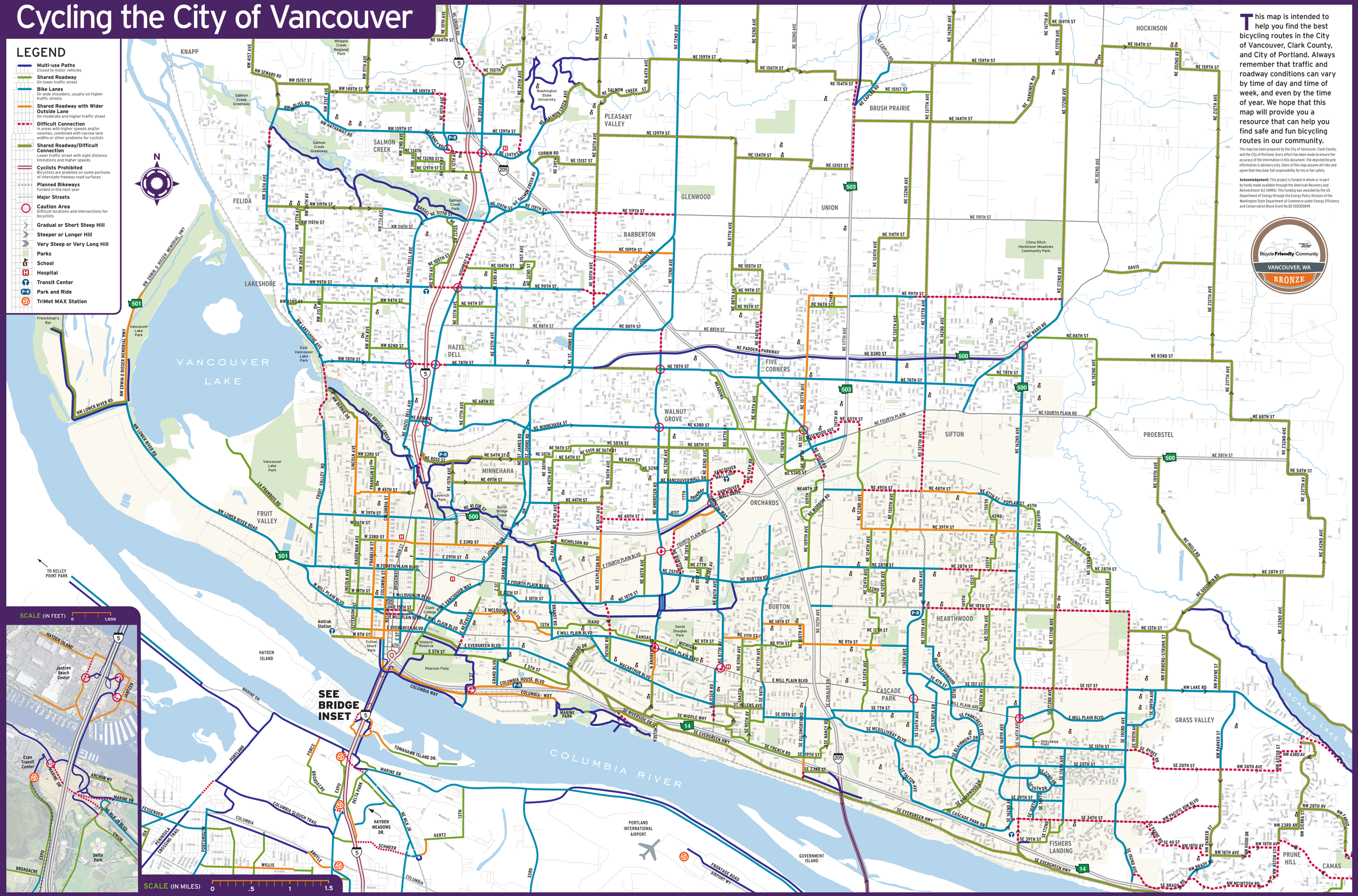
Cycling the City of Vancouver



This map is intended to help you find the best bicycling routes in the City of Vancouver, Clark County, and City of Portland. Always remember that traffic and roadway conditions can vary by time of day and time of week, and even by the time of year. We hope that this map will provide you a resource that can help you find safe and fun bicycling routes in our community.

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2012

Cycling the Cities

Vancouver, WA and Portland, OR

FREE

A local guide provided by the City of Vancouver

BIKE MAP

Cycling the City of Portland

Resources

Bikes and Transit

All C-TRAN and TriMet buses are equipped with bicycle racks available on a first come, first serve basis that can hold up to two bicycles at a time. Bicycles are not allowed on the Max and Portland Streetcar systems. No permit is required.

