

## Bicycle Safety

**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.

**Be Predictable:** Avoid sudden movements. Do not surprise motorists, pedestrians, or other bicyclists.

**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 rear view 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 Bicycle Laws Summary

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.

## Bicycle Laws Continued

### 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 your are traveling the same speed of the current traffic;
- Unless your 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.

**Cover Photo:** Conservation Park & Wildlife Safari

*Located at I-80 and Highway 66, the Wildlife Safari is operated by the Henry Doorly Zoo. The park is a drive through adventure using your vehicle. One cannot cycle through the safari, however you may drop by the Visitor Center or call ahead to reserve a narrated tram ride. 402 944-WILD*

### For Information On:

#### Lodging Attractions, Outfitters & Events Contact:

Nebraska Division of Tourism  
PO Box 98907  
Lincoln NE 68509-8907  
Email: [Tourism@visitnebraska.org](mailto:Tourism@visitnebraska.org)  
Phone: 1-800-228-4307

#### Trail Information:

State Trails Coordinator  
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
2200 N. 33rd St.  
Lincoln NE 68503  
Website: [www.ngpc.state.ne.us](http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us)  
Email: [ngpc@ngpc.state.ne.us](mailto:ngpc@ngpc.state.ne.us)  
Phone: 402-471-5511

#### Cowboy Trail Brochure:

Website: [www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/guides/trails/cowboy/cowboy.asp](http://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  
Website: [www.nebraskatransportation.org](http://www.nebraskatransportation.org)  
Phone: 402-479-4338  
Email: [NDOR\\_BikePed@dor.state.ne.us](mailto:NDOR_BikePed@dor.state.ne.us)  
Travel/Construction Detours  
(monthly construction info and map)  
Website: [www.nebraskatransportation.org/rca/#roadconditions](http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/rca/#roadconditions)

#### EMERGENCY HIGHWAY HELP

Nebraska State Patrol: 1-800-525-5555  
Cellular ..... \*55  
Emergency/Police ..... 911  
Weather and Current Road Conditions  
..... 511 or 1-800-906-9069

## Nebraska

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# Bicycle Guide



Mike Johanns  
Governor

John L. Craig  
Director NDOR



# NEBRASKA BICYCLE GUIDE MAP



Bicyclists are PROHIBITED on all Interstates and Freeways (Shown in red). A Freeway is defined as a fully access controlled highway with "no" at grade crossings.

## GENERAL NOTE ABOUT THE BICYCLE GUIDE MAP

This map is a guide only. Nebraska's many low volume state roadways make bicycling in Nebraska a pleasant and enjoyable experience. County paved roadways also make good bicycle routes. They are shown on this map, but they do not have a Bicycle Compatibility Rating, so they are not color coded.

The Rural Bicycle Compatibility Index ratings were based on a research project done by the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). The degree of bicycle compatibility was mostly affected by the width of the paved shoulders. However, the volume of heavy trucks also affected the degree of compatibility. Paved shoulders are generally more accommodating for bicyclists where heavier traffic volumes exist.

The compatibility rating of some segments on US-30 was lowered due to a history of conflicts that bicyclists have had with large agricultural equipment. The rating of divided roadways that had 1,000 or more heavy trucks on them per day was also lowered, since the UNO research did not cover expressways.

For more information contact:  
State Bicycle/Pedestrian Coord.  
Nebraska Department of Roads  
1400 Hwy 2  
P.O. Box 94759  
Lincoln NE 68509 - 4759  
(402)479-4338  
[NDOR.BikePed@dor.state.ne.us](mailto:NDOR.BikePed@dor.state.ne.us)

