

## Traffic Law Highlights For Bicyclists

Many bicycle crashes are caused by riding against the traffic, not being noticed by motor vehicle drivers, and being unable to hear the environmental sounds.

To ensure safety, you are subject to traffic laws like drivers:

- Obey traffic laws as do the operators of other vehicles. The laws include: stopping for stop signs and red lights, riding with the flow of traffic, using lights at night, and yielding the right-of-way when entering a roadway.
- **NEVER** ride against the flow of traffic. Wrong-way riding is one of the biggest causes of car/bike crashes. You must ride in the direction of traffic on a roadway. Other drivers do not expect traffic to approach on the right.
- Every bicycle must be equipped with a brake or

brakes which allow you to stop within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

- To ride between sunset and sunrise, your bicycle **MUST** be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from 500 feet to the front and a red reflector and a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from 600 feet to the rear.
- You may not wear a headset, headphone or listening device other than a hearing aid while riding.

## Where Should You Ride on the Road?

- The slower you are going compared to everyone else, the closer to the right-most portion of the roadway you should ride.
  - Don't ride so close to a parked car as to get hit by its door. Ride in a straight line about three feet away.

## Riding on the Sidewalks or in Crosswalks

- Riding on the sidewalks or in crosswalks may be okay if you go very slowly, and if it is legal in your town.
  - You must obey the pedestrian signal like a pedestrian. You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, and must give an audible signal before passing.

## Seeing and Being Seen

- When you ride, look down the road to see where you'll be in 12 seconds.
- Watch especially for cars coming out of side streets and cars coming toward you that could turn left.
- Be extra careful riding on high speed roads and try to stay off of them at night.

- Ride in a predictable place. For example, don't ride in the right turn lane if you plan to go straight.
- Let others know what you are going to do. For example, signal a turn by pointing the direction you want to go.
- Use lights and reflectors at night.
- Wear reflective clothing while cycling. Make sure you stand out from your background.

## Basic Bicycle Riding Skills in Traffic

Don't ride in traffic if you cannot master the following skills:

- Good control of your bike.
- The ability to look back and to ride with one hand.
- The ability to judge speed and distance.
- The ability to deal with other traffic.
- The ability to make a panic or sudden stop.
- The ability to make a quick turn.

For More Information:

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Florida Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Program  
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Pedestrians and Bicycle Safety  
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