



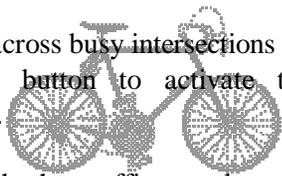
## ***Why Develop a Suggested School Route Program?***

The City of Bakersfield 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 City streets. In order to minimize that risk, the City 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. A map for most elementary schools within the City has been developed that shows the suggested route to school for school children coming from the surrounding residential community. Copies of the map for each school can be obtained from the local school or school district office.

### ***Which Are The Most Important Bicycle Rider's Rules?***

When riding bicycles on City 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 as close as



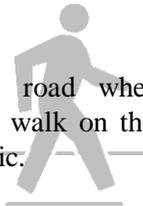
possible to the right side of the road.

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.
11. Always wear a bicycle helmet.

### ***Which Pedestrian Habits Are Considered The Safest?***

When walking on City 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.
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. 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.



### ***For Which Locations Have Suggested School Route Maps Been Developed?***

Suggested school route maps have been developed by many of the local elementary schools and their district offices. Contact your local school for availability.

### ***Who Developed These Maps?***

The suggested school route maps were developed by the school districts and the school principals. The Traffic Engineer and the City Police Department assist the schools in the map development. The school routes suggested take into account physical barriers such as railway lines, freeways and high volume major arterial streets. The suggested routes are also designed to take advantage of low volume residential streets, stop signs, traffic signals, adult school crossing guards, pedestrian bridges and existing sidewalks.

## ***When Using Crosswalks with Adult School Crossing Guards:***

1. Obey the directions of the Crossing Guard.
2. Don't run across the street, always walk.
3. Be alert for traffic. Drivers sometimes fail to obey the Crossing Guard stop signs.
4. Don't ride bicycles or skateboards across the street, walk with them.

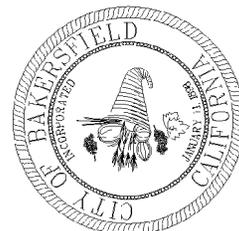
## ***Citizen Concerns***

The City takes our role in solving traffic problems very seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests with you, the motorist in Bakersfield. Although we receive over 200 citizen requests per year, we try to investigate your request as quickly as work load permits. We will respond after carefully evaluating your request. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

## ***Other Traffic Information Brochures Available***

Adult School Crossing Guards  
Left Turn Traffic Signals  
Marked Crosswalks  
Neighborhood Traffic Safety  
Speed Bumps  
Speed Limits  
Stop Signs & Traffic Signals  
Traffic Signal Systems

Latest Revision 10/21/99



City of Bakersfield  
Public Works Department  
Traffic Engineering Division  
1501 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

# ***Suggested***

## ***Route to***

## ***School***



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