



Bicycles and the New UC Davis Cyclist 2009 - 2010

Advice & Information from the campus Bicycle Coordinator at Transportation & Parking Services

Davis, both the city and the campus, has earned the name “Bicycle Capital of the U.S.” because of efforts to provide its thousands of pedalers with a “bicycle friendly” environment. Wide streets, well-marked bike lanes, inviting pathways, gentle terrain, mild climate, and an attitude of mutual respect between cyclists and motorists have resulted in a community with the most bikes per capita of any in the nation.

Even if you’re not a bicycle enthusiast, chances are you’ll soon find yourself depending on your bike for a significant portion of your travels around the Davis community. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to bicycle instead of drive in order to support local efforts to reduce traffic congestion, air pollution, and demand for auto parking spaces.

BICYCLE CHOICE, PARKING AND THEFT PREVENTION

All bikes on the UC Davis campus *must* have a current California Bicycle License. A new license costs \$10 and a renewal is \$5. Both are valid until December 31 of the second year following the year of registration. Bike licenses are available at the Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) office Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Most new students license their bicycles during **Fall Welcome Week** (Sept. 21 - 25). Monday – Friday of that week, licenses will only be available outside in front of the TAPS building just south of the ARC. Sales will resume inside TAPS on Monday, September 28.

Each year, hundreds of bicycles are stolen on campus and in the city of Davis. Most thefts can be prevented by properly securing the bicycle with an adequate lock to an approved, fixed object. **Always** lock your bike and lock it to a bike rack or bike pod! The majority of stolen bicycles have been left unlocked, locked only to themselves, or secured with a lock too weak relative to the value of the bike. U-locks, such as Kryptonite, are recommended, but a knowledgeable thief can easily defeat even these. A 6-foot cable or chain (the thicker the better) used with a U-lock allows you to lock to any rack or pod available and secure your wheels as well. Be aware that any cable is easily cut. Don’t entrust your good bicycle to a cable alone. A less expensive bicycle is usually at lower risk of theft, but you should not compromise safety, reliability or efficiency when choosing a bike.

Davis is a great place to buy a bike. With six bike shops conveniently located within a few blocks of each other, variety, selection and competitive prices are ensured. Students who do not wish to transport a bicycle from home or feel that their old bicycle is unsuitable for everyday use can take advantage of local sales, service and repair at one of Davis’ many dealers. Qualified bicycle shops will be able to outfit anyone with the right size and style of bicycle, as well as the appropriate security devices.

Those looking for an inexpensive “fixer-upper” bicycle may find just what they are looking for at the **biannual UC Davis Bike Auctions** which take place in the fall and spring quarters. More than 400 bikes are available at these sales! The fall auction will be on Saturday, October 10, inside the West Entry Parking Structure at Hutchison Drive and Dairy Road. Call (530) 752-BIKE for more information. The spring auction is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2010.

Before you bring your bike to Davis, make sure it is in good condition. This means legal brakes, safe tires, lights and reflectors. If you are unsure of your bike’s condition, have it checked out by a qualified mechanic. Buy and install fenders before the first rains –you’ll want them then!

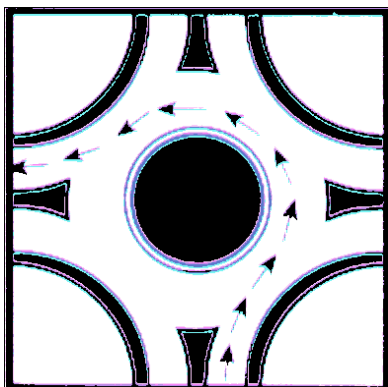
Students may choose to store bicycles in their residence hall room or apartment. Many on-campus residences have ceiling hooks that allow you to hang your bike out of the way. Staff and faculty members may be able to park their bikes in their office or other assigned workspace with the permission of their department chairperson. Bike lockers are also available to rent in three campus locations.

With so many bicycles on campus, **parking regulations are strictly enforced.** Illegally parked bikes create problems and inconvenience for people, damage property, and generally constitute a hazard. Bikes may park **only** in designated parking areas. **Illegally parked bikes are subject to impoundment and fine.**

BICYCLE SAFETY

- **Obey all traffic laws!** According to the California Vehicle Code, every person riding a bicycle upon a street or highway has all the rights and responsibilities of the driver of a motor vehicle. On campus **traffic regulations are strictly enforced**. You may be cited for running stop signs, riding at an unsafe speed for conditions, riding on the wrong side of the road or on sidewalks, wearing headphones while riding, not having legal brakes, etc. **Cyclists are required by state law to use front white lights, rear red reflectors, pedal and side reflectors at night.** Additional lights—especially rear red flashers, reflectors, and light colored clothing are a good idea.
- **Buy and wear a helmet.** They can greatly reduce the risk of head injury or death. Don't "hit the road" without one. But remember: even the best helmet has limitations and they don't prevent crashes. Defensive cycling is the key to bike safety. In the words of John Forester, "Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles."
- One of the more prominent features of the campus cycling environment is the traffic circle or "roundabout". There are over a dozen such intersections around the campus. Some are at the junctions of roadways, others at bike path crossings, and some where bike paths meet roads. There are **two important rules** to remember when approaching a traffic circle: **Always ride counterclockwise** through the circle, and **always yield right-of-way** to any bike or vehicle already in the circle. Signaling your turns is especially helpful in circles, and be sure to watch out for others and adjust your speed or turns accordingly. Not everyone will necessarily understand or obey these right-of-way or yield rules, so **ride defensively!**

ROUNDAABOUT RULES

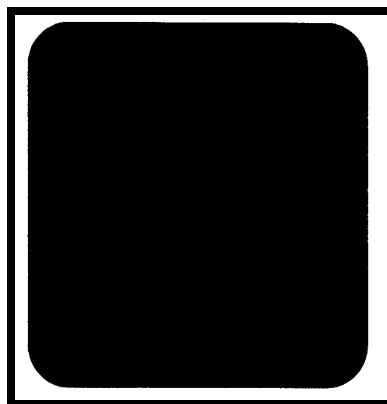


- Ride counter-clockwise.
- Traffic already in the circle has the right of way.
- Don't cut across the center of the circle or go against the traffic flow.
- When passing someone in the circle, pass on the left.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS... SEE AND BE SEEN!



OR



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE UC DAVIS BIKE PROGRAM AT 530/752-BIKE
<http://www.taps.ucdavis.edu/BICYCLES.HTM>

newucd2008.doc