

Bike to Work

Albuquerque is in the midst of creating a transportation system that provides options that meet the needs of individuals and the community as a whole. The majority of Albuquerque residents have bicycles stored in their garages but there is the perception that bicycles are strictly for residential purposes. City Council and the community have made the commitment to expand the on-street bikeway and multi-use trail system through dedicated transportation funds. The City of Albuquerque has made great progress through various planning and construction activities within the last several years in developing an improved system. These efforts are making bicycle commuting a viable transportation alternative.

Benefits of Bike Commuting

- Is a great way to get practical exercise and be active
- Boosts your energy levels throughout the day.
- Saves you money on gas and maintenance.
- Helps you skip the traffic headache.
- Eliminates hassles of trying to find parking.
- Allows you to enjoy the scenery along your ride.
- Allows you to be a proactive influence and promote more riders.
- Is environmentally friendly and reduces your carbon footprint.



Photo by Roland Penttila

Albuquerque Multi-Use Trails

The City of Albuquerque plans, designs, constructs, and maintains most of the multi-use trails within the Albuquerque region. There are also paved multi-use trails not within the City's jurisdiction that are part of the overall multi-use trail network or system. The Albuquerque metropolitan area has approximately 177 miles of official non-motorized multi-use trails and the system continues to grow every year. For trails that are not paved, the Albuquerque region provides hundreds of miles of easy-to-find natural surface trails for recreational purposes.

Expect to encounter pedestrians, bicyclists, walkers (sometimes with dogs), wheelchair users, scooters, skateboarders, in-line skaters, runners, and equestrians while on the multi-use trail network. Always use slow and safe speeds and be cautious and courteous to ensure you and everyone else has an enjoyable and safe trail experience.



Interactive Bike Trail Guides

Two avid bicyclist/writers and an award-winning photographer have combined to write a guide to Albuquerque's wonderful bicycle trails, which cover a surprising amount of the city. They write of the sights to be seen along the way, the natural history and the human history of Albuquerque as it unfolds as you roll along (on walk or run or skate). Available for each tour are a brief version with availability of parking and mileages from the ends to major intersections along the way, a full version with all of that history and many photographs, and a map. Find all of this on the city's website at <http://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/recreation/bike/bicycle-trail-guides>



Safety

An approved bicycle helmet can greatly reduce the risk of death or permanent injury in the event of an accident. Look for the ANSI Z90.4.

On-Street Bikeways

Ride Defensively - Prepare for the unexpected and plan alternate maneuvers to avoid conflict. Rules alone do not always protect cyclists from injury. Be alert.



Albuquerque Code of Ordinances

Chapter 8: Traffic Code

§ 8-3-3-1 JURISDICTION.

The regulations in §§ 8-3-3-1 et seq. shall be applicable whenever a bicycle is operated on any municipal paved or dirt path or roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or set aside for use of bicycles with pedestrians, motorcycles and/or horseback riders and shall also be applicable to all streets, parking lots and the like, regardless of road surfaces covered by § 8-3-3-2.

§ 8-3-3-2 PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY.

The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of §§ 8-3-3-1 et seq.

§ 8-3-3-3 BICYCLE SERIAL NUMBER.

- A. No person shall alter, obliterate or change the serial number imprinted on the frame of any bicycle.
- B. No person shall sell or rent a bicycle on which the serial number imprinted on the frame has been altered, obliterated or changed.
- C. This section shall not prohibit the restoration by an owner of an original serial number or mark.

§ 8-3-3-4 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS APPLY.

- A. Operators of bicycles have the same rights as operators of automobiles in the use of streets, highways and roadways within the city, except as otherwise specifically provided herein.
- B. Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the drivers of motor vehicles, except as otherwise expressly provided in this Traffic Code and except to those provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature can have no applications; and each such person shall be subject to the same provisions and sections of this Traffic Code to which a motorist is subject.

§ 8-3-3-5 OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

- A. Any person operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of official traffic control signals, signs, and other control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.
- B. Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating that no right or left of turn is permitted, no person operating a bicycle shall disobey the direction of any such sign, except where such person dismounts from the bicycle to make such turn, in which event such person shall then obey the regulations applicable to pedestrians.

§ 8-3-3-6 RIDING ON PROHIBITED STREETS OR CONTROLLED ACCESS ROADWAYS.

No person shall ride a bicycle either on any street or path where signs have been erected by the Mayor or his designated representative which prohibit the use of the street or path to bicycles, which restrict the use of the street or path to modes of transportation

Getting Started

Plan your route. Map out your route in advance using this map. If there are gaps in the suggested routes or direct routes, try going out on the weekend or after to explore alternatives. A leisurely ride through the neighborhoods along the way will reveal alternate roads that may be perfect for your commute. Make a practice run. The more comfortable you are with your route, the easier your commute will be. Get acquainted with your bike. If there are adjustments that will need to be made this is the time to discover that. Get used to riding your bike in a variety of traffic conditions. You will need to plan for arriving at your destination. Where you will park your bike, freshen up and change your clothes, if necessary, are all good things to know in advance. Learn and practice good safety skills and riding habits. You can do this on your own or through a bicycle safety class offered by the City of Albuquerque, Bicycle Safety and Education Program.