C-TRAN For route information or bicycle locker rentals go to www.c-tran.com or call 360-695-0123

TriMet For route information go to www.trimet.org or call 503-238-7433. For bike info go to www.trimet.org/howtoride/bikes

Street Maintenance

To report problems such as potholes and request street sweeping call one of the numbers below, dependent on location:

City of Vancouver Operations Department 360-696-8177
Clark County Public Works 360-397-6118
City of Portland 503-823-CYCL, press 1
Washington State Department of Transportation 360-905-2000

Program Information

For more information on bicycling in the City of Vancouver, City of Portland, or Clark County contact:

City of Vancouver
Long Range Planning
415 W 6th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
360-487-7728
www.cityofvancouver.us/bike

Clark County
Public Works
1300 Franklin Street, Floor 4
Vancouver, WA 98660
360-397-6118
www.clarkwa.gov/planning/bikeandped

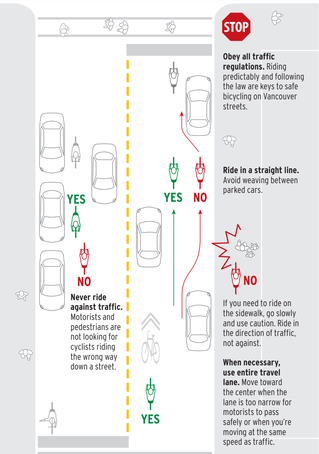
City of Portland
Office of Transportation
1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 800
Portland, OR 97204
503-823-5185
www.getthereonportland.org

Government Agencies

Vancouver–Clark Parks & Recreation 360-487-8311
Portland Parks and Recreation 503-823-2223
Metro 503-797-1700
Washington State Department of Transportation 503-986-4084
Washington State Department of Transportation Southwest Region 360-905-2000
Oregon Department of Transportation Region 1 (Portland area) 503-731-8200
City of Vancouver Police 360-487-7400
Portland Police Bureau 503-823-3333
Clark County Sheriff 360-397-2052
Multnomah Co Sheriff 503-988-4300
City of Portland, Transportation Options 503-823-5185

Sharing the Road

BIKING ON STREETS



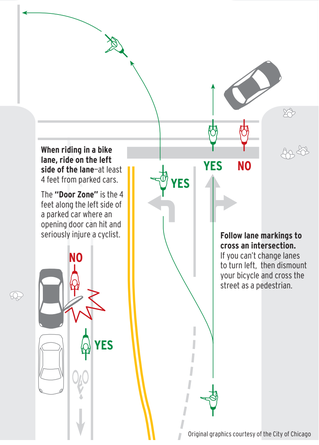
Obey all traffic regulations. Riding predictably and following the law are keys to safe bicycling on Vancouver streets.

Ride in a straight line. Avoid weaving between parked cars.

Never ride against traffic. Motorists and pedestrians are not looking for cyclists riding the wrong way down a street.

If you need to ride on the sidewalk, go slowly and use caution. Ride in the direction of traffic, not against.

When necessary, use entire travel lane. Move toward the center when the lane is too narrow for motorists to pass safely or when you're moving at the same speed as traffic.



When riding in a bike lane, ride on the left side of the lane–at least 4 feet from parked cars.

The **"Door Zone"** is the 4 feet along the left side of a parked car where an opening door can hit and seriously injure a cyclist.

Follow lane markings to cross an intersection. If you can't change lanes to turn left, then dismount your bicycle and cross the street as a pedestrian.

Original graphics courtesy of the City of Chicago

SHARROWS

Sharrows or shared roadway markings are placed on roadways to show where bicyclists can safely ride and to alert motorists to expect bicyclists on the road. Legally bicyclists can ride on all streets unless specifically prohibited. Sharrow are placed on streets that provide important links in the bicycling network.

Traffic Signals

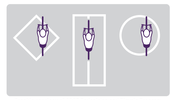
GETTING A SIGNAL TO CHANGE

When riding on City streets you may come across several different types of traffic signal detection.

PAVEMENT LOOP DETECTORS

These are electrically charged wires embedded in the pavement. The metal in a vehicle or your bike disrupts the electric current and triggers the signal. There should be enough metal in your bike to trigger the signal but sometimes you need to be in the right spot.

Leaning your bike over toward the ground may help too.



Graphic courtesy of ODOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program

TRAFFIC CAMERAS

More intersections are being installed with cameras to detect vehicles and bikes. Look up on the metal arm that holds the traffic signals to see if there are cameras. Cameras trigger the signal by detecting motion so if you aren't being detected, try waving your arms.

LOOP DETECTOR MARKING

The City of Vancouver has started using a bicycle loop detection symbol at many locations to note where to stop for the best detection. For best results place your tires over the two white vertical lines.

No visible traffic camera, loop, or stencil? The signal may be running on a fixed time system. This means the light is already preset to change at certain intervals.

Please remember to be patient. Many signal cycles in the City of Vancouver may take up to 2 minutes to get to you so please try to avoid running red lights. As a last resort, you can dismount from your bike and push the pedestrian push button to trigger the signal.

Still no luck? Call the City of Vancouver at 360-696-8177.

Riding Safely

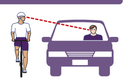
TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE

USE HAND SIGNALS

Use hand signals so that drivers know where you're going. Signal all your turns and stops ahead of time. Also, before turning, look over your shoulder for any traffic. Check and only move when it's safe.

MAKE EYE CONTACT

Confirming eye contact with motorists helps them know that you're on the road.



SEE, BE SEEN AND BE HEARD

Use lights at night or when visibility is poor. A white headlight and rear red reflector are required by law. Flashing lights are especially effective.

Use bike reflectors, reflective clothing and a bell.

USE YOUR HEAD

Never use headphones. You won't be able to hear what's going on around you. Using earphones is not only dangerous, it's illegal in Washington.

The City of Vancouver has a bicycle helmet ordinance requiring both adults and children to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle, roller skates, in-line skates, skateboard, scooter, or unicycle in a public area.