

GUIDE TO STAYING SAFE CYCLING IN SHEFFIELD

You will find that on West Street and Church Street, the tram tracks are on-street and cyclists using these streets (and other areas of the City where the tram runs on-street), need to ride with great care if you are to avoid difficulties.

Take extra care when riding close to, or crossing the tracks.

Cross the tracks at a wide angle and clear of any moving parts or points.

Where possible stay near the curb and clear of the rails. Tram stops, which are built out into the street, pose a particular problem for cyclists. To negotiate these you should follow these simple rules;

- on the approach to the tram stop, take up a position between the rails when there is an adequate gap in the traffic
- ride between the rails until you are clear of the tram stop
- when it is safe to do so, cross the nearside rail and resume a curbside riding position

You should also know about 'Advanced Stop Lines' which you will find at some traffic signals. These are one of a suite of measures designed to improve safety and journey times for cyclists. The advanced stop line is used to create a special area at traffic signals where cyclists can wait in front of other traffic. This enables cyclists to avoid potential collisions with left turning traffic and enables right hand turns to be made more safely. A major cause of accidents to cyclists is vehicles turning left across them. The cycle advance area allows cyclists to move away from the junction ahead of other traffic and without holding the traffic up.

There is usually a cycle lane leading into it, helping cyclists to reach the front of the traffic queue. If you do need to turn right at the junction and the traffic is stopped, you should approach the junction in the nearside cycle lane and, after making sure that it is clear to do so and indicating your intention to other road users, take up a position to the right of the cycle advance area. At many sites, the cycle advance area and the cycle lane are coloured red, to contrast with the road colour and to raise driver awareness to the likely presence of cyclists. A white cycle symbol is included on the cycle lane and in the cycle advance area.

Cycle lanes are either mandatory or advisory. Mandatory lanes are marked with a solid white line. In normal circumstances motor vehicles cannot drive or park in mandatory cycle lanes. Advisory lanes are marked with a dashed white line. Motor vehicles are allowed to use advisory cycle lanes if necessary. An advisory cycle lane does not mean that car parking is not allowed.