

Seattle P-I Blog, 2/3/09

Are bicyclists allowed on Aurora Avenue North?

Q: Are bicyclists allowed on Aurora Avenue North?

I was especially surprised to see a person riding his bike in the right northbound car lane on the Aurora Bridge the other day.

A: Bicyclists are allowed to ride on Aurora Avenue North and the bridge.

"It's not very smart," Seattle police spokeswoman Renee Witt said, "but it's not against the law."

It's not illegal to bike on the Aurora Bridge, police said. (Josh Trujillo/P-I)

Some bicyclists, however, don't share that view.

"We have no evidence to suggest it's not safe," Cascade Bicycle Club advocacy director David Hiller said of the Aurora Bridge. "For most people it's not going to be a comfortable place to ride because of high volumes of traffic. But when people say its legal but discouraged, what does that say about the amount of protection that is provided?"

Lane width on the bridge from west to east is 10 feet, 9 feet, 9.5 feet, 9.5 feet, 9 feet and 10 feet. The speed limit is 40 miles per hour, though drivers often break that.

A bike map designed by the Seattle Department of Transportation does not list the bridge or Aurora Avenue North as a commonly used street.

Bicyclists often use the bridge to avoid hills when riding to Phinney Ridge, Hiller said, adding that people should be aware of drivers taking free right turns on to the bridge.

"If someone is hurt and they are following the rules, it's not because they shouldn't have been there," he said. "It's a public right of a way, and it's open."

Seattle city officials have made bike maps that include bicycle lanes and commonly used routes. Click on the links below to download the maps as PDFs.

- [North Seattle](#)
- [South Seattle](#)
- [First Avenue South Bridge](#)
- [Ballard Bridge](#)



- [Downtown Seattle](#)
- [Interstate 90 bridge](#)
- [Sea-Tac Airport access](#)
- [University District and Montlake area](#)
- [West Seattle Bridge](#)

Here is a key to the maps:



Other maps and routes can be found [here](#) from the Cascade Bicycle Club.

Thanks to people who submitted questions. Click below for answers to previous questions and to leave comments.

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Questions may be edited or paraphrased.