

## SUNSHINE TOUR SAFETY LETTER

Dear PAW Riders,

**Thanks for joining the Sunshine** tour. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to biking with you. We will do our best to make this the most enjoyable cycling experience you ever had, however, the most important feature of the trip remains for you the rider to complete—that of a safe journey. Although Florida bicycle trails are well maintained, you may encounter some of the usual hazards that exist other places. There could be potholes, stones, ruts, gravel, limited visibility intersections, and maybe even a driver or two who feels we have no right being on the road. Remembering the following will help you have a safe ride.

**Avoid the temptation of going too fast downhill.** (Yes, there are a few small hills) Remember, at the bottom of every good downhill there is gravel, a bad railroad crossing, a stoplight, or some potential obstacle waiting to bring your ride to an abrupt finish. **A 25MPH speed limit is recommended.** Those who disagree need only to think of the consequences of snapping a brake cable, blowing a tire, getting a flat, or hitting a hole or gravel patch while speeding.

**\*Follow all rules of the road even on trails & road.** Stop at “Stop Signs” on trails when posted, and be aware of cross traffic when side roads cross the trail. Double check to make sure cross traffic stops, even when they have a stop sign or red light. Use crosswalks when provided.

**\*Do not remain stopped or standing on the trail.**

**Keep right, Pass on Left only, warn others before passing by calling out “On Your Left”**

**\*Walk over Railroad tracks. Cross at 90 degree angles. Never ride over when wet.**

**\*Ride single file and do not “Draft” the rider in front.**

**\* Do not call “clear” for the rider(s) behind you**

**\*At crossings where sightlines are limited, move to where it is not.**

**\*Equip your bike with a mirror. Do not expect to hear the cars, certainly not when riding into the wind. Even if you do, your ears won’t tell you if the car has moved to the left.**

**\*Do not assume because the road/trail is not marked for gravel that there is none, or not marked “SLO” (slow) that cycling fast is ok.**

**\*Replace your helmet every five years. If you feel you don’t need one, ask yourself if your head is harder than the ground!**

**\*When steering your bike off the road or path do not attempt to ride back on to the pavement. Dismount and lift or walk your bike back on to the road.**

**\*Get off your bike to talk on your cell phone.**

**\*Earphones are prohibited in the state of Florida**

**Emergency Assistance Markers** Nearly 700 markers are affixed to the pavement at 200 to 300 foot intervals along the Pinellas Trail from downtown St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs. Each marker has a unique, easily readable number which trail users can give to a 9-1-1 operator in case of an emergency to identify their exact location along the 47-mile trail, allowing for faster response times.

Please remember support vehicles are for emergency. Carry a few tubes, a pump, rain gear, and enough water for 25 miles. Check your bike and tires before you leave home. We hope all your rides will be safe.

Pedal Across Wisconsin Safety Department