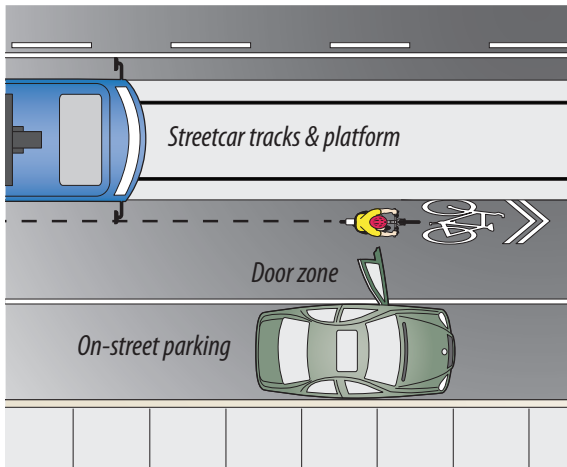




Watch for car doors in the bike lane

Motorists in parked vehicles may be unaware that you're coming up on them from behind. If they open their door suddenly it could force you into the tracks where you could catch your wheels. Always slow down in congested areas. Watch for people sitting in cars who might suddenly exit the car.



Ride sensibly, look ahead and anticipate trouble spots

- ◆ Plan ahead and ride defensively
- ◆ Control your speed
- ◆ Cross close to right angles
- ◆ Stay off the brakes when crossing tracks
- ◆ Keep your weight back on the bike



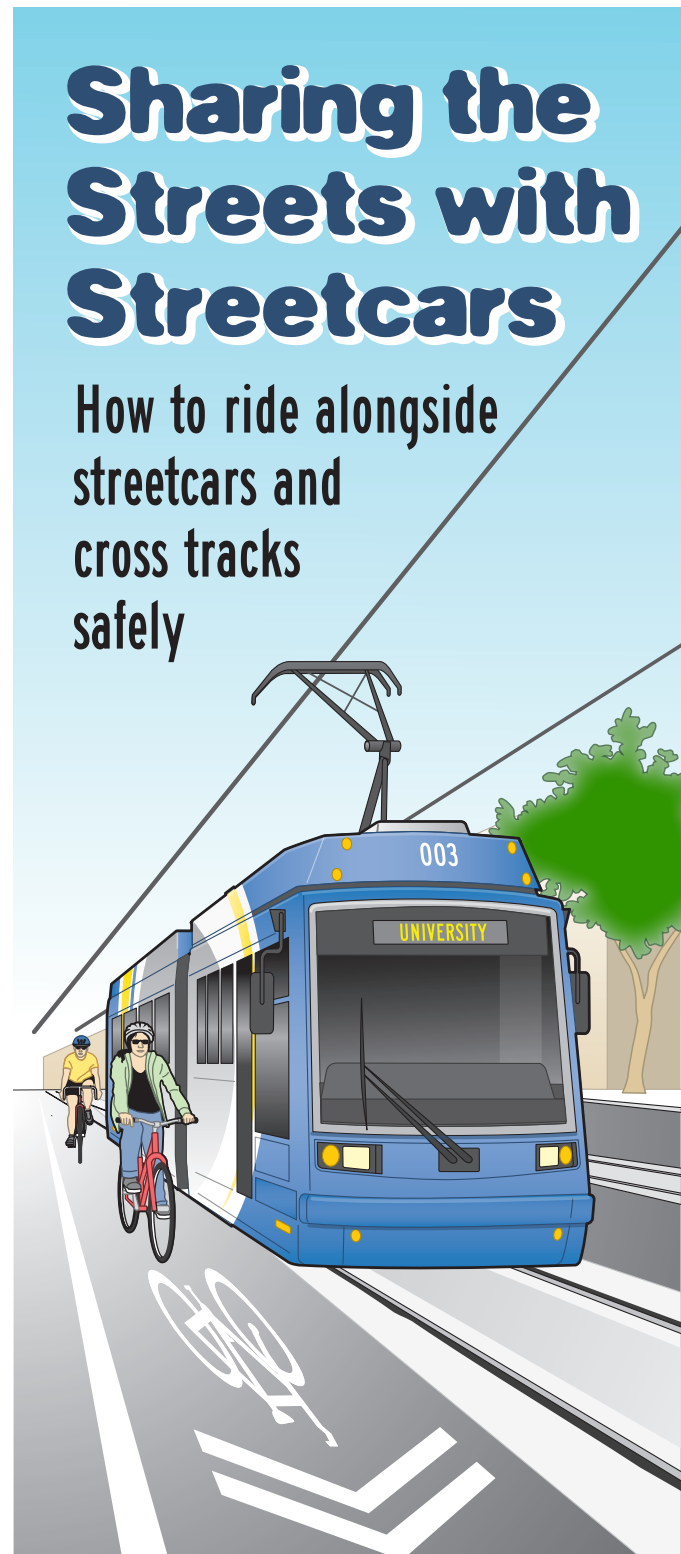
Watch out for streetcars

There will be months of testing streetcar vehicles and training operators before the official service launch. In the months ahead, don't forget to look for streetcar vehicles along your route. When cycling you may become too focused on cars and trucks and forget that streetcars may be nearby.

