

Nebraska Bicycle Safety Info



Bicycle Safety

Nebraska Bicycle Laws Summary

Helmets: Bicyclists are strongly encouraged to wear a Consumer Product Safety Commission approved helmet at all times.

Railroad Tracks: Cross railroad tracks as close to a right angle as possible, using caution not to lean bike when contacting the track.

Be Predictable: Avoid sudden movements. Do not surprise motorists, pedestrians, or other bicyclists. Make sure to signal your turn.

See and be Easily Seen: Wear brightly colored clothes and reflectors. Try not to ride alone. Even two bicyclists are more visible than one. When bicyclists are sharing the roadway with trucks and wide vehicles, a rearview mirror can be a valuable safety benefit to bicyclists.

Use Paved Shoulders: When riding on highways having paved shoulders, it is strongly encouraged to ride on the paved shoulder, if at all possible. Surface shoulder roadways and higher volumes of commercial vehicles (trucks) go hand-in-hand.

Use Hand Signals: Signaling your intentions is essential to let motorists and riding companions know what you are about to do.

Recommended items to take along: Cell Phone, Identification Card, Medical Card, First Aid Kit, Bicycle Tire Repair Kit and extra water.

ALWAYS RIDE DEFENSIVELY

Hand Signals



Right Turn



Left Turn



Right Turn



Slow Down or Stop

Nebraska Revised Statutes §60-6,163

The following is a summary of bicycle laws in Nebraska. This is not an inclusive listing of laws for bicyclists. For more details, see Nebraska Revised Statutes §60-611, §60-680, §60-6,177, §60-6,142-144, and §60-6,314-319. Local authorities may have additional regulations within their jurisdictions.

In Nebraska, bicyclists are required to follow the same rules of the road as motorists. A bicyclist riding on a highway generally has all of the rights of a vehicle and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle (some exceptions do exist). Parents or guardians are responsible for the actions of children under the age of 16.

Restricted Highways (Interstate & Freeway)

Bicyclists are not allowed to ride on interstate highways or freeways in Nebraska (a freeway is defined as a fully access controlled highway with "no" at-grade crossings).

Mandatory Side Path Law

Nebraska has a mandatory side path law that states that you should not ride your bicycle on the highway if a usable bikepath is adjacent. This does not apply when riding on surface (paved) shoulders.

Equipment on Bicycles

- Have brakes that can stop your bicycle within 25 feet at 10 mph. (based on ideal conditions)
- Have a red reflector on the rear of your bike when riding at night. (City of Lincoln requires a rear red light)
- Have an attached light on the front of your bike for night riding.
- Have side reflectors on your bicycle wheels when riding at night.
- Have reflectors on your pedals (or shoes) when riding at night.

State Patrol Advice

Although Nebraska has laws that require reflectors and a light on bicycles for riding at night, the Nebraska State Patrol does not recommend riding a bicycle on rural state highways at night due to the higher speeds and reduced visibility.

Ride Single File When Riding on the Highway

When on the highway, bicyclists must ride single file. This does not apply when riding on the surfaced shoulder. However, bicyclists must signal their turn if they leave the shoulder to ride on the highway and must yield the right-of-way to all other vehicles.

Ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practical

- Unless you are overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle;
- Unless you are preparing to make a legal left turn;
- Unless you are traveling the same speed of the current traffic;
- Unless you are traveling on a paved shoulder of a highway;
- Unless it is reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions;
- Unless the lane you are in is too narrow for both vehicle and bicycle to travel side by side;
- Unless you are on a multilane one-way, 35 mph or less, you may ride as near to the left side of roadway.

For Information On:

Lodging Attractions, Outfitters & Events Contact:
Nebraska Division of Tourism
PO Box 98907
Lincoln NE 68509-8907
Phone: 1-800-228-4307
Email: tourism@visitnebraska.org

Trail Information:
State Trails Coordinator
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
2200 N. 33rd St.
Lincoln NE 68503
Phone: 402-471-5511
Email: duane.westerholt@ngpc.ne.gov
www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/guides/trails/findtrails.asp

Cowboy Trail Brochure:
www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/guides/trails/cowboy/cowboy.asp

Bicycle Route Planning, Highway Construction & General Bike Info:
State Bicycle Coordinator
Nebraska Department of Roads
PO Box 94759
Lincoln NE 68509-4759
Phone: 402-479-4338
Email: NDOR_BikePed@dor.state.ne.us
www.transportation.nebraska.gov
Choose Hiking and Biking Link
Travel/Construction Detours
(Monthly Construction Info & Detours)
www.transportation.nebraska.gov/rca/

Emergency Highway Help:
Nebraska State Patrol: 1-800-525-5555
Cellular *55
Emergency/Police *911
Weather & Road Conditions *511
Outside of Nebraska 1-800-906-9069