

SCHOOL ROUTES



WHY DEVELOP A SUGGESTED SCHOOL ROUTE PROGRAM?

The County of Ventura considers pedestrian and bicyclist safety to be very important. Studies have shown that school age pedestrians and bicyclists are the group at greatest risk on County streets.

In order to minimize that risk, the County has prepared a set of guidelines to help educate elementary grade school children on how to reach school as safely as possible.

The specific information provided in this brochure includes bicycle rider rules and safe pedestrian habits. Maps have been developed for a few elementary schools in some of the

School Districts covering unincorporated areas of the County. Each map shows the suggested route to school for school children coming from the surrounding residential community.

WHICH ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT RULES FOR BICYCLISTS?

When riding bicycles on County streets, bicyclists should keep the following in mind:

1. Keep your bicycle in good mechanical condition (tires, chain, brakes).
2. Obey all traffic rules and signs and always give proper hand signals.
3. Walk your bike across busy intersections by using the push button to activate the pedestrian signal.
4. Always ride with the traffic and as close as possible to the right side of the road.
5. Be sure the roadway is clear before entering.
6. Always ride single file and watch for opening car doors.

7. Most bicycles are built to carry one person - YOU! and you alone.
8. If you must ride your bike at night, be sure your headlight and reflectors are in good condition.
9. Select the safest route to your destination and use it. Avoid busy intersections.
10. Yield right of way to pedestrians and always wear a bicycle helmet.

WHICH ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT RULES FOR PEDESTRIANS?

When walking on County streets, pedestrians should keep the following in mind:

1. When walking along a road where a sidewalk is not provided, walk on the left side facing oncoming traffic.
2. Look in all directions before crossing the street for cars, pedestrians, bicyclists, and mopeds.
3. Never cross the street from between parked cars because drivers cannot see you.

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4. Always stand on the curb, not in the street, while waiting to cross.
5. Cross only at corners where drivers can see you.
6. Always use a crosswalk when it is available, but remember, painted lines cannot force drivers to stop.
7. Do not take rides from strangers.
8. At a traffic signal, use the push button whenever possible and cross with the walk signal only.
9. When crossing the street, watch for cars that are turning left or right.
10. When using Crosswalks with Adult School Crossing Guards:
 - ✓ Obey the directions of the Crossing Guard.
 - ✓ Don't run across the street - always walk.
 - ✓ Be alert for traffic - drivers sometimes fail to obey the Crossing Guard stop signs.
 - ✓ Do not ride bicycles or skateboards across the street - walk with them.

WHO DEVELOPED THESE MAPS?

The suggested school route maps were developed by the School Districts in conjunction with the County's Transportation Department.

Wherever possible, the suggested school routes took into account physical barriers such as railway lines, freeways, and high volume major arterial streets.

The suggested routes were also designed to take advantage of low volume residential streets, stop signs, traffic signals, adult school crossing guards, pedestrian bridges, and existing sidewalks.

If you want a suggested school route map developed for your school, please contact your local School District.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic please call the Transportation Department at: **(805) 654-2049** or through the "Contact Us" link at: <http://www.countyofventura.org>



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