

Traffic Laws for Bicyclists and Motorists

- Ride as far to the right as practicable, in the same direction as other traffic. "Practicable" does not mean "possible." Stay out of the gutter; leave yourself enough room to avoid hazards, including parked cars with open doors.
- A cyclist may ride in the middle of a lane (take the lane) that is less than 14 feet wide or is too narrow to safely share with a motor vehicle. Cyclists may ride two abreast when taking a lane on a multi-lane roadway. Persons riding two abreast may not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway.
- A cyclist should ride in the proper lane to make a turn or otherwise negotiate an intersection.
- A cyclist may ride to the left side on a one-way roadway.
- A cyclist must stop and yield at stop signs and traffic lights just as motor vehicles do.
- A cyclist must have and use a white light on the front of the bike and a red reflector or red light on the back when riding in the dark.
- If only one brake is working, it should be on the back wheel to avoid pitching the rider over the handlebars.
- Vehicles, including bicycles are prohibited from racing on public roads. There are specific allowances for sanctioned bicycle races that are approved by local law enforcement.
- Use hand and arm signals.



Left turn: Raise left arm to a horizontal position.



Right turn: Raise left arm horizontal and bend elbow so hand is pointing up.



Stop or slow down: Raise left arm horizontal and bend elbow so hand is pointing down.

BikeSafe. BikeSmart. BikeHouston.

Houston City Ordinance No. 95-813

Children under the age of 18 who operate or ride on a bicycle or any side car, trailer, child carrier, seat or other device attached to a bicycle must wear a bicycle helmet.

State of Texas Bicycle Laws

§ 551.101. RIGHTS AND DUTIES

(a) A person operating a bicycle has the rights and duties applicable to a driver operating a vehicle under this subtitle, unless:

- (1) a provision of this chapter alters a right or duty; or
 - (2) a right or duty applicable to a driver operating a vehicle cannot by its nature apply to a person operating a bicycle.
- (b) A parent of a child or a guardian of a ward may not knowingly permit the child or ward to violate this subtitle.

§551.103. OPERATION ON ROADWAY.

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person operating a bicycle on a roadway who is moving slower than the other traffic on the roadway shall ride as near as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway, unless:

- (1) the person is passing another vehicle moving in the same direction;
- (2) the person is preparing to turn left at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway;
- (3) a condition on or of the roadway, including a fixed or moving object, parked or moving vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or surface hazard prevents the person from safely riding next to the right curb or edge of the roadway; or
- (4) **the person is operating a bicycle in an outside lane that is:**
 - (A) **less than 14 feet in width and does not have a designated bicycle lane adjacent to that lane; or**
 - (B) **too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side by side.**

(c) Persons operating bicycles on a roadway may ride two abreast. Persons riding two abreast on a laned roadway shall ride in a single lane. Persons riding two abreast may not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway. Persons may not ride more than two abreast unless they are riding on a part of the roadway set aside for the exclusive operation of bicycles.

