

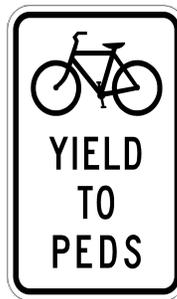
Many feel safer on a sidewalk than in traffic, even with a Bike Lane. Most pedestrians do not want bicycles on their sidewalks. In many cities it is not legal to ride on a sidewalk, in others it is restricted by your age.

In California it is legal to ride a bicycle on a sidewalk unless a local city prohibits or restricts it.

### It is legal in Irvine.

There are several *sidepaths* identified as “Off-Street Bikeways” – these extra wide sidewalks are seen along parts of many roads in Irvine. Some are posted as bike ‘trails’ with way-finding signs. They are different from true Class I Bikeways and multi-use paths as they do not have separation from streets with bridges and tunnels. *Sidepaths* use regular crosswalks at intersections and have driveways crossing them just like sidewalks do. For this reason *sidepaths* should be ridden just like sidewalks, except they are 2 way facilities, so half the riders are going the wrong way.

If riding sidewalks and *sidepaths* feels more comfortable than riding with traffic, it is important to know a few facts and safety tips.



**#1 Look out for others:** Sidewalks are intended for people walking; *sidepaths* are really multi-purpose paths not bikeways and you must expect people walking with you. Slow

down and yield to people walking. Expect them to stop, or turn around, or be wearing headphones & not hear you coming up on them. Watch for people exiting cars & store fronts, texting on phones, coming from side walkways...

Pass people and slower cyclists on their left. Use a bell to politely alert people. Ride single file on the right most of the time to leave space for passing and oncoming users.

### **#2 Look out for your self:**

When you are riding on a sidewalk, you have to deal with many hazards: pedestrians, street furniture, signs, newspaper boxes, light posts, etc... These items don't just make riding inconvenient; they also can make you invisible to motorists who are watching the road and not likely to watch the sidewalk as much.

Slow down and look carefully both ways and behind you at every intersection & driveway.

Watch for right-turning motorists who may be turning from a **STOP** or **RED LIGHT** (behind you or turning across in front of you) and make sure they see you before you enter the roadway or cross the driveway.

It is safest to dismount & walk your bike through crosswalks. If you choose to ride across, ride as slow as a person walking would go – motorists will get more time to see. Make eye contact & wave at motorists to make sure they see you.



Many crosswalks have signals. Obey them! A **GREEN** light for the road &  or “**DON'T WALK**” for the crosswalk means **stop** and wait for the next **WALK** signal.

Turning motorists will assume it is now safe to turn at the corner with their **GREEN**, and can easily hit you if you don't wait.



Watch for cars & other vehicles backing out of driveways or alleys across your path.





Ride with the flow of traffic on the road. Choose the sidewalk on the right side of the road when ever possible. Motorists entering a road way are looking left for a space to pull out into the road. If you are riding the wrong way, motorists looking left

while exiting a driveway or cross street will not see you.

Despite the hazards of wrong way sidewalk riding, *sidepaths* are offered as 2-way bikeways – so any time you are riding the **wrong way** (against street traffic) be very alert and careful because you are unpredictable to normal traffic behavior and likely invisible to most motorists.

If you need to go a short way on the wrong side to reach your destination, remember to ride like you are invisible.

If you have a sidewalk, or even a *sidepath*, there are few places where you will not find a sidewalk on the correct side of the street to choose. Cross the road to the right side.



Many choose to only travel on empty (or mostly empty) sidewalks. They stay off busy sidewalks. In Irvine you are likely have a Bike Lane to use or a quiet street option.

Video – See:

<https://bikeleague.org/content/riding-sidewalk>

With more experience, comfort & wanting to go farther & faster, you will move up to riding in the street... but first learn the rules of the road and vehicle code to be as predictable & safe as possible as part of traffic.



OCBike.org



BikeIrvine.org

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# Sidewalk Cycling

**Tips for safer  
riding of  
Bicycles  
on Sidewalks  
in Irvine**