

RULES OF THE

ROAD

BICYCLISTS

In North Carolina bicyclists have the same rights and duties as a motorist & are subject to traffic vehicle laws. Some laws changed in 2016. For a complete list of NC bike laws, visit ncdot.gov/divisions/integrated-mobility/safety/Pages/bike-ped-laws.aspx

RIDE PREDICTABLY

- Follow ALL traffic laws – bicycles are vehicles in NC
- Always ride in the same direction as traffic & as far to the right as practical
- Indicate your turns by pointing left or right
- Scan behind you before changing lanes
- Do not filter up by stopped cars at intersections
- Avoid swerving between parked cars
- Make eye contact with motorists, especially at intersections & driveways
- Give an audible warning to pedestrians when approaching from behind

BE SAFE, BE VISIBLE

- Don't wear headphones while riding
- Wear a properly fitted helmet & replace after any impact or crash
- NC law requires children under 16 wear a helmet
- Wear brightly colored or reflective clothing
- At night, NC law requires bicyclists to have a white front headlight, a rear reflector, AND have a red rear light or reflective clothing visible from 300 feet. Visit GoTriangle.org/bike for more info & tips.

In some municipalities it is illegal to ride on sidewalks, but if you must ride on a sidewalk, go slow, yield to pedestrians, and check every cross street and driveway.

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MOTORISTS

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YIELD TO BICYCLISTS

- Bicycles are vehicles & should be given appropriate right of way
- Bicyclists may use the entire traffic lane & are not required to ride single file.

DRIVE CAUTIOUSLY & PASS WITH CARE

- Reduce speed when encountering bicyclists
- Give bicyclists extra trailing & passing room in potentially dangerous situations
- Do not text while driving
- Passing drivers must provide at least 4 feet between their vehicle & bicyclist, or the passing driver must completely enter the left lane of the roadway.
- In NC drivers causing bicyclists to leave their travel lane & causing a crash or injury can be fined up to \$750.

BE CONSIDERATE

- Do not honk your horn in close proximity to bicyclists
- Scan for bicyclists in traffic, at intersections & driveways
- Look for bicyclists before opening your car door
- Watch for children on bicycles who may be less predictable – expect the unexpected