



Cycling – Laws & Safety

Laws & Safety

- In Georgia, bicycle is legally a "vehicle" and general traffic law applies to bicycles and the operation of a bicycle.
 - Riding on the right side of the road
 - Obeying all traffic signals – stop signs, traffic lights
 - Yield to pedestrians
 - Ride in turn lanes
 - In Georgia, local governments may make special provisions (ex: riding on sidewalks or must ride in bike lane if available) - observe posted signs.

Laws & Safety

- No person under the age of 16 years shall operate or be a passenger on a bicycle without wearing a bicycle helmet.
- Headgear meet or exceeds the impact standards for bicycle helmets set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Snell Memorial Foundation
- You should ride as near to the right side of the road as practicable, except when...
 - turning left
 - if there are hazards
 - lane is too narrow to share safely with a motor vehicle
 - when traveling at the same speed as traffic
 - when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction
 - Hazards...includes anything that threatens your safety such as surface debris, rough pavement, drain grates which are parallel to the side of the roadway, parked or stopped vehicles, potentially opening car doors, snakes, and mean, unleashed dogs!!!

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- Night time – bike should have light on the front which emits a white light visible from a distance of 300 feet to the front and with a red reflector/light on the rear (approved by the Department of Public Safety) which shall be visible from a distance of 300 feet to the rear.
- Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- Bike rider should only ride upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bike and shall allow no person to ride upon the handlebars.
- No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- No person shall transport a child under the age of one year as a passenger unless child is in a bicycle trailer or in an infant sling and is wearing a bicycle helmet as required.
- Children one to four years is in a child passenger bicycle seat, bicycle trailer, or infant sling and wearing a helmet.

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- Electric assisted bicycles may be operated on bicycle paths.
- No bike riding if you carry any package, bundle, or other article which prevents you from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.
- Every bicycle sold or operated shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level pavement
Illegal to attach bike to any vehicle upon a roadway.
- No bicycle shall be equipped or operated while equipped with a set of handlebars so raised that the operator must elevate his hands above his shoulders in order to grasp the normal steering grip area.
- No bicycle shall be equipped, modified, or altered in such a way as to cause the pedal in its lowermost position to be more than 12 inches above the ground, nor shall any bicycle be operated if so equipped.

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Be Prepared!!! Be Defensive!!!

- Use hand signals...left, right turn, stop
- Look behind you before turning (but practice looking behind first)!
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Ride on the right, pass on the left
- Use audible signals (bell, “on your left”)
- Be Visiblebright colors, reflective clothing
- Be predictable....don't swerve into a turn lane...show your intentions early and with proper signals. Remember, cars are going faster than you and can't always react quickly.
- Avoid bad traffic areas...congested roads, poor visibility, unfamiliar rds
- Walk your bike using cross walks