Safety Guide
Staying Safe around The Loop Trolley

The Loop Trolley considers public safety to be our top priority and we are committed to doing our part to keep you safe. While The Loop Trolley won’t officially open to the public for passenger service until later this year, testing will be underway in the months leading up to the opening. This means those traveling in and through The Loop need to be prepared for the appearance of the trolleys along the route.

The Loop Trolley is designed to run on rails in the street alongside traffic and pedestrians, so it’s important to understand how the trolleys will operate along the trolley route and take the necessary precautions to keep yourself and others safe. The trolleys share a lane with other moving vehicles and will travel along with traffic, in both directions, up to the speed limit (25 mph) – just like a bus. They follow the same traffic signals as other vehicles. Keep in mind that there are no barriers separating the trolleys from other road users, and remember the trolleys cannot swerve to avoid obstacles.

To ensure you remain safe when in the vicinity of the trolley, be sure to follow these helpful tips.

PEDESTRIANS

• Be aware of your surroundings, especially in congested areas.
• Do not stand on or near the rails.
• Do not stand or walk in areas with diagonal or white striping.
• Before crossing the street, listen for warning bells and horns, and look both ways because trolleys run quietly in the street and they run in both directions.
• Cross the street only at marked pedestrian crossings.
• Walk carefully across the rails, especially with narrow-heeled shoes. Pay special attention to your surroundings while walking in the area of the Loop Trolley, especially when it comes to using electronic devices like phones, wearing headphones, etc.
BIKES, SCOOTERS, STROLLERS AND WHEELCHAIRS

Cyclists are encouraged to take the newly established and marked Delmar Loop bike route (see map below) in order to avoid the trolley tracks along the busiest section of Delmar, and they are urged to dismount their bike and walk it across Delmar when crossing the street. When steered onto the trackway, tires can get stuck in the groove alongside the rail (flangeway), and the rails are often slippery.

To avoid any accidents or injuries, cyclists and people using wheelchairs, strollers or scooters should remember the following:

• Always cross the rails at right angles.
• If your bike wheel gets stuck in the rail:
  o Don’t hit the brakes.
  o Don’t turn your handle bar.
  o Slow gradually to a stop before exiting the rail.
• Do not cross into areas with diagonally-striped safety markings.

Alternate Bike Route

The alternate Delmar Loop bike route begins at Delmar and Eastgate, north to Enright and west to Ackert Walkway. From there, cyclists may take the Centennial Greenway (north or south) or continue west on Loop North to Kingsland. South of the Delmar Loop, the route runs along Loop South from the Centennial Greenway to Kingsland.

Further east on Delmar, cyclists will be pleased to learn that a dedicated bike lane runs along the St. Vincent Greenway on DeBaliviere, connecting to Forest Park.
VEHICLES

The Trolley shares a lane with other vehicles, and there are no barriers separating the trolleys from other road users. The trolley will travel along with traffic up to the speed limit (25 mph) and must follow the same traffic signals as other vehicles. The trolleys CANNOT swerve to avoid obstacles. Remember the following tips when navigating along the trolley route by vehicle:

- Don’t pass a trolley that’s traveling in front of you in the same lane – **It’s ILLEGAL.**
- Don’t stop or park on or over the trolley tracks – **It’s ILLEGAL.**
- Don’t drive or park on diagonal or white-striped safety markings – **It’s ILLEGAL.**
- Always park inside designated spaces to avoid being ticketed or towed.

While major construction along the trolley route has been completed, there will be minor finishing touches put in place over the next several months before The Loop Trolley officially opens for passenger service. During these remaining periods of construction, traffic lanes may occasionally change. Be alert for directional signs, and obey all warning signs.

TROLLEY WIRE SAFETY

The Loop Trolley is powered by overhead electric power lines that feed 600 volts DC to the trolley car. The power system is completely safe as it is designed, but if it breaks or comes into contact with an object or individual, the results could be severe.

To prevent accidents from occurring, always assume the wires are electrified and stay 10 feet away from the wires. Never climb a trolley wire pole, and never touch or throw anything onto the overhead wires.

If you encounter a down trolley wire, DO NOT GO NEAR IT. The wire is electrified and could cause serious injury or death.

ALWAYS call 911 to notify emergency personnel of the downed wires.

Conducting Work in the Vicinity of the Trolley Route

Any work to be done to the buildings, streets, overhead lights, signal lights and utilities along the Loop Trolley route will need to be carefully planned and executed. We have coordinated efforts with the City of St. Louis and University City to have The Loop Trolley added to their respective permit programs. When you apply for a permit through either city, they will direct you to The Loop Trolley for assistance. The first step is to complete the appropriate form available from the city web page. You will be provided an email, contact name and phone number of the person who will coordinate the review and approval. We are happy to meet with you on site to discuss the details of the work, equipment to be used, space needed and any other aspect of the job. The goal is to ensure your safety in regards to trolley movement or any component in the trolley system.

For your convenience, please visit the sites listed below to both cities and their permit systems:

https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/street/street-permits-application.cfm

https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/street/streets-sidewalks-traffic/permits-inspections/

ROUNDABOUT

The new beautiful, landscaped roundabout at the west entrance to University City and the Delmar Loop is now open! For more information on how to properly navigate the roundabout please visit http://www.modot.org/stlouis/links/roundaboutsinstlouis.htm.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Loop Trolley will provide a unique experience that we want people of all abilities to be able to enjoy. With that in mind, the trolley cars have been updated to meet current accessibility standards, and each trolley car is equipped with ADA lifts. All of the trolley stops will be accessible for people in wheelchairs or with other disabilities. Service animals will be allowed on the trolley cars.

As an added benefit of this project, nearly all traffic signals located along the route have been replaced, and crosswalk buttons have been added, where required, to meet newer ADA regulations. Intersection ramps along The Loop Trolley route have also been constructed to meet ADA requirements.

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Soon, The Loop Trolley will be running to conduct safety testing along its 2.2-mile route connecting the Delmar Loop and Forest Park. During safety testing, only trolley operators and authorized personnel will be allowed on the cars.

Safety is our top priority, so please follow these tips to keep you safe during testing:

1. Do not stand, walk, ride or drive on the white diagonal striping.

2. Vehicles cannot be parked on the rails and must be within the white line. Illegal parking can result in fines or towing.

Pedestrian crossing is only allowed at specifically marked crossings.

Trolleys run on rails in both directions, so be cautious.

Trolleys share a lane with vehicles, but they cannot veer to avoid people.

The Loop Trolley opens to the public in 2017, so come back and ride.

For more information, visit us online at loopstlouis.com

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