Helpful Commuting Tips

- Get a mechanically sound bike you are comfortable riding
- Wear a helmet that is properly fitted and less than 5 years old
- Plan your route and ride it on a non-work day to gauge time
- Have a front light, rear reflector, rear light and reflective gear
- Plan your work attire and store clothing at work
- Buy a good lock and learn how to use it
- Never leave home without a spare tube, a patch kit, and a pump
- Take a City Cycling class at the Esperanza Community Bike Shop
- Join the "Guarantee Ride Home" from the City of Albuquerque's Transit Department

Equipment

Bicycle. A mechanically sound bicycle is essential. Be sure all gears, wheels and brakes are in good working order and that the frame is sound.

Helmet. Besides your bike, a helmet that fits well is your most important piece of bicycle commuting equipment.

Clothing. Wear bright clothing so motorists will notice you.

Lights. Lights are necessary if you are going to be riding in darkness. Red strobe lights are very effective. You will want to be seen in low visibility.

Tires. Keep your tires properly inflated. Use high quality treadless tire liners. Carry a spare tube or patch kit, tire levers and a pump and know how to use them. You may consider making a test run to make sure you are comfortable with fixing a flat before you find yourself in the position of having to do it on your way to work.

Carriers. A rack, panniers (saddlebags), basket, or backpack will be necessary for carrying things and to free up your hands for gripping the handle bars.

Bicycle Safety Program

The Bicycle Safety Program offers "Bicycle Safety Rodeos" and presentations to schools and the community. Children and adults learn basic bicycling skills, traffic laws, helmet use, and safety. Presented by certified instructors, the Bicycle Safety Program provides all equipment including bicycles, helmets, literature, signs, and instruction.

Presentations/Rodeos on bicycle safety are available for cub/boy/girl scouts, community centers, after school programs, churches, etc. For more information call 768-BIKE (2453).

Parents,

Please discuss the following information with your child.

- When they ride a bicycle on a public street, the bicycle is considered a vehicle, not a toy. All traffic laws, such as stopping at stop signs and red lights, must be obeyed.
- The bicycle should be ridden in the direction of the traffic, not against the traffic.
- Children should never ride in the dark unless they are experienced, and their bicycles must have proper reflectors and a head light.
- Bicycles are easy stolen. Children should always lock their bicycles rather than just leaving them.
- Is my child mature enough to understand the rules and responsibilities of bicycling in traffic?



WEDNESDAYS: PRACTICE 6PM-8:00
FRIDAYS: RACING 6PM
SATURDAYS: RACING 10AM

505-890-1269 dukecitybmx.org

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Parking

Park in open areas where many people pass by and your bicycle can be easily seen. The best bike racks are made with thick, sturdy tubing, are bolted down, and allow you to lock both the frame and the wheels to the rack. When locking your bike to an object other than a bike rack, parking meter, or sign post, ensure that it is not possible to slide the bike up and over the top of the object. Your employer may allow you to park your bike inside the building where you work. This is a good way to avoid theft and protect your bike from the elements.

Locking Your Bike

Lock the whole bike. Place your chain, cable, or U-lock through your frame and wheels. If you have a quick-release front hub, you might consider taking it off and locking it with the rear wheel and frame. When using a padlock, put it where it's not close to the ground, a wall or other solid surface, and decrease the slack in your cable or chain. It's advisable to remove any easily removable accessories that cannot be locked such as quick-release seats, horns, bike bags, pumps, cycle computers, or lights.



Esperanza Community Bike Shop

Esperanza Community Bike is a non-retail community resource for learning all about bicycles, from maintaining one's own bicycle to refurbishing old bicycles for new use. The shop is also the home of the Richard Rivas Community Bike Recycling Program. Donations and volunteers are always welcome, and please remember to support your local bike shop! Programs offered: Open Shop Hours, Youth Build-a-Bike, Adult Earn-a-Bike, and Safety and Mechanical Classes. Visit: <http://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/recreation/bike/esperanza-community-bike-shop>

Open Shop

Open Shop at Esperanza Community Bike Shop is the time when the shop is open to the public. During these hours, you can bring in your bike and get it back in running shape. The shop will provide you with the use of a repair stand and the needed tools, but you are expected to perform the work yourself. If the repair requires more mechanical expertise than you are comfortable performing, the friendly staff at the shop will be on hand to offer guidance.

Open Shop Hours

Standard Hours
Tuesday: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Wednesday: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Thursday: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Sunday: Noon to 7:00pm

Summer Hours (June-August)
Tuesday: 3:00pm to 8:00pm
Wednesday: 3:00pm to 8:00pm
Thursday: 3:00pm to 8:00pm
Sunday: Noon to 7:00pm

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Scan for online map and cycling information

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