

## BICYCLE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Programs to teach current and potential bicyclists of all ages about the fundamentals of bicycle riding are important to establishing good riding skills. Currently, the elementary schools and middle school provide assemblies at the beginning of the year to discuss pedestrian and bicycle safety. The following steps are recommended to build upon this effort:

- Establish a bicycle education program that is taught yearly to school children (kindergarten to 5th grade) and senior adults. Include *bicycle rodeos* where children are given actual riding lessons in school.
- Establish a bicycle helmet program through various statewide helmet programs that provides low-cost helmets to schoolchildren. Helmets should be mandatory for any student riding a bicycle to school.
- Establish an adult bicycle education program through the adult school, parks and recreation, and other departments that teaches adults how to ride defensively and encourages people to ride to work. This program may include the use of volunteers from local bicycle clubs and possibly sponsorship of bicycle tours and races.
- Educate drivers about the rights of bicyclists through a variety of means including making bicycle safety a part of traffic school curriculum, producing a brochure on bicycle safety and rights for public distribution, enforcing existing laws regarding both motorists and bicycles, encouraging the state to include questions about bicycle safety and operations on drivers license exams, and providing signs at strategic locations advising motorists to share the roadway with bicyclists.

Safe Moves, a statewide non-profit organization, has devised a bicycle and pedestrian safety education program for school children and senior adults, incorporating many of the above mentioned components. The Safe Moves program offers school workshops, bicycle rodeos, bicycle registration, helmet inspection, and traffic assessment skills.

Licensing bicycles at schools helps reduce theft by providing an identification number for the police. It can also serve as a regular forum for providing education to young riders.

- Consider establishing a bicycle licensing program for school children.