With streetcar track construction nearly complete and test operations slated to begin mid-2018, now is the time for bicyclists to learn the best cycling practices when riding adjacent to or crossing the new streetcar tracks. Bicyclists have been successfully using these same skills and rules in other progressive cycling cities such as Portland, Seattle, Minneapolis and Washington D.C. to coexist with modern urban rail transit for many years.

Here are some key bicycling practices from our peer cities with streetcar systems:

1. **Avoid riding between the streetcar tracks.** While a daring cyclist may feel confident enough, there is little room to maneuver and make proper turning movements once inside the tracks without risking getting a wheel stuck in a track flange or gap.

2. **Cross tracks at a 90-degree angle.** Approach tracks as upright as possible and perpendicular to the rail. In many cases, bike lanes will help guide cyclists to cross at right angles, but in some instances, cyclists will need to orient themselves appropriately.

3. **Turn left across tracks in two stages.** First, in the right most lane of the direction you’re coming from, bike through the intersection to the far right traffic lane of the direction you want to go. Then, pivot to the direction you want to go and cross the tracks with the next green phase of the traffic signal. At select intersections along the route, green two-stage turn queue boxes will be installed next summer to provide cyclists a clearly marked area to pivot perpendicularly before crossing the tracks. See how to use them here: [youtu.be/rVswlCVFIEQ](https://youtu.be/rVswlCVFIEQ)

4. **Be aware of the door zone.** Watch for motorists opening vehicle doors into your travel space as you pass and don’t swerve into the path of other vehicles or the track gap.

5. **Streetcar tracks become more slippery when wet.** Use caution riding in the rain or in winter weather.

6. **Be a safe cyclist.** We recommend always wearing a helmet and following the Rules of the Road: [bfw.org/for-your-community/share-be-aware/bicycle-laws/](https://bfw.org/for-your-community/share-be-aware/bicycle-laws/)