

SAFE BICYCLING IN NEW YORK CITY

Riding in Traffic:

- Use bike lanes when available.
- Keep right when possible. However, when the road is narrow and cars cannot safely pass, you have the right to ride in the middle of the travel lane. You also have the right to ride all the way to the left on a 40-foot wide one-way street.
- Ride predictably. Use hand signals, ride in a straight line and do not weave in and out between parked cars. The more predictable you are the more drivers will respect you.
- Establish eye contact with drivers. Seeing a driver is often not enough. Make sure drivers see you before executing a turn or riding in front of a turning car.
- Look for drivers in parked cars. Being aware of drivers in parked cars can prepare you for the possibility of a car door being opened in your path.
- Be visible. Wear brightly colored clothing for daytime riding. At night, use reflective materials and lights.

Traffic Laws:

- Riding is permitted on the main and local streets throughout the City even when no designated route exists.
- Riding is prohibited on expressways, drives, highways, interstate routes and thruways unless authorized by signs.
- Bicyclists may ride on either side of a 40-foot wide one-way roadway.
- Bicyclists must always ride with traffic, never against it.
- Bicyclists must ride on the street, never on the sidewalks (unless rider is age 12 or younger and the bicycle's wheels are less than 26 inches in diameter).

Safety Regulations for Bicyclists:

- Must comply with all traffic signals, regulating signs and pavement markings.
- Must come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights.
- Must always have at least one hand on handlebars.
- Must use a bike path or lane if provided.
- Must stop and give name, address, insurance information, etc., if involved in an accident resulting in death or injury to a person or damage to property.
- Cannot wear more than one earphone attached to a radio, tape player or other audio device while riding.
- Must ride on a permanent seat.
- Must have feet on pedals.
- Must not attach the bike to another vehicle being operated on roadway.
- Must not ride more than two abreast.
- Must use hand signals to turn left and right and to stop or decrease speed.

Required Equipment:

- A horn or bell.
- Working brakes.
- A white headlight and red taillight for use from dusk to dawn.
- Reflective tires or spoke reflectors and other reflective devices.
- A bike must carry only the number of persons for which it is designed and equipped.

Children on Bicycles:

- A child must be carried in a properly affixed child carrier.
- Children under age one (1) cannot be carried on a bicycle.
- Helmets must be worn by children age 13 or younger.



Visit www.nyc.gov/dot or call 311 for more information

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