



**L O O K O U T
T E X A N S**

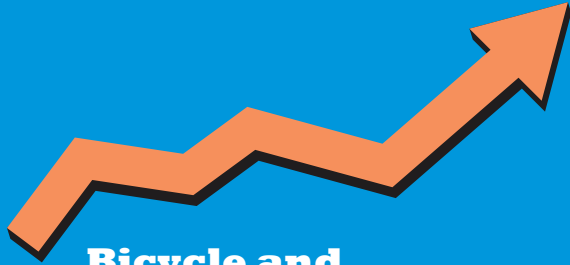
**B I K E
W A L K
D R I V E
S A F E L Y**



LookOutTexans.org



Bicycle and pedestrian crashes have been increasing in North Texas since 2010. Over a five-year period more than **10,500 bicycle and pedestrian crashes** occurred resulting in more than **800 fatalities***.



Bicycle and pedestrian crash fatalities have increased by over 50% since 2010.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is committed to reducing bicycle and pedestrian deaths through **education**, encouragement, engineering, and enforcement efforts.

The **Look Out Texans** campaign is focused on educating all road users of their rights and responsibilities when walking, bicycling, or driving in North Texas.

North Texans Must Look Out for One Another to Bike, Walk and Drive Safely

Every day, students, parents, neighbors, co-workers, friends – fellow North Texans – are bicycling, walking and driving to schools, jobs, stores and other destinations. It's important we look out for each other and understand the rules of the road for bicycling, walking and driving. Along with 21 safety tips, the **Look Out Texans** campaign features a few of these people, helping bring a greater sense of community and respect to our roads. Understanding how people bicycling, walking and driving should interact together is important to improving safety on area roads and protecting our friends, families and neighbors.

NCTCOG is coordinating with regional partners and using billboards, transit ads, radio ads, online and print advertising, social media and newsletters to reach North Texans.

Visit the website, **LookOutTexans.org**, to read stories of the North Texans featured in the campaign and for additional safety information and ideas.



* **Source:** TxDOT Crash Records Information System, 2015-2019 data



7 Walking Tips

1. Cross in crosswalks at intersections. The safest space to cross a street is a marked crosswalk. Other road users should expect pedestrians to be using this space.

2. Cross streets and driveways in front of vehicles – never behind them. Do not cross between parked vehicles or vehicles waiting at traffic signals. Parked cars create a visual barrier that makes it hard for other road users to spot crossing pedestrians. Avoid this dangerous situation by locating a safe crosswalk to cross in front of cars.

3. Look both ways before crossing a street. Look left, right, and left again to ensure a safe crossing. Be especially aware of turning vehicles.

4. At signalized intersections, cross only when the signal indicates it is safe to do so.

- Steady hand: Don't cross! Do not enter the roadway. Yield to vehicles until the "walk" sign appears.
- Flashing or counting down hand: Don't start! Do not enter the roadway; finish crossing if you've already started.
- Walk signal: Start crossing. Be sure to look both ways before entering the roadway.



Steady hand: Don't cross. Yield until "walk" sign appears.



Flashing or counting down hand: Don't start.



Walk Signal: Be sure to look both ways. Start walking.

5. Watch for vehicles and stay out of blind spots when around buses. A distance of ten feet surrounding a bus is considered the bus danger zone. In this area it is difficult for a driver to see a pedestrian. When exiting a bus avoid the danger zone and cross only at designated crosswalks, never directly in front of the bus.

6. Make eye contact with drivers before crossing streets. Be sure that a driver acknowledges your presence to ensure a safe crossing.

7. Be seen while walking in the dark. Wear reflective materials and white or bright colors at night to increase visibility. Avoid dark clothing when possible.

7 Bicycling Tips

8. Bicyclists are required to stop and yield at traffic signals and stop signs. State law requires bicyclists to operate with the same rights and duties applicable to a driver operating a motor vehicle.

9. Use hand signals to let others know when you're turning, changing lanes, or stopping. Signaling your intentions gives drivers notice of your movements. Look over your shoulder and up ahead (scan), then signal your turn and make your move.

- Left turn: extend left arm horizontally
- Right turn: left arm is raised so hand is pointing up or right arm is extended horizontally.
- Slow or stop: left arm is lowered so hand is pointing down.

10. Be alert. Be aware of other vehicles and predict movements of drivers and pedestrians. Anticipate turning movements and opening car doors to avoid collisions.

11. Ride as far to the right as practicable. Practicable does not mean possible.

- Do not ride in the gutter, avoid hazardous conditions such as debris and potholes.
- Be sure to leave enough room to avoid hazards like parked cars with opening doors.
- A cyclist may ride in the middle of the lane if the lane is less than 14 feet wide or is too narrow to safely operate with a motor vehicle side by side.

12. Always ride in the same direction as traffic. Bicyclists operate as vehicles when in the roadway and are required to travel in the same direction as other drivers. Never ride into the flow of oncoming vehicles – this wrong-way travel is one of the leading causes of bicycle-motorist crashes.

13. Claim your space at intersections. When approaching an intersection, use the rightmost lane going in your destination direction. When making a left turn with multiple turn lanes, select the rightmost lane turning left. Position yourself at intersections to be seen to avoid a crash.

