all red lights and all stop signs. Riding predictably and obeying the law are the keys to safe bicycling.



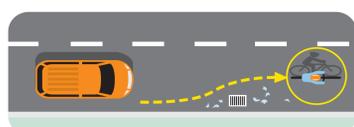
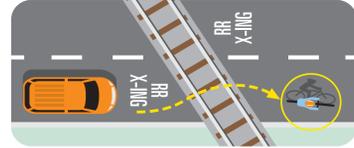
## Never ride against traffic!

Bicycles, like cars, must use the right side of the roadway. Never ride against traffic—drivers in vehicles don't expect it and it causes a dangerous situation for everyone.



## Cross railroad tracks at a right angle

Bicycle wheels can get caught in railroad track grooves. To avoid this, go straight across the tracks (at a right angle). Check for traffic behind you to make sure it's safe to move over.

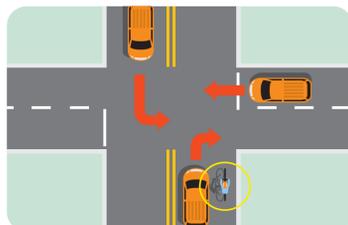


## Keep an eye on the road surface

If the lane is too narrow for cars to pass you safely, or if there is debris in the road, you may move to the center of the lane. Check behind you and signal your intent before "taking the lane." When the lane widens again, move over to the right to allow traffic to pass. Ride predictably without sudden movements.

## Watch out for cars

Watch out for drivers turning in front of you when you are riding straight and make sure you are visible.

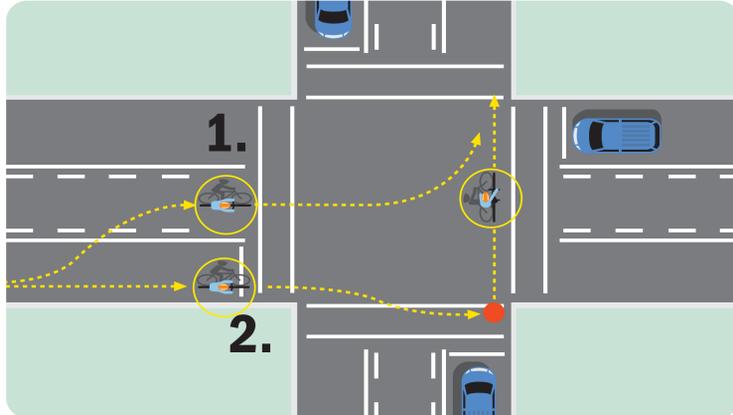


## How to turn left

There are two ways to turn left at an intersection. Either move into the left-turn lane and turn left the way a car would, or ride across the intersection, turn your bike to align with the crosswalk, and join the traffic once you have the right-of-way.

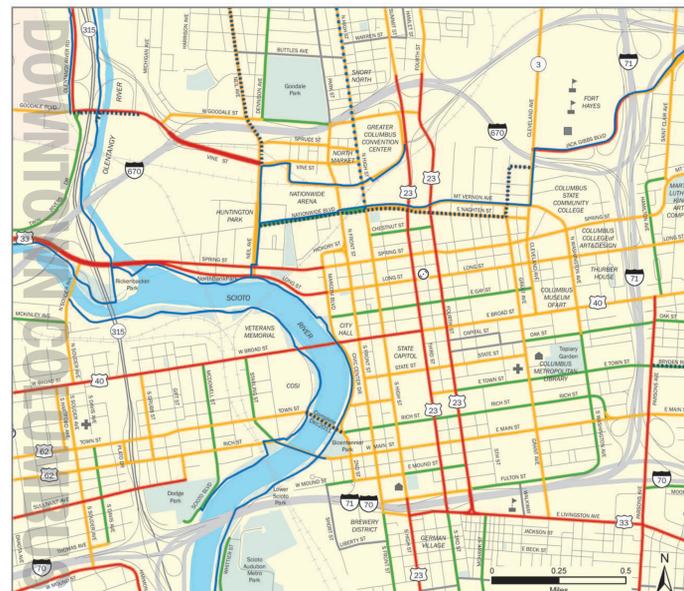
## Be careful at intersections

To cross an intersection, follow the lane markings. Use the lane farthest to the right that will take you where you are going. Remember to signal your turns.



## Avoid riding on sidewalks

If you must ride on a sidewalk, walk your bike if there are pedestrians nearby. Bicycles travel faster than pedestrians and a motorist checking for pedestrians before turning may not see your bicycle. Check for cars turning across the sidewalk at each intersection and driveway.



## LEGEND

**Bikeway Level of Service**

These designations were developed for non-rush hour travel.

- GOOD** Low-traffic roadways where bicyclists and motorists can more safely share the road. Suitable for bicyclists with basic skills.
- MODERATE** Roadways where the speed and volume of traffic may present challenges, especially at peak hours. Suitable for bicyclists with intermediate skills.
- POOR** Roadways with a high volume of traffic or high speeds. Extreme caution should be used on these roadways. Suitable only for bicyclists with advanced skills.
- RESIDENTIAL** These routes are generally low-traffic and low-speed, and suitable for bicyclists with basic skills. Some are preferred routes suggested by local bicyclists for getting from one area to another.
- EXISTING OFF-ROAD BIKEWAY** A shared-use path on which bicycles are permitted. Separate from roadways.
- BIKE LANE OR SHARROW** On-street designation for bicycles with paint markings in or alongside traffic lanes.
- COMMITTED BIKEWAY** Site of a future bikeway facility.

- HIGH SCHOOL
- HOSPITAL
- LIBRARY
- TRAIL HEAD
- BICYCLE SHOP OR BICYCLE CO-OP
- COTA PARK & RIDE
- COTA PARK WITH BIKE LOCKERS/RACKS
- RAILROAD
- STREAM
- RIVER
- PARK
- COUNTY BOUNDARY

2010

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles