HISTORIC DISTRICTS
The Phoenix Sonoran Bikeway extends throughout many of Phoenix's most historic neighborhoods, including the Willo Historic District. This neighborhood's homes developed between 1910 and 1942. It is bounded by 1st and 7th Avenues, McDowell and Thomas.

BE A DEFENSIVE CYCLIST
Ride defensively and expect the unexpected when riding your bicycle. Watch for vehicles turning into your path of travel and never assume what a driver intends to do. Using hand signals will communicate to motorists and pedestrians your intentions.

Always ride with the flow of traffic. Motorists aren't expecting a bicyclist on the wrong side of the roadway. Bicyclists must operate their bicycles according to the same rules as drivers of motor vehicles.

Be visible. When riding at night, use a white headlight and rear reflector as required by law (ARS 28-817). For additional visibility, use a flashing red taillight and wear light-colored or reflective clothing. Scan the roadway for cars, pedestrians and other unexpected hazards such as potholes, glass and landscaping that may limit visibility.

Be alert and keep control of your bike. In rain, allow three times the normal stopping distance. When riding through intersections, move to the through-lane and avoid the right-turn lane. Don't ride to the right of a turning vehicle.

Always wear a helmet to make you more visible and protect your head. The helmet must fit well and be properly adjusted to protect you.

Above all, use common sense. Be aware of your strengths and limitations. Don't put your life in danger with careless riding. In a collision with a vehicle, a bicyclist will always lose.

For a complete list of Arizona Bicycle Laws, visit www.aabq.state.az.us/en/1869/th0028.htm

HISTORICAL TIDBITS
As you cycle through Phoenix along the Phoenix Sonoran Bikeway, you can discover many interesting tidbits about our city. Below is a sampling of the "way it was."

- Pueblo Grande Museum at 46th Street and Washington preserves a prehistoric Hohokam village, occupied from about AD 1 to 1450. The Hohokam were expert farmers, growing crops such as corn, beans, squash, and cotton. They built adobe villages and hundreds of miles of irrigation canals. Drought and floods forced them to abandon the Salt River Valley in the fifteenth century.

- Pueblo Viejo is a Hohokam Cemetery in El Reposo Park, 502 E. Alva Vista Road. It describes a Classic period (circa 1150-1450) cemetery containing 34 cremations that were partly surrounded by a wooden fence or palisade that had burned.

- On February 24, 1863, President Lincoln signed into law the creation of Arizona Territory. On Valentine's Day, 1912, Arizona became the 48th state. Congress signed the bills for statehood on February 12, but that was Lincoln's birthday, and the 13th was considered unlucky! Phoenix also became the State Capitol in 1912.

- 116 W. Sherman was the home of Darrell Duppa, an English remittance man who reportedly gave Phoenix its name.

- Phoenix's first hotel was built in 1872 by John J. Gardner and, not surprisingly, was called the Phoenix Hotel. It was located on East Washington, but whether at 1st, 2nd or 3rd Streets is a matter of debate.

- By October 1873, the town had a proper schoolhouse on Center Street—later Central Avenue—just north of the present San Carlos Hotel.

- The first newspaper in Phoenix was the Salt River Herald, established in 1876. In 1878, it became the Phoenix Herald. It reportedly was located on 1st Street between Washington and Jefferson.

- On the northwest corner of Central Avenue and Washington, the Garden City Restaurant also hosted the house and bathing. The Westward Ho Hotel opened in 1929. Located at the corner of Central and Roosevelt, the hotel was a celebrity magnet, hosting the likes of Lucille Ball, Elizabeth Taylor, Jack Dempsey and John F. Kennedy. A star in its own right, the hotel can be seen in a number of films including Marilyn Monroe's "Bus Stop" and the 1972 film "Pocket Money." The only film to make extensive use of the Hotel's interior and lush courtyard garden that few Phoenixians have seen.

- In 1929, the Orpheum Theatre opened at 2nd Avenue and Adams and the Arizona Billabone at 24th Street and Camelback was built. This was also the year the first air conditioner was installed in commercial buildings!

- Many of Territorial Phoenix's Chinese lived in a Chinatown located at 1st Street and Madison from 1890 to the late 1930s. Most of these buildings no longer exist, but construction of America West Arena (AWA) passed to create what has now become known as the Chinatown Project, which includes an exhibit at AWA.

- Bike racks to cycling pleasure

In several areas throughout the city, bike racks like these at Bank One Ballpark, near 5th Street and Jefferson, are available. Other racks are prominently positioned at parks, landmarks and destination points, so cyclists have a safe place to lock their bikes while visiting all that Phoenix has to offer.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK
The Sonoran Bikeway leads cyclists to many of the most beautiful mountain ranges and parks in Arizona. South Mountain Park is the largest City Park in America, with hiking trails, picnic shelters, horseback riding and views of the city. And of course, a five-mile long paved road to the top—great for cyclists who enjoy strenuous rides!