14. Be seen while riding at night. Wear reflective materials and white or bright colors. When bicycling at night, a front headlight and a rear reflector or rear red light are required by State law (see Sec. 551.104, Safety Equipment).

7 Driving Tips

15. Allow a minimum of three feet when passing a bicyclist. Allowing a minimum of three feet when passing a bicyclist permits motorists and bicyclists to maneuver safely.

16. Look out for bicyclists when opening your door while parallel parked. Bicyclists may be riding closer to the right of the travel lane, putting them in the path of an opening car door. Watch for bicyclists before opening your door.

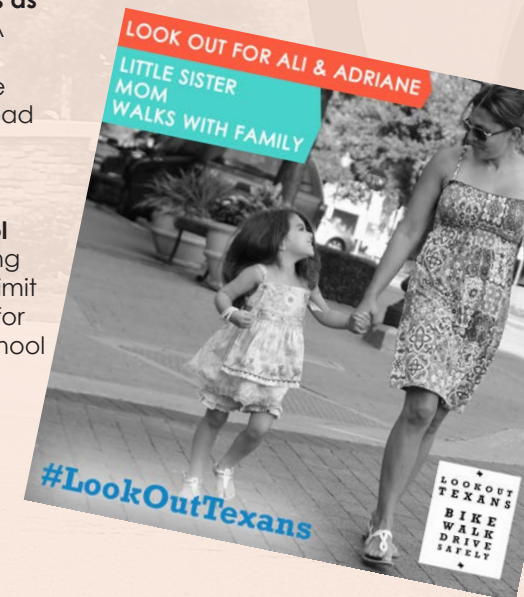
17. Bike lanes are for bicyclists. As a driver, never block or park in a bike lane. Preventing bicyclists from using designated bike lanes on roadways creates unsafe circumstances for all road users.

18. Crosswalks are for pedestrians. As a driver, never block or park in a crosswalk. Preventing pedestrians from using designated crosswalks creates unsafe circumstances for all road users.

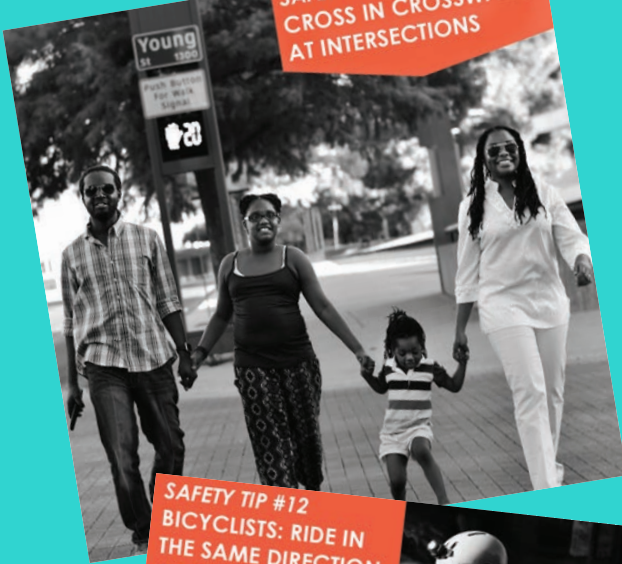
19. Stop for crossing pedestrians. Stop and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. When approaching an intersection, slow down and scan the road and sides of the road ahead for pedestrians.

20. Treat bicycles as motor vehicles. A cyclist has the right to ride in the center of most road lanes.

21. Look out for children in school zones. Maintaining the legal speed limit increases safety for all road users. School zone speed limits are especially important; as a driver be aware of children's unpredictable movements in these zones.



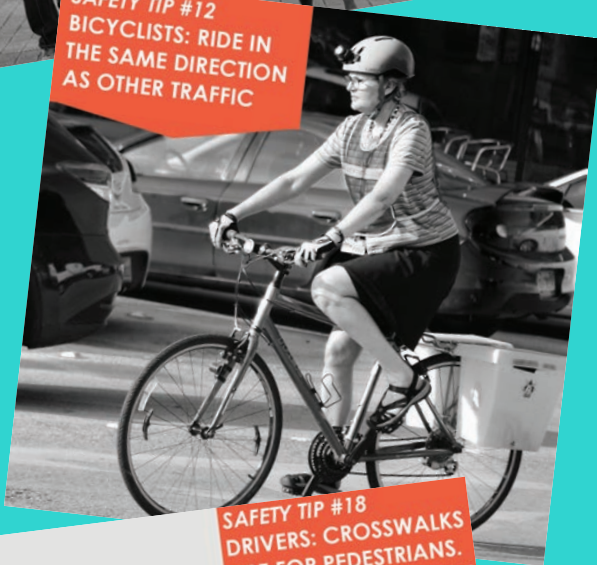
**SAFETY TIP #1
CROSS IN CROSSWALKS
AT INTERSECTIONS**



LOOK OUT FOR EMILY



**SAFETY TIP #12
BICYCLISTS: RIDE IN
THE SAME DIRECTION
AS OTHER TRAFFIC**



LOOK OUT FOR BRIAN



**SAFETY TIP #18
DRIVERS: CROSSWALKS
ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS.
NEVER BLOCK OR PARK
IN A CROSSWALK**



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**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

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YouTube



**#LookOutTexans
@nctcogtrans**

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