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**As Spring Arrives, Communities Remind Drivers to Look for More People Walking and Biking**

([CITY NAME], [DATE]) – Although it may still feel like winter, the first day of Spring arrives on DATE [LOOK UP: [almanac.com/content/first-day-spring-vernal-equinox](https://www.almanac.com/content/first-day-spring-vernal-equinox)]. People rely on walking and biking no matter the season, but better weather could mean even more Ohioans on foot and bike. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and [CITY NAME] urge drivers to slow down and watch for people walking and biking as the Spring Equinox arrives.

ODOT’s Your Move Ohio campaign encourages all Ohioans to “think outside your car” – to look out for people walking and biking and to use active transportation in everyday life.

“’Thinking outside your car’ means looking out for people around us when driving. It means yielding to pedestrians and giving people biking at least 3 feet when passing. These behaviors save lives.” said Cait Harley, ODOT’s Safe Routes to School and Active Transportation Manager. “It also means thinking differently about how we get from one place to another. Spring is a great time to consider replacing a short daily car trip with a walk or a bike ride.”

Harley also reminds motorists that under Ohio law, bicycles are defined as vehicles and may operate on all public roads in Ohio except freeways and limited access roadways.

[ADD LOCAL QUOTE HERE – encouraging local citizens to walk and bike more and/or to be more aware when driving.]

Your Move Ohio, offers these safety tips.

Safety tips for motorists:

* **Put your phone away.**
* **Slow down**. Speed limits are the maximum.

• **Yield to people walking at intersections and marked crosswalks.** Every intersection is a crosswalk – painted or not.

• **Don’t pass a vehicle** **stopped at a crosswalk.**

* **Give people biking at least 3 feet when passing**. Bikes are vehicles and can legally use the full travel lane.
* **Check for people** **walking and biking** when making a turn.
* **Look out for people walking and biking**, especially outside of daylight hours and in the rain.

Safety tips for pedestrians:

* **Cross at intersections or in marked crosswalks.**
* **Walk in the opposite direction of traffic**.
* **Reflective clothing and lights** can increase visibility.

Safety tips for bicyclists:

* **Wear a helmet**.
* **Ride predictably, in the direction of traffic.**
* **Follow traffic signs and lights**.
* **Use bike lights** outside of daylight hours and in the rain. **Reflective clothing** can increase visibility.

**About Your Move Ohio**

ODOT created Your Move Ohio ([YourMove.ohio.gov](https://www.dot.state.oh.us/ActiveTransportation/Pages/choose.aspx)) in response to a multi-year surge in fatal bicycle and pedestrian crashes and epidemic levels of chronic diseases – obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes – in the state. Its main goals are to encourage more Ohioans to choose active transportation and improve safety for everyone on Ohio’s roadways.

Details and free downloadable resources are available at [YourMove.ohio.gov](https://www.dot.state.oh.us/ActiveTransportation/Pages/choose.aspx) and on [Facebook.com/YourMoveOhio](https://www.facebook.com/yourmoveohio/). Share your active transportation story with the hashtag: #YourMoveOhio.

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