

# Utah Cycling Laws



The following information point out those laws specifically addressing the needs and responsibilities of bicyclists.

## **State Laws**

- “Bicycle” means a wheeled vehicle propelled by human power by feet or hands acting upon pedals or cranks, with a seat for the operator, and wheels 14 inches or greater in diameter. Bicycle includes an electric assisted bicycle (41-6A-102).
- Your bicycle is considered a vehicle and you have the same rights and are subject to the same provisions as the operator of any other vehicle (41-6a-1102). This includes obeying traffic signals (41-6a-305), stop and yield signs (41-6a-902), and all other official traffic control devices (41-6a-208).
- Ride no more than two abreast and then only if you would not impede traffic (41-61-1105).
- Ride as far to the right as practicable except when:
  - Passing another bike or vehicle
  - Preparing to turn left
  - Going straight through an intersection past a right-turn-only lane
  - Avoiding unsafe conditions on the right-hand edge of the roadway; or
  - Traveling in a lane too narrow to safely ride, side-by-side with another vehicle. (41-61-1105).

## **Turning & Signaling**

- In some instances where an off-roadway bike path has been provided, you may be directed by an official traffic control device to use the path rather than the roadway (41-6a-1105).
- Always signal your intention to turn right or left, change lanes, or stop at least three seconds before doing so (41-61-804). You do not have to maintain a continuous signal if you need your hand to control the bike. Once stopped in a designated turn lane you are not required to signal again before turning (41-6a-1109).
- To make a left turn, you have two options as a bicyclist:
  - Use the left turn lane or two-way left turn lane in the same manner required of motor vehicles (41-61-1108); or
  - Staying on the right side of the roadway, ride through the intersecting roadway to the far corner and stop. After it is safe and legal to do so, cross in the new direction, continuing to travel on the right side of the roadway (41-6a-1109).
- The acceptable hand signals are:
  - Left turn – left hand and arm extended horizontally;
  - Right turn – left hand and arm extended upward or right hand and arm extended horizontally; and
  - Stop or decrease speed – left hand and arm extended downward (41-6a-804).

## Lights & Equipment

- Always yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal when overtaking them. Use are and safe speeds to avoid collisions. Never ride where bicycles are prohibited (41-6a-1106).
- A bicyclists 16 years and older facing a red signal or red arrow may cautiously enter an intersection as long as they have come to a complete stop, waited 90 seconds or more, and no other vehicle or pedestrian is entitled to have the right-of-way (41-6a-1104).
- While cycling, never attach yourself or your bike to any vehicles moving on the highway (41-6a-1104).
- Never race bicycles on the highway except in events approved by state or local authorities (41-6a-1111).
- Do not carry and package, bundle, or article that prevents using both hands to control your bike. You must have at least one hand on the handlebars at all times (41-6a-1112).
- You are required to have a white headlight, red taillight or reflector, and side reflectors, all visible for at least 500 feet any time you ride earlier than a half hour before sunrise, later than a half hour after sunset, or whenever it is otherwise difficult to make out vehicles 1000 feet away. The lights may be on the bicycle or the bike rider (41-6a-1114).
- You must have brakes capable of stopping you within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour on a dry, level, clean pavement (41-6a-1113).
- You cannot have a siren or whistle on your bike (41-6a-1113).
- You may park your bike on a sidewalk along a roadway anywhere it is not expressly prohibited or where it would impede pedestrian or traffic movement. You may also park your bike on the roadway anywhere parking is allowed as long as you are parked within 12 inches of the curb or edge of the roadway (41-6a-1402) and your bike does not block any legally parked motor vehicles. Your bike does not have to be parallel to the curb, but may be parked at any time angle to the curb (41-6a-1107).
- A peace officer may at any time upon reasonable cause to believe that your bicycle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law, or that its equipment is not proper adjustment or repair, require you to stop an submit the bicycle to an inspection and a test as appropriate (41-6a-1110).

The following information points out a few laws specifically addressing motorists' responsibilities around bicyclist.

- Motorists may not pass within 3-feet of a moving bicycle (41-6a-706.5).
- Motorists may not attempt to distract bicyclists for the purpose of causing injury r for e a bicyclist off the roadway (41-6a-706.5).
- Motorists may cross the centerline (41-6a-701) or the center two-way left turn lane (41-6a-710) to pass a bicycle if it can be done safely.

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## **BYU Bicycle Regulations**

- Bicycle speed limit for riding on sidewalks has been standardized and established as 5 mph.
- Bicycle riding on sidewalks is prohibited during class breaks.
- Bicycles must be parked / locked in a bike rack. Bicycles found in violation will be impounded.
- Riding skateboards, longboards, scooters, rollerblades, hoverboards and other like devices is prohibited in any BYU parking lot or on BYU properties.
- All bicycles are required to come to a complete stop at the stop sign located at the bottom of Maeser Hill.
- Riding a bicycle down the Helaman Halls ramp and the Smith Fieldhouse ramp is prohibited.

### Bicycle Safety Tips

1. **WEAR YOUR HELMET.** Although not required by Utah Law, it is recommended that bicyclists wear a good-quality bike helmet. Nearly 75-80 percent of cyclists killed or permanently disabled invoice head or neck injuries.
2. Wear light-colored or reflective clothing at night. Nearly 50 percent of the fatal car/bike accidents occur at night or in low-light conditions.
3. Watch out for people opening car doors when you pass a parked motor vehicle.
4. When riding on sidewalks reduce your speed and exercise caution. Remember, there are no signs on sidewalks that regulate traffic flow, so expect the unexpected.
5. Be on the lookout for and avoid the following road surface hazards:
  - Loose sand, rocks, glass and debris
  - Road expansion joints that run parallel to the front tire
  - Standing water and puddles
  - Drainage grates with holes that run parallel to the front tire
  - Holes, cracks and road-edge deterioration or drop-offs
  - Railroad tracks that are not perpendicular to the direction of travel
6. Be extra careful if cycling in the rain. Remember the following:
  - Braking distance is increased because of wet rims and wet brake pads. Apply brakes earlier than you would in dry conditions.
  - Visibility is decreased. Wear bright-colored clothing.
  - Rain makes road surfaces, manhole covers and painted stripes slicker. Slow down, especially when turning.
  - Avoid puddles. You never know how deep a hole is if it is full of water.

### Bicycle Theft Prevention Tips

- **LOCK UP YOUR BIKE.** Follow these guidelines when locking a bike:
  - Always lock your bike to a bicycle rack
  - Use a good-quality “case-hardened” or “hardened” U-bolt Lock
  - Secure the U-bolt lock through the bike frame, the rear wheel and the bicycle rack. If possible, remove the front wheel and secure it with the rear wheel and frame, or run a cable through both tires.
- Engrave your driver’s license number onto the bike frame. Register your bicycle with BYU University Police, 2120 JKB.
- If your bike is stolen, report it immediately to BYU University Police, 801-422-2222.