Tips for Cycling in Saint Paul

What is a protected bike lane?
A protected bike lane is a place for people to ride bikes and other small mobility devices which is physically separated from both the sidewalk and traffic. Many people who ride bikes find these facilities more comfortable to ride than traditional in-street bike lanes and, much like traditional off-street trails.

What does the green paint mean?
Green pavement markings indicate where people riding bikes and other small mobility devices are crossing driveways or other roads. Much like painted crosswalks, these provide an additional visual cue to everyone using the street to watch out for other users and be cautious in crossing areas where people using different modes of transportation interact.

Do I have to ride in a bike lane?
While we encourage people to use bike facilities where they are available, Minnesota law does not require you to use them. Bicycles are considered traffic under Minnesota Statute 169.222 Subd. 1, and have all the same rights and responsibilities as the driver of any other vehicle. However, the statute also requires people riding bikes to ride "as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge" except when passing, preparing for a left turn, or "when reasonably necessary to avoid conditions... that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge."

Can I run red lights while biking?
Not normally, but people riding bikes have an affirmative defense to the citation under certain conditions. Minnesota Statute 196.06, Subd. 9 allows you to go through a red light if you wait a reasonable amount of time at a light, find that it will not change automatically for you, and then proceed after yielding to all cross traffic.

For more information on the rules of the road for riding a bike in Saint Paul and Minnesota, visit:
http://bikemn.org/education/minnesota-bicycle-laws

Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition

Saint Paul has a program to allow limited numbers of vendors to place shared mobility devices such as bikes and scooters in the public right of way. These vendors provide vehicles which you can borrow for short periods of time through a smartphone app, picking up any device near to you and leaving it wherever you end up.
Currently two vendors are licensed in Saint Paul, both offering scooter share. These are Lime and Spin. The City is exploring options for bike share in coming years.

Bicycle Parking
The City of Saint Paul has a goal to create convenient and secure bicycle parking throughout the city. If a business or organization you frequent needs new bike racks, there are a few resources you can tell them to reach out to.

For racks on the sidewalk, contact Reuben from Public Works at reuben.collins@ci.stpaul.mn.us
For racks on private property, Move Minnesota offers a cost-share.

Saint Paul Bicycle Plan
In 2015, the Saint Paul City Council passed the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, a plan to guide the development of a comprehensive bicycle network in Saint Paul over the next several decades. That plan was updated in 2017 to include new sections, including plans for a protected bikeway loop downtown and for the Grand Round parkway loop. For more information, visit:
stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/bicycles/saint-paul-bike-plan

Saint Paul Classic Bike Tour
The Saint Paul Classic Bike Tour is an annual event showcasing the trails and parkways of Saint Paul. Participants can choose between 15, 32, or 47 mile routes around the city, with many streets closed off to create a unique car-free experience. The event benefits the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, which works to make Minnesota a great state to bike. You can learn more about the ride and the Bicycle Alliance at bikeclassic.org.