

# State of Texas Bicycle Laws

(selected items from the Texas Transportation Code)

## § 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;
- (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

## § 551.104. SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

(a) A person may not operate a bicycle unless the bicycle is equipped with a brake capable of making a braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(b) A person may not operate a bicycle at nighttime unless the bicycle is equipped with:

(1) a lamp on the front of the bicycle that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front of the bicycle; and

(2) on the rear of the bicycle:

(A) a red reflector that is:

- (i) of a type approved by the department; and
- (ii) visible when directly in front of lawful upper beams of motor vehicle headlamps from all distances from 50 to 300 feet to the rear of the bicycle; or

(B) a lamp that emits a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the bicycle.

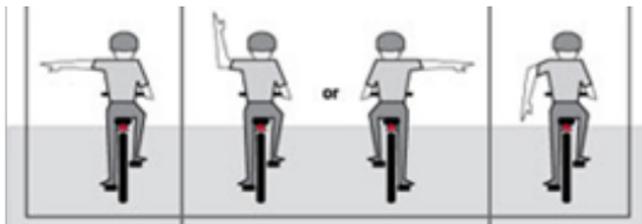
## ***Bicyclists have a RIGHT TO THE ROAD.***



**North Central Texas  
Council of Governments**

# Bike Safe

- Ride as far to the right as practicable, in the same direction as other traffic. Practicable does not mean possible. Do not ride in the gutter. Be sure to leave enough room to avoid hazards like parked cars with open doors.
- A cyclist may ride in the middle of 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 (in the same lane) on a multi-lane roadway. Cyclists riding two abreast may not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway.
- A cyclist may ride on the left side on a one-way roadway.
- Always wear a helmet. Make sure that the helmet fits on top of your head and is not tipped back or forward.
- Be visible. Always ride where motorists and other roadway users can see you. Wear bright-colored or reflective clothing, particularly when riding at night. State law requires that riders use a front headlight and rear reflector when riding at night (see Sec. 551.104. Safety Equipment).
- Follow the rules of the road. Bicyclists are required to stop and yield at traffic signals and stop signs the same way motorists are required to obey these rules.
- A bicycle should ALWAYS have at least one working brake. If only one brake is working, it should be on the rear wheel of the bike.
- Use hand and arm signals to indicate your intention to stop, merge or turn.
- Check your local ordinances to determine whether bicycles are permitted on sidewalks.
- Always carry a Texas I.D. or Driver's License when operating a bicycle on public roads.



Left Turn: Left arm is extended horizontally.

Right Turn: Left arm is raised so hand is pointing up, or right arm is extended horizontally.

Slow or Stop: Left arm is lowered so hand is pointing down.