

LET'S WORK  
TOGETHER

VISIONZERO  
COLUMBUS

Columbus.gov/VisionZero

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q1 WHAT IS VISION ZERO COLUMBUS?

A: Vision Zero Columbus is a multi-agency traffic safety initiative committed to protecting lives above all other goals of the city's transportation system. Vision Zero Columbus' mission is to end crash-related fatalities and serious injuries. By changing how we design and build streets, and equipping travelers with the knowledge and awareness to adopt safe habits, Vision Zero is making the city safer for all pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists and drivers. The loss of just one life—a family member, friend or colleague—to traffic violence is one too many.

## Q3 WHO IS AT MOST RISK OF BEING INVOLVED IN A SERIOUS OR FATAL CRASH?

A: Almost half of the people killed on Columbus streets are vulnerable road users—people walking, biking or riding motorcycles. Nearly a quarter of Ohio's fatal crashes involve a driver under the age of 25. More than two-thirds of traffic violence victims are male. If the Columbus community is to achieve zero crash-related fatalities and serious injuries, it is vitally important for each of us to always practice safe habits and be aware of others when traveling by any mode on city streets.

## Q5 WHEN DO PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY?

A: Pedestrians have the right of way in a marked crosswalk except when they have a red light. Pedestrians may legally cross at any intersection, even if the crosswalk isn't marked, and once a pedestrian is attempting to cross the street people driving should **always** yield to them.

## Q2 WHAT IS DRIVE SAFE, WALK SAFE, BIKE SAFE?

A: **Drive Safe, Walk Safe, Bike Safe** is a message that reminds all who use the city's transportation system to stay aware and practice safe habits to prevent traffic crashes. Safety does not rest on the shoulders of one particular group. It is up to everyone using the city's streets and sidewalks to know and follow traffic rules, avoid distractions, and look out for one another.

## Q4 WHY CRASHES, NOT ACCIDENTS?

A: The word "accident" implies that there is no accountability and that crashes are inevitable. But crashes are preventable and can be avoided. Together, we can make changes to end traffic violence.

## Q6 SHOULD BICYCLES BE ON THE ROAD IF THERE ISN'T A MARKED BIKE LANE?

A: Yes. In fact, in the City of Columbus riding a bicycle on the sidewalks is prohibited by city code. Bicyclists are required to use the road even if there is not a marked or protected bike lane. People riding bikes may use the full width of the traffic lane.

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DRIVE SAFE. WALK SAFE. BIKE SAFE.



SCAN ME



**WHAT DIFFERENT RULES DO BICYCLE RIDERS FOLLOW ON THE ROAD?**

A: Bicyclists have the same rights to the road as motorists. Bicyclists follow the same laws and flow of traffic that cars and motorcycles do, including using a white light on the front of the bike and both a red reflector and a red light in the rear at night.



**HOW MANY FATAL CRASHES HAPPENED IN COLUMBUS LAST YEAR?**

A: More than 70 people died in traffic crashes in Columbus in 2021. One preventable traffic death is one too many. Distracting habits such as checking your cell phone while driving decreases awareness and can lead to crashes.



**WHAT HABITS CAN MAKE ME A SAFER DRIVER?**

A: Slow down and obey posted speed limits. Even small decreases in speed have a large impact on safety. Statistics show a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling more than 35 mph has a low chance of survival. Avoiding distractions, understanding the rules of the road, and anticipating how other travelers are using city streets and sidewalks are critical for safe travel.



**HOW CAN I JOIN VISION ZERO IN ITS MISSION TO END SERIOUS INJURIES AND FATAL CRASHES?**

A: Take the Vision Zero pledge to be a safe driver, pedestrian or bicyclist. You can also connect with Vision Zero Columbus on social media to help spread awareness. Most importantly, practice safe habits every day. Slow down, follow the rules of the road and avoid distractions when driving, walking or biking. These small changes make big differences in traffic safety. Please encourage your family and friends to do the same. Together, we can save lives.

**Drive Safe.  
Walk Safe.  
Bike Safe.**



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CRASH-RELATED FATALITIES AND  
SERIOUS INJURIES ON OUR STREETS."**