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For more information: Sally Ridenour, public information officer 503-986-3359 or
Julie Yip, Safe Routes to School program manager 503-986-4196

Visibility is key when walking or biking

With summer in full swing, more bicyclists and pedestrians are on the road. Riding a bike or walking are healthy and fun ways to get around, but dangerous situations can occur when motorists don't see bicyclists or pedestrians. Unfortunately, not all people who share the road are conscious of their surroundings. Responsibility falls back onto each of us to help make traveling accident free.

Visibility is important for bicycle and pedestrian safety. ODOT encourages bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists to "**See, and Be Seen.**" In fact, that exact message is in advertisements on buses and billboards around the state this summer.

Pedestrians and bicyclists need to take steps to make sure motorists can see them, and motorists need to make sure they see bicyclists and pedestrians. Here are some tips:

Motorists

- Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians especially at night.
- Drive at reasonable speeds, expect and slow for bicyclists and pedestrians, and leave plenty of room when passing.

Bicyclists

- Be visible. Wear reflective clothing. Use lights.
- Always wear your helmet.
- Watch out for motorists' blind spots.
- Be aware of vehicles and pedestrians around you. Make eye contact with motorists and pedestrians before crossing paths.
- Obey all traffic signs, lane markings and traffic lights.

Pedestrians

- Wear bright or reflective clothing or shoes when walking at night. Avoid dark clothes; drivers can't avoid what they can't see.
- Remain alert! Don't assume that cars are going to stop. Make eye contact with the driver to make sure he or she sees you.
- Use crosswalks and sidewalks whenever possible.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing. Watch for turning cars.

Parents

- Prepare now for back-to-school. Practice safe walking and bicycling with your children. Your community's Safe Routes to School program may have resources to help you.
- Some communities sponsor bicycle "rodeos" to teach children the rules of the road; check your local public safety agency to see if there's one in your area.

For more information about bicycle and pedestrian safety, visit ODOT's Transportation Safety Division website, <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/index.shtml>.

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