Bicyclists’ Rules of the Road:

Give Respect & Get Respect

Traffic signals are for cyclists too
Obey all traffic signs and signals. Stop behind the stop line so as not to block pedestrians in crosswalks.

Left turns
Turn left as a vehicle by merging into the left turn lane or left side of single lane. Or dismount and cross as a pedestrian using crosswalks.

Avoid the right hook
Avoid passing any moving vehicle on the right. Pass traffic slowly and carefully (including when there are bike lanes) and watch for turning vehicles.

Beware of the door zone!
Try to ride at least 4 feet away from parked cars, even if there is a bike lane or traffic passing you.

Don't be invisible!
Bikes are required by law to have a front white light, rear red light/reflector, and side and pedal/ankle reflectors at night.

Ride single file
Unless passing, ride single file. Notify other cyclists of overtaking cars by announcing, “Car back.”

Pass busses on the left
Bus passengers exit on the right, so always pass a stopped or stopping bus on the left; or wait behind until it starts moving again.

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as operators of motor vehicles, according to Massachusetts State Law. This means cyclists must follow all traffic rules, and they are allowed to bike on any road in the state, except for limited access highways like I-93. Following the same rules as other vehicles makes you predictable and significantly reduces the likelihood of a crash. Obeying the law also signifies respect to all road users, emphasizing the fact that bikes belong on our streets.

Sidewalks are for walking
Bike riding on sidewalks is prohibited in business districts. Other sidewalks may be used at a slow pace.

Pass pedestrians with care
When on a path or sidewalk, pass other users with care; announce your presence with a bell or friendly “on your left.”

Yield to pedestrians
Stop for all pedestrians in crosswalks. Do not pass other vehicles stopped at crosswalks - there may be a pedestrian crossing in front of them.

Look and signal before turning
Always look behind you to see if it is clear before turning or changing lanes.

Pass pedestrians with care
When on a path or sidewalk, pass other users with care; announce your presence with a bell or friendly “on your left.”

Don't swerve
Ride in a straight, predictable line. Car drivers may not be able to avoid you if you suddenly move into their path.
This map can help you navigate whether you bike for pleasure, commuting, shopping, or exercise. While all streets in Somerville are open to bicycles (other than I-93 and McGrath Hwy) the routes highlighted here indicate the easiest and quickest routes for cycling across town or between business districts. The City continues to invest in road and path improvements so stay tuned for more lanes, sharrows, and extended multi-use paths.