

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

~ A message from the City of Astoria Public Works and Police Departments

The Astoria Police Department and Public Works Department are committed to delivering a high level of service to our community, with a strong focus on public safety. Of particular importance is the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, especially in areas with increased risk of vehicle collisions that could result in serious injuries or fatalities. We continuously seek ways to make our streets safer and work closely with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to improve conditions along the State Route through Astoria, where traffic volumes, freight movement, and out-of-town visitors add complexity to the transportation network.

Safety Tips for Pedestrians and Bicyclists:

- ✓ Always try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing.
- ✓ Never assume drivers see you.
- ✓ Avoid distractions—remove headphones, put away phones, and stay alert when crossing streets.
- ✓ Wear bright or reflective clothing—both during the day and at night.
- ✓ Don't rely solely on the presence of a crosswalk; always confirm that vehicles are stopping.
- ✓ Never assume vehicles will stop at a stop sign or traffic light.
- ✓ Follow all laws for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists—these are designed to protect everyone.

Safety Tips for Drivers:

- ✓ Oregon law requires drivers to stop and remain stopped for pedestrians when they are:
 - In the same lane as your vehicle,
 - In an adjacent lane,
 - In the lane into which you're turning,
 - In an adjacent lane to the one into which you're turning,
 - Within six feet of your lane.
- ✓ Drive at or below the posted speed limit.
- ✓ Watch for pedestrians—especially at crosswalks, intersections, and near schools.
- ✓ Acknowledge pedestrians—make eye contact when possible.
- ✓ Stay focused—put your phone away and minimize distractions while driving.

DRIVE
SAFE

What We're Doing to Improve Pedestrian Safety

Public Education and Outreach

- ✓ Active participation in the *Safe Routes to School* program, with ongoing efforts to implement new safety strategies.
- ✓ Annual Halloween safety giveaways (e.g., glow sticks, reflective items, and educational materials).
- ✓ Seasonal safety poster campaigns in public facilities, especially at the start of the school year and during darker winter months.
- ✓ Sharing of Oregon Impact resources: oregonimpact.org
- ✓ Collaboration with local agencies (e.g., Sunset Empire Transportation District) on bike safety education and grant opportunities.
- ✓ Use of the Police Department Facebook page to share safety updates and strategies.
- ✓ Distribution of ODOT pedestrian and traffic safety materials.
- ✓ Support for community-driven art, signage, and awareness campaigns (e.g., sidewalk stenciling, banners, school projects, and slogan contests).

Police Enforcement

- ✓ When recurring speeding complaints are reported, radar speed boards are deployed by Engineering staff to collect data. This information is shared with the Police Department to support targeted enforcement.
- ✓ Annual crosswalk enforcement operations (subject to funding) involve a plainclothes officer crossing at marked crosswalks; drivers who fail to yield may receive warnings or citations. This initiative has received strong public support.
- ✓ Participation in ODOT grant-funded traffic enforcement campaigns targeting speeding, distracted driving, and seatbelt use—prioritizing both education and enforcement.

Reducing Sign Clutter

- ✓ Every 3–5 years, the City and ODOT evaluate signage along the State Route to reduce visual clutter.
- ✓ Fewer, more effective signs help drivers focus on the most important information.

Crosswalk Enhancements

- ✓ City staff successfully advocated for the formal approval and funding of crosswalk improvements along the State Route. Many previously unmaintained crosswalks are now upgraded with *continental-style thermoplastic striping* for durability and visibility.

ODOT Collaboration

Ongoing partnerships with ODOT have resulted in key safety projects, including:

- ✓ OR 202 Sidewalk Project – connecting neighborhoods to Astoria High School.
- ✓ Marine Drive & 23rd Street – installation of Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs).
- ✓ Columbia to 8th Street – road reconfiguration with new bike lanes and improved crossings.
- ✓ Bay Street & West Marine Drive – RRFB installation for improved visibility.
- ✓ Downtown pedestrian signal upgrades – countdown timers for increased safety.
- ✓ Transportation System Plan (TSP) Update – includes project priorities and cost estimates to guide future grant applications.
- ✓ Enforcement coordination with Oregon State Police – focused patrols in construction zones like the Astoria-Megler Bridge, funded by ODOT.

Street Lighting Optimization

- ✓ Public Works staff reviewed citywide street lighting to improve efficiency and safety. Unnecessary lights were removed, while lighting was added in poorly lit areas.
- ✓ ODOT grant funds were used to add lighting at high-traffic intersections, including:
 - Marine Drive & 23rd Street
 - Marine Drive & 33rd Street (Safeway intersection)

Resources

Transportation System Plan, Volume 1: <https://tinyurl.com/astoriatspv1>

Transportation System Plan, Volume 2: <https://tinyurl.com/astoriatspv2>

Oregon Impact Safety Organization: oregonimpact.org

Driver's Guide to Sharing Oregon's Roads

https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Documents/Share_The_Road_330005.pdf

Field Guide to Bicycling in Oregon

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Documents/FieldGuidetoBicyclinginOregon.pdf>

Oregon Pedestrian, Bicycle and Driver Rules

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Documents/OregonBikePedDriverRules.pdf>

Fact Sheets

Intersection Safety Facts: <https://tinyurl.com/intersectionsafety>

Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Flyers: <https://tinyurl.com/didyouknowpedsafety>

Two Things at One Time Attention Test: <https://tinyurl.com/distracteddrivingtest>