

Rules of the Road

Bicycling on the Road

Bicycles are considered vehicles, and cyclists have the same rights and the same responsibilities to follow the rules of the road as motorists. When riding, always:

Go With the Traffic Flow. Ride on the right in the same direction as other vehicles. Go with the flow – not against it.

Obey All Traffic Laws. A bicycle is a vehicle and you're a driver. When you ride in the street, obey all traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.

Yield to Traffic When Appropriate. Almost always, drivers on a smaller road must yield (wait) for traffic on a major or larger road. If there is no stop sign or traffic signal and you are coming from a smaller roadway (out of a driveway, from a sidewalk, a bike path, etc.), you must slow down and look to see if the way is clear before proceeding. This also means yielding to pedestrians who have already entered a crosswalk.

Be Predictable. Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars. Signal your moves to others.

Stay Alert at All Times. Use your eyes AND ears. Watch out for potholes, cracks, wet leaves, storm grates, railroad tracks, or anything that could make you lose control of your bike. You need your ears to hear traffic and avoid dangerous situations; don't wear a headset when you ride.

Look Before Turning. When turning left or right, always look behind you for a break in traffic, then signal before making the turn. Watch for left- or right-turning traffic.

Watch for Parked Cars. Ride far enough out from the curb to avoid the unexpected from parked cars (like doors opening, or cars pulling out).

For more information on bicycle safety, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Web site at: www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Sidewalk versus Street Riding

The safest place for bicycle riding is on the street, where bicycles are expected to follow the same rules of the road as motorists and ride in the same direction.

- Children less than 10 years old, however, are not mature enough to make the decisions necessary to safely ride in the street.
- Children less than 10 years old are better off riding on the sidewalk.

For anyone riding on a sidewalk:

- Check the law in your State or jurisdiction to make sure sidewalk riding is allowed.
- Watch for vehicles coming out of or turning into driveways.
- Stop at corners of sidewalks and streets to look for cars and to make sure the drivers see you before crossing.
- Enter a street at a corner and not between parked cars. Alert pedestrians that you are near by saying, "Excuse me," or, "Passing on your left," or use a bell or horn.



Helmets are not required for bicycling in KY. However, helmets protect against injury in 8 out of 10 crashes involving head bumps.

BE SAFE - WEAR A HELMET

Kentucky Laws and Regulations for Bicyclists



KRS 189.010 Definitions:

A "Vehicle" includes: All agencies for transportation of people or property over or upon the public highways of the Commonwealth; and All vehicles passing over or upon the highways. A bicycle is considered to be a vehicle that uses muscular power.



**KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION
CABINET**

Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) and
Kentucky Administrative Regulation
(KAR)

The Laws

KRS 189.010 Defines: "Department " means Department of Highways.

"Highway" means any public road, street, avenue, alley or boulevard, bridge, viaduct, or trestle and the approaches to them and includes private residential roads and parking lots covered by an agreement under KRS 61.362.

"Right-of-way" means the right of one vehicle or pedestrian to proceed in a lawful manner in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian approaching under such circumstances of direction, speed, and proximity as to give rise to danger of collision unless one grants precedence to the other.

KRS 189.080 Horns and other sound devices. Every person operating an automobile or bicycle shall sound the horn or sound device whenever necessary as a warning of the approach of such vehicle to pedestrians or other vehicles, but shall not sound the horn or sound device unnecessarily. A bell may be used on a bicycle.

KRS 189.231 states that all vehicles SHALL (must) obey traffic controls applicable thereto, meaning stops lights and stop signs for example.

KRS 189.287 Bicycle safety regulations and standards: The Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A to set forth standards for bicycle equipment and the safe operation of a bicycle. The regulations shall include requirements for lights, reflectors, and audible warning devices. Bicycles and riders which comply with the regulations promulgated under this section are exempt from municipal and other local government regulations concerning safety equipment but not method of operation. In promulgating the administrative regulations, the Transportation Cabinet shall permit use of lightweight modern technological substitutes for lights, reflectors, and bells. The purpose of this section is to encourage bicycling and bicycle touring in this state by enabling bicycle riders to make use of modern technology to make their presence known to other users of the road.

The Regulations

601 KAR 14:020. Bicycle safety standards.

RELATES TO: KRS Chapter 189.

Section 1. Front Lights. A bicycle operated on a highway during the hours or atmospheric conditions described in KRS 189.030(1) shall be equipped with one (1) front light which clearly reveals substantial objects at least fifty (50) feet ahead and which is visible for 500 feet.

Section 2. Rear Lights or Reflectors. A bicycle, when operated on a highway or highway shoulder, shall display on either the bicycle or the bicyclist so that it is visible from the rear of the bicycle:
(1) One (1) red reflector or red light visible for at least 100 feet; and
(2) During the hours or atmospheric conditions described in KRS 189.030(1), one (1) red light or flashing red light visible for at least 500 feet.

Section 3. Horn or Bell. (1) A bicycle may be equipped with a bell, horn or other device capable of making an abrupt sound.
(2) Every person operating a bicycle shall shout or sound the bell, horn or sound device whenever necessary as a warning of the approach of the bicycle to pedestrians or other bicycles, but shall not sound the horn or sound device unnecessarily.
(3) A bicycle shall not be equipped with a siren or whistle.

Section 4. Brakes. A bicycle shall not be operated on a highway or highway shoulder without brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop the bicycle.

Section 5. Seat. A bicyclist, when operating on a highway or highway shoulder, shall ride on or astride a permanently attached bicycle seat.

Section 6. Passengers. A bicycle, when being operated on a highway or highway shoulder, shall not carry more than the number of persons for which the bicycle was designed or is safely

equipped.

Section 7. Packages. A bicyclist, when operating on a highway or highway shoulder, shall not carry a package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one (1) hand on the handle bars.

Section 8. Prohibition Against Attaching to Vehicles. A bicyclist, when operating on a highway or highway shoulder, shall not attach either the bicycle or himself to any other vehicle.

Section 9. Operation of Bicycles. A bicycle shall be operated in the same manner as a motor vehicle except the following traffic conditions shall apply:
(1) A bicycle may be operated on the shoulder of a highway;
(2) If a highway lane is marked for the exclusive use of bicycles, the operator of a bicycle shall use the lane whenever feasible;
(3) Not more than two (2) bicycles shall be operated abreast in a single highway lane. (20 Ky.R. 1508; Am. 2037; eff. 2-10-94.)

