

Rules Of The Road

The following is an abridged summary of Minnesota State laws and local ordinances that pertain to bicycles.

On the Road

- Bicycles are vehicles (169.011, subd. 92)
- Bicyclists are drivers of vehicles (169.011, subd. 24)
- Traffic laws apply to bicyclists just as they do to drivers of motor vehicles. Exceptions to this rule include laws that, by their nature, cannot reasonably be applied to bicycles (169.222, subd. 1)
- Ride in the same direction as traffic (169.222, subd. 4b)
- Ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when:
 - overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction;
 - preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway;
 - reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including fixed or moving objects, vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow width lanes, that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge; or
 - operating on the shoulder of a roadway or in a bicycle lane (169.222, subd. 4a)
- Obey all traffic control signs and signals that motorists must obey (169.222, subd. 1)
- Do not ride more than two abreast and ride two abreast only if not impeding normal and reasonable traffic flow (169.222, subd. 4c)
- Signal before turning or changing lanes. An arm signal (as described in 169.19, subd. 8) must be given continuously during the last 100 feet traveled by the bicycle before turning, unless the arm is needed to control the bicycle. An arm signal must also be given when stopped and waiting to turn (169.222, subd. 8)
- Carry only the number of persons on a bicycle for which it is designed and equipped. An adult rider may carry a child in a seat designed for carrying children and securely attached to the bicycle (169.222, subd. 2)
- When carrying items, the bicyclist must be able to keep one hand on the handlebars and properly operate the brakes (169.222, subd. 5)
- Do not cling to or hitch a ride on another vehicle (169.222, subd. 3)
- If charged with entering or crossing an intersection against a red light, a bicyclist has an affirmative defense if the bicyclist can establish all of these conditions:
 - The bicycle has been brought to a complete stop;

- The traffic control signal continues to show red for an unreasonable time and appears to not be working, or has failed to detect the bicycle if programmed or engineered to do so; and
- no motor vehicle or person is approaching on the cross street or highway or is so far away from the intersection that it does not constitute an immediate hazard (169.06, subd. 9)

On The Sidewalk

- Bicyclists may ride on all public sidewalks in the city, except where the entrance or exit of a building abuts the sidewalk or where posted (Edina city code, section 20-283[5])
- A person lawfully operating a bicycle on a sidewalk or in a crosswalk has all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances (169.222, subd. 4f)
- Yield to pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks (169.222, subd. 4d)
- Give an audible signal before overtaking or passing a pedestrian on the sidewalk (169.222, subd. 4d)
- Ride at a speed no greater than is reasonable and prudent under the circumstances, and in no event at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour (Edina city code Section 20-283[1])
- Slow to a walking pace when pedestrians are present (Edina city code section 20-283[2])
- Slow to a walking pace upon approach to and when crossing a driveway or intersection; enter driveway or intersection only when clear of traffic (Edina city code section 20-283[3])

Parking

- A person may park a bicycle on the sidewalk, provided it does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrians or other traffic (169.222, subd. 9a)
- A person may park a bicycle on the roadway where vehicle parking is permitted, provided it does not obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle (169.222, subd. 9b)
- Other—like can bicyclists lock bikes to sign posts, street furniture, etc?

Equipment

- When riding at night or in dim light, a bicyclist or its operator must be equipped with a lamp and reflectors as described in MN statutes 169.222, subd. 6a and 6b

- Bicycles must be equipped with working rear, or front and rear, brakes (169.22, subd. 6c)
- Do not ride a bicycle on the street if the handlebars require the bicyclist's hands to be at or above shoulder level (169.222, subd. g)
- Do not ride a bicycle on the street if the size of the bicycle prevents the operator from safely stopping the bicycle, putting one foot on the ground, and restarting in a safe manner (169.222, subd. 6h)

Rules For Motorists:

- Do not park in a bike lane (169.34, subd. 1a[14])
- Do not drive in a bike lane, except to perform parking maneuvers where parking is permitted, to enter or leave the roadway, or to prepare for a turn (169.18, subd. 7d)
- Give at least three feet clearance when passing a bicyclist and maintain that clearance until safely past the bicyclist (169.18, subd. 3[3])
- Yield the right-of-way to bicycles on the roadway as you would yield to any other vehicle (169.20, subd. 1)
- A bicyclist is not impeding traffic if following the law and traveling at a reasonable speed for a bicycle (169.15, subd. 1 does not apply to bicycles)
- Yield to bicyclists in the crosswalk just as you would yield to pedestrians (169.21, subd. 2a)
- When emerging from an alley, driveway, or building, stop before driving onto the sidewalk, look for bicyclists, and yield the right-of-way to anyone on the sidewalk (169.31)
- When entering the roadway from any place other than a roadway, look for bicyclists and yield the right-of-way to any bicyclist already on the road (169.20, subd. 4)
- Before opening your car door, look for bicyclists. Do not open the door unless it is reasonably safe to do so and it can be done without interfering with the movement of traffic (169.315)
- Do not follow a bicycle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the bicycle and the traffic upon and conditions of the roadway (169.18, subd. 8)
- Exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicycle upon any roadway (169.21, subd. 3d)
- Slow down. The default speed limit on most city streets is 30 mph; however, "No person shall drive a vehicle on a [street] at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions. Every driver is responsible for becoming and remaining aware of actual and potential hazards then existing on the [street] and must use due care in operating a vehicle. In every event speed shall be so restricted as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or

other conveyance on or entering the [street] in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care” (169.14, subd. 1)

Rules for Pedestrians:

- When walking along the roadway, walk on the left side, giving way to oncoming bicycle traffic (169.21, subd. 5)
- Where sidewalks are provided and where the sidewalks are accessible and useable, it's unlawful for a pedestrian to walk upon the roadway (169.21, subd. 5)
- Yield the right-of-way to bicyclists on the roadway if crossing the street at any point other than a marked crosswalk or intersection with no marked crosswalk (169.21, subd. 3a)