

The following is an abridged summary of Minnesota State laws that pertain to bicycles and can be used as a reference by cyclists and others who need to know the laws.

Minnesota Bicycle Laws

Minnesota Statutes
Sections 169 (abridged)

Riding

- On roadways, ride in the same direction as traffic. (169.222, subd. 4b)
- Ride as close as practicable to right hand curb or edge of roadway, except when passing a vehicle moving in same direction, when preparing to turn left at an intersection or into a private

driveway, or when necessary to avoid conditions (such as objects, surfaces, hazards) that make it unsafe to ride close to the right. (169.222, subd. 4)

- Obey all traffic control signs and signals that motorists must obey. (169.222, subd. 1)
- Ride two abreast only if not impeding normal and reasonable traffic flow. (169.222, subd. 4c)
- On trails and bikepaths that cross roadways, obey all stop signs and warning devices. (169.222, subd. 1)
- Ride with lamps and reflectors on at night and in dim light. (169.222, subd. 6)

- Only ride a bicycle with working brakes. (169.222, subd. 6 b)
- Don't ride a bicycle if its size doesn't allow the operator to stop, support and restart bike safely. (169.222, subd. 6 d)
- When passing a bicyclist or person on a bikeway, maintain a safe distance from the bicycle or person being passed. (169.222, subd. 4 e)
- Don't hitch a bicycle to another vehicle for a ride. (169.222, subd. 3)
- Carry only the number of persons on a bicycle for which it is designed and equipped. Exceptions include legal baby seats and seats attached to the bike operator. (169.222, subd. 2)

- Don't carry anything that prevents the operator from holding the handlebars with at least one hand or from properly operating brakes. (169.222, subd. 5)
- Don't ride a bicycle with handlebars that are above shoulder level. (169.222, subd. 6 c)

Turning

- Hold arm signal continuously for 100' before turning or when stopped waiting to turn, unless arm is needed to control bike. (169.222, subd. 8)
- Use left arm to signal turns. When turning right, holding right arm straight out to right is also OK. (169.19, subd. 8)

Affirmative Defense

- 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 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)

Sidewalks

- Yield to pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks. (169.222, s. 4 d)
- Signal audibly when passing a pedestrian on a sidewalk. (169.222, subd. 4 d)
- Don't ride on sidewalks in business districts unless locally permitted. (169.222, subd. 4 d)

Parking

- Parking on a sidewalk is OK unless locally restricted, but don't impede normal movement of pedestrians and other traffic. (169.222, s. 9 a)

- Parking on a roadway where parking is allowed is OK, but don't obstruct movement of legally parked motor vehicles. (169.222, subd. 9 b)

Additional Resources:

For more information about bicycle safety, riding, classes, events maps and more visit these websites:

Share the Road

www.sharetheroadmn.org

Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota

www.bikemn.org

Dept. of Public Safety, Traffic Safety

www.dps.state.mn.us/ots

DNR State Trails:

www.dnr.state.mn.us

Explore Minnesota:

www.exploreminnesota.com

Mn/DOT Traveler Information -

Dial 511 or www.511mn.org

Emergencies Dial 911

A POCKET GUIDE TO MINNESOTA BICYCLE LAWS



www.dot.state.mn.us/bike



www.mnsbac.org