

tips

Biking in a dress is easy and fun — as long as your flirty frock doesn't get caught in the spokes. Carye Bye and Susie Phillips, makers of the short film "Do Skirts and Bikes Mix?" which premiered at Clinton Street Theater's Filmed by Bike III festival on April 15, offer their top tips to steer you in style.

◆ Riding pretty doesn't mean being foolish. "Do wear a helmet," says Bye. "Wear a scarf underneath and bring fixer-up supplies. You'd rather be pretty and safe, than pretty sorry."

◆ "Do wear a full skirt with crinoline or lacy petticoat underneath for volume," says Bye. "You'll have plenty of room to pedal and look classy at the same time."

◆ "A ladies' style bike with a lower bar is helpful for getting on and off," says Bye. "Pick up a secondhand three-speed or no-speed retro bike for slow cruising."

◆ "Do wear bloomers or bike shorts," says Bye. "Flashing your underwear in public as you mount your bike is not very ladylike."

◆ Skip the stilettos. "Do wear cute shoes," says Phillips. But "getting your high heel caught in the pedal is a fashion no-no."

◆ "Do show a little leg," says Phillips. "It just makes you faster — or is that the cars going slower?"

◆ "Don't wear a dress if you're biking in Cycle Oregon or any long-distance event," warns Bye. "You'd get a few too many funny looks — and, more importantly, after a while you might be uncomfortable and jealous of your Lycra neighbors. Save your pretty dress for the next 45-minute ride in the city to the farmers market."

BIKER BABES HIT THE ROAD

From 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, local artist and bike enthusiast Carye Bye will lead a leisurely Pretty Dress Bike Ride from Union Station to Sellwood and back, following the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade and Springwater Corridor. "May Day is traditionally a day about giving flowers or gifts to neighbors, and celebrating things beautiful," says Bye. "This is a perfect day to have a Pretty Dress Ride." Check the community calendar at www.shifftobikes.org for details.



Swiss dot shirtwaist dress by Kate **\$378**

Daniblack suede espadrilles **\$108**

Both at *Mimi & Lena*

Chunky coral-color wood bead necklace **\$18**

At *Urban Outfitters*

Accents of Grace blue crystal flower earrings **\$38**

Dragonlily Boutique

BY KAREN VITT / SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

We're not all built with a need for speed. Some of us prefer to cruise.

As spring bike season pedals into view, it's time to trade in your black spandex gear for breezy, colorful clothing as easy as a ride in the park.

"We love seeing a girl in a dress on a bike. To us that's as modern as it gets," says Joy Cohen, co-owner of The English Department boutique, which she and designer Elizabeth Dye opened on April 9. "A full skirt and striped top to the farmer's market? How sweet is that?"

In a bike-friendly town like Portland, cycling can be as stylish as it is practical.

"There are many appropriate occasions to dress pretty and ride your bike," says Carye Bye, organizer of Portland's Pretty Dress Bike Ride. Not every trip is a time trial.

When the weather is agreeable and you can take it easy, why not pair a flouncy frock or cute capris with comfy, low-heeled shoes for neighborhood errands? You might also take your bike to a party or art opening. Just don't forget to wear a helmet.

So stow your belongings in a charming bike basket and coast. The Pretty Dress Bike Ride is May 1.

Cycle into spring

Full skirts and pedal pushers turn leisurely bike rides into fashion outings



Electra Coaster 3 bicycle **\$369.99** At *Bike N' Hike* / Beth Bowley embroidered circle skirt **\$222** At *The English Department* / Yellow cardigan **\$29.50** At *Express* / Daniblack suede espadrilles **\$108** At *Mimi & Lena* / Coral, turquoise and wood bead necklace **\$28** At *Urban Outfitters*

PHOTOS BY TIM LaBARGE / THE OREGONIAN