

Riding a Bike in North Carolina (English)

Provided by the Carrboro Bicycle Coalition • bikecarrboro.org



NORTH CAROLINA BICYCLE LAWS

In North Carolina, bicycles are considered vehicles, and cyclists are required to follow the same laws as other drivers in most circumstances [§20-4.01 (49)]

N. C. LAWS THAT APPLY TO CYCLISTS:

- Ride in the same direction as the traffic (NOT against the traffic), and use the rightmost lane in the direction you are going. [§20-146(a)]
- Stop at stop signs and obey all traffic signals. [§20-158]
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. [§20-173, 174]
- Use hand signals to signal turns. [§20-154(b)]
- Always yield to emergency vehicles with sirens or lights on. [§20-156(b)]
- Have a front light and a rear reflector PLUS a rear light (or reflective clothing) when riding at night. [§20-129(a)]
- Wear a bicycle helmet if under 16 years old. [§20-171.7(b)]
- In North Carolina, you can be charged with reckless driving as well as driving while impaired while riding a bicycle. [§20-138.1(e)]

IN ADDITION:

- Avoid sidewalk riding as it is unsafe and against the law in some locations.
- Be respectful of other users of the road.

Be predictable

Make your intentions clear to everyone else on the road. Ride in a straight line and don't swerve between cars.

Be Visible

Ride your bike where people can see you. Use a white headlight, a red taillight, and a red rear reflector at night or when visibility is poor.

Think ahead

Anticipate what drivers, pedestrians, and other bicycle users will do next. Be on the lookout for turning vehicles and travel out of the parked car door area. Be on the lookout for debris, potholes, and other road hazards. Cross the railroad tracks at right angles.

Ride Ready

