SAFETY & COURTESY TIPS
Be a PAL on Arlington’s Streets

Safety & courtesy tips are vital for all road users to share the streets safely. Whether you’re walking, cycling, or driving, it’s important to respect each other’s rights and space. A little courtesy will help everyone reach their destination safely.

As more people use Arlington’s Car-Free Diet, there are more cyclists and pedestrians sharing the street with drivers. Whether you’re on two feet, two wheels, or four wheels, everyone needs to be a PAL to safely share the streets.

As a PAL means being:
Predictable – Travel in a predictable way; don’t make sudden, unexpected moves.
Alert – Pay attention to your surroundings and to others.
Lawful – Obey the traffic laws, whether in a car, on a bike, or on foot.

The street scene below illustrates some useful safety and courtesy tips for walking, cycling, and driving.

Walking
1. Right-of-way: Always yield to people crossing the street in crosswalks.
2. Always walk on the sidewalk unless walking across a wide roadway.
3. When crossing at an unmarked intersection, make eye contact with drivers before crossing.
4. Be prepared to stop if you do not see a driver.

Cycling
5. Cyclists obey traffic signs and signals like drivers do.
6. Keep your hands on the handlebars, except when making a turn.
7. Use bike lanes, trails, and shoulders whenever possible.
8. Ride single file on shoulders when necessary.
9. Ride in the same direction as traffic, yield to pedestrians.
10. Always wear a helmet, and use lights, reflective clothing, and reflective gear.

Driving
11. Be alert and use proper signaling while driving.
12. Obey posted speed limits. When in doubt, assume an oncoming car is going faster than you.
13. Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning right.
14. Be extra vigilant at intersections, in crosswalks, and when turning right.

Always ride in the same direction as traffic; use hand signals to communicate your intentions.
Allow 3 feet when passing cyclists.

Share the Streets: We’re All In This Together
Whether you are walking, cycling or driving, it’s important for everyone to be a PAL and respect each other’s rights and space. A little courtesy will help everyone reach their destination safely.

For more information on how to safely share Arlington’s streets, visit: CarFreeGet.com, BikeArlington.com and WalkArlington.com.