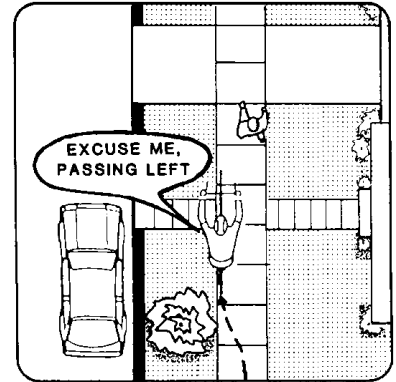


Bicycling on Sidewalks

Bicycling is permitted on sidewalks in Madison, except in areas where buildings abut the sidewalks. Although you have similar rights and responsibilities as pedestrians when riding on sidewalks, sidewalks are designed for pedestrian traffic, not bicycles. Ride at slower speeds than you would on the street and be prepared to stop at driveways and intersections. Obey WALK/ DON'T WALK lights at signalized intersections.

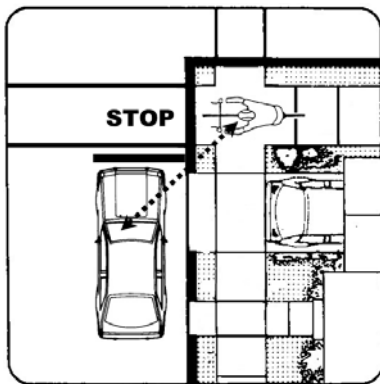
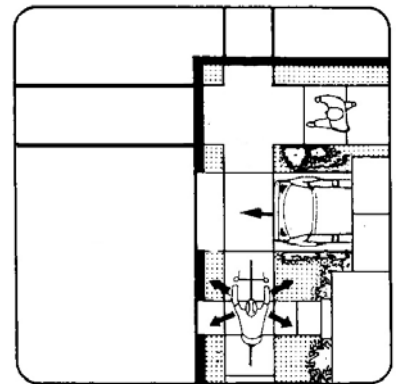
Pedestrians always have the right of way on sidewalks. When approaching pedestrians from behind, slow down, then let the pedestrian know you are there by either gently ringing a bell or saying something like "excuse me". Wait for the pedestrian to react before passing.



Some bicyclists feel safer riding on sidewalks than on the street. They want to be separated from cars and other motor vehicles. While the possibility of a crash occurring when a driver passes a bicyclist is eliminated when the bicyclist is on a sidewalk, *conflicts between bicyclists and motorists at intersections and driveways are compounded.* Between 20% - 30% of bicycle crashes in Madison each year involve a bicyclist who was riding on a sidewalk.

Ride defensively. Be aware of the inherent hazards of riding on sidewalks. Every driveway and intersection is a potential conflict point, and requires caution on your part.

Always check for cars that may be entering or exiting a driveway. Their drivers may not see you due to visual obstructions such as parked cars, buildings, fences, trees or shrubs.



Don't ride out in front of a car stopped at an intersection. The driver is looking for a gap in traffic and probably hasn't seen you approaching on the sidewalk. Slow down and make eye contact to be sure the driver has seen you. Riding in the same direction as traffic on the street will improve your chances of being seen by motorists.

Motorists: Expand the area you normally scan for traffic to include crosswalks and sidewalks in all directions. Bicyclists on sidewalks may be traveling in the opposite direction of traffic on the street. Bicyclists on sidewalks and in crosswalks have similar rights and responsibilities as pedestrians. This means you must yield to both pedestrians and bicyclists who are on the sidewalk when you enter or exit a driveway and to pedestrians and bicyclists in marked or unmarked crosswalks.



For more information on bicycling in Madison see
www.cityofmadison.com/bikeMadison
or call 266-4761

