START SLOW
Has it been a while since you’ve been on a bike? Make sure to go on a few short rides around your neighborhood before you venture out further. Take it nice and easy to start off with, and have fun!

KNOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD
A driver of a bicycle must follow generally the same laws as a driver of a motor vehicle. This helps keep you safe and predictable to other road users and out of trouble with law enforcement. Find more at http://austintexas.gov/page/bicycle-laws-codes.

FIND GOOD ROUTES
Remember: The best route by car might not be the best by bicycle. Some of the best bicycle routes are hidden from the busy car-filled streets. Google Maps, Ride the City Austin, and the Austin Bicycle Map are easy-to-use online maps that can help you take advantage of Austin’s growing bicycle network.

GET THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT
You wouldn’t walk miles in damaged shoes that don’t fit you, right? Apply the same thought to your bike. Set yourself up for success by making sure your bike fits your body and is working well. Austin has many great local bike shops that can help you get what you need.

IT DOESN’T HAVE TO BE ALL OR NOTHING
Make a goal to take at least one trip a week by bike instead of driving. Add more trips as you feel ready. Practice discipline and self-forgiveness, and remember—the more you ride, the more fun it will be, and... the more you’ll ride.

BIKE AUSTIN
Bike Austin is a non-profit bringing more people to bicycling in the Austin metro by advocating for bikeways, helping people overcome personal barriers to bicycling, and growing the movement.

bikeaustin.org

The Bicycle Program is part of the City of Austin Public Works Department and is dedicated to providing safe, efficient, and accessible bicycle facilities to Austin’s residents and visitors. The Program implements the City’s Bicycle Master Plan.
austintexas.gov/bicycle

AUSTIN IS GROWING
Austin is one of the fastest growing cities in the country. Our major corridors can no longer fit more cars during peak commute times, so our city is improving mobility through transit, walking, and bicycling. However, with only 2% of work commute trips by bicycle, Austin is nowhere near reaching the full potential of bicycling.

COMFORTABLE, ALL AGES AND ABILITIES BIKEWAY NETWORK
A 2013 study shows that over half of Austinites are interested in bicycling to get around Austin, but are concerned about mixing with high-speed motor vehicle traffic. The City of Austin is taking steps to build an all-ages-and-abilities bikeway network connecting Austin via quiet neighborhood streets, via urban trails, and on major streets via “cycle tracks”.

An all-ages-and-abilities bikeway network will allow more people to ride safely and comfortably from home to work, shop, and play. Convenient and seamless bikeway connections to bus and rail stations will expand Austin’s mobility options even further, making bicycling an everyday part of the lives of even more Austinites.

CYCLE TRACKS
Cycle tracks are physically separated bike lanes that run alongside a roadway, separated from motor vehicle traffic by a physical barrier, such as parked cars, bollards, a landscaped buffer, or a curb. These protected bikeways make bicycling along major streets comfortable and convenient for people of all ages and abilities.

Look for existing and upcoming cycle tracks on Rio Grande Street in West Campus, 4th Street next to the Convention Center, 3rd Street across downtown, Bluebonnet Lane, Barton Springs Road next to the Palmer Event Center, Pedernales Street, Mueller Boulevard, Berkman Drive, and Guadalupe Street next to UT at Austin.

CHANGING LANES
What you need to know about Austin’s new cycle tracks when walking, bicycling, or driving.
When you are bicycling:
• Watch for people walking, especially at intersections
• Yield to people walking at unsignaled crosswalks
• Watch for people exiting parked cars
• Watch for crossing vehicle traffic at intersections, even if you have the right-of-way
• Give an audible signal when passing other people on bicycles, and pass only on the left
• Signal your intentions
• Two-stage turn queues
  Use the boxes when you want to turn left (maneuver is optional)
  Upon reaching the green box, position yourself and your bicycle in the box facing the way you want to go
  When the light now in front of you turns green, proceed across the intersection
• Though you are not required to use the cycle track, you will likely find it more comfortable and quicker, especially during peak commute times.

Two-way cycle tracks, like those on Rio Grande Street in West Campus and on Bluebonnet Lane, will be appearing on more Austin streets soon.