Streetcars, cars, and trucks can be "hidden" in the blind spot behind other streetcars, so make sure you check both directions before crossing streetcar tracks. Pay particular attention when crossing behind another streetcar that can block your view for oncoming traffic.

Created and distributed by the Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program and by the University of Arizona.

The Sun Link Modern Streetcar project is part of the voter-approved, \$2.1 billion Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) plan to be implemented through 2026. Sun Link construction is managed by the City of Tucson Department of Transportation.



Sharing the Streets with Streetcars

How to ride alongside streetcars and cross tracks safely

Riding in a live construction zone

Crews will be working all along the 3.9 mile Sun Link Streetcar route until late 2013. That means bicyclists need to know some basics about riding in a live construction zone: where crews may be installing track, paving roads, placing overhead electrical systems, and testing new streetcar vehicles.

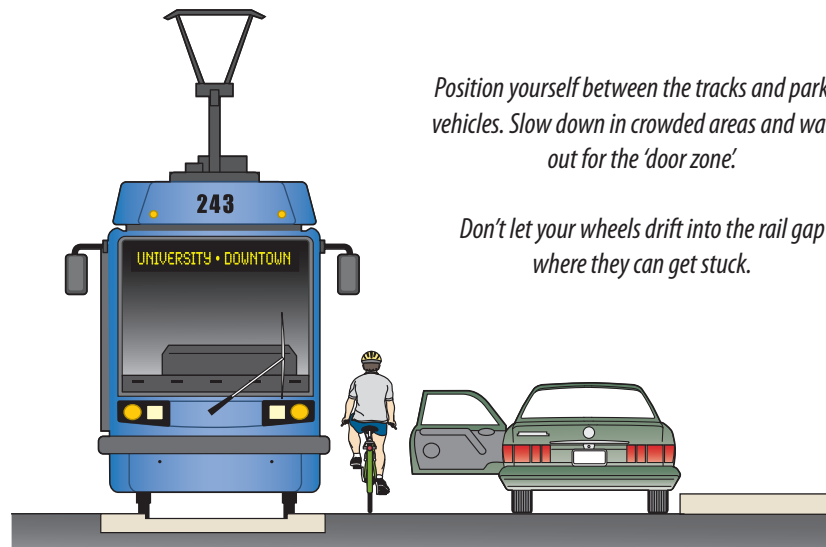
Streetcar tracks are a unique challenge to ride alongside and to cross

When riding near the streetcar tracks, it's important to place yourself at a distance from the tracks to prevent your wheels from dropping into them, but also far enough from parked cars to avoid the dreaded "door zone", that area on the road immediately adjacent to a parked vehicle where a driver may suddenly open his or her door into your path of travel.

The key to dealing with the tracks is to position yourself within the roadway at an appropriate distance from the tracks and from parked cars, control your speed, scan ahead and plan on how you will cross the tracks, and cross them as close to a right angle as possible (60° to 90°) to avoid catching your bicycle wheels in the gap.

Situations that may require you to cross streetcar tracks

1. Making a left-hand turn
2. Crossing tracks at an intersection
3. Going around large parked vehicles or trucks that have an open door



The best angle is the right angle

The two most common streetcar track crashes for bicycles are:

1. The front wheel sliding out from under you on the tracks
2. One or both wheels getting caught in the tracks.

To avoid both, you should cross streetcar tracks at a 60° to 90° angle and avoid crossing streetcar tracks while traveling parallel to the tracks. When making turns across tracks, start your turn before you cross the tracks so that you have the best angle over them and so that you are in an upright position as you travel across them (ie, not leaning your bike).

Start your turn before you cross the streetcar tracks so that you are not actually turning your front wheel when you cross the tracks.

Making left turns

Left turns across the tracks require a special technique and good concentration by cyclists. Basically there are two main ways for making left turns:

1. For a "vehicular" left turn, slow before the intersection, scan over your left shoulder to make sure it's clear and signal as necessary, shy rightward in order to get a better angle on the tracks, and cross leftward over the tracks at a sufficient angle to not drop in the gap. As you're turning left in the intersection, be aware that you have to cross the tracks again at a good angle in order to make a safe left turn.
2. A "box" left turn is when you go through the intersection with the green traffic signal, stop in the crosswalk of the intersecting street, turn your bike, and proceed through the intersection when the light turns green. This type of turn keeps you out of the tracks.

