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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sharing the Road: Bicycles, Pedestrians and Motorists

Whether you are walking, biking, or driving a car, the Sauk Prairie Police Department would like to ensure you reach your destination safely this summer.

There are many Wisconsin motor vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle laws that are applicable to you and your family. These laws can be somewhat confusing and difficult to understand.

Here are a few frequently asked questions.

- 1) Question:** While driving a car do I have to yield to a person crossing the street in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

Answer: Yes, §346.24 Crossing at uncontrolled intersection or crosswalk. (1) At an intersection or crosswalk where traffic is not controlled by traffic control signals or by a traffic officer, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian, or to a person riding a bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device in a manner which is consistent with the safe use of the crosswalk by pedestrians, who is crossing the highway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

2) **Question:** Do I have to follow the motor vehicle laws while I am riding my bicycle on a roadway?

Answer: Yes, §346.02(4) Applicability to persons riding bicycles and motor bicycles. (a) *Subject to special provisions applicable to bicycles, every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway or shoulder of a highway is granted all the rights and is subject to all the duties which this chapter grants or applies to the operator of a vehicle except those provision which by their express terms apply only to motor vehicles or which by their very nature would have no applications to bicycles. For purposes of this chapter, provisions which apply to bicycles also apply to motor bicycles, except as otherwise expressly provided.*

3) **Question:** Who has the right of way when crossing at a place other than a crosswalk?

Answer: § 364.25 Crossing at place other than crosswalk. *Every pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked or unmarked crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.*

4) **Question:** Does a motor vehicle have to yield the right-of-way to a person riding a bicycle in a marked or unmarked crosswalk?

Answer: Yes, §346.24 Crossing at uncontrolled intersection or crosswalk. (1) *At an intersection or crosswalk where traffic is not controlled by traffic control signals or by a traffic officer, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian, or to a person riding a bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device in a manner which is consistent with the safe use of the crosswalk by pedestrians, who is crossing the highway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.*

5) **Question:** Does a motor vehicle have to yield immediately as soon as a person, bicycle or an electric personal assistive mobility device enters a marked or unmarked crosswalk?

Answer: Depends, §346.24 Crossing at uncontrolled intersection or crosswalk (2) *No pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk, run, or ride into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is difficult for the operator of the vehicle to yield.*

Each year the Sauk Prairie Police Department responds to bicycle crashes involving young riders. Many of these crashes can be prevented. A leading cause of bicycle crashes involving young riders in the community are referred to as a “bicyclist ride out”. This is when a bicyclist enters the roadway from a sidewalk, a driveway, an alley or from over the curb. The bicyclist does not stop before entering the roadway and is struck by a motor vehicle or the bicyclist strikes a motor vehicle causing injury to the bicyclist.

As a bicyclist or a motorist, there are ways to prevent this type of crash. A few tips are as follows;

- Bicyclists should stop and scan left-right-left before entering the roadway.
- Bicyclists should enter the roadway at intersections whenever possible.
- Motorists should reduce their speed and anticipate where bicyclists may enter the road.
- If crossing at a marked or unmarked crosswalk, bicyclist should dismount and walk the bike across the intersection after scanning left-right-left for traffic.

Photo 1



Damage to the front wheel of a bicycle. Cause of crash - “ride out” (Grand Ave@9th Street)

Photo 2



Damage to the driver's side door. Cause of crash – “ride out” (Grand Ave@9th Street)

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. If you have further questions please contact the Sauk Prairie Police Department at 643-2427 or visit the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website listed below.

<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/safety/vehicle/bicycle/docs/bikelaws.pdf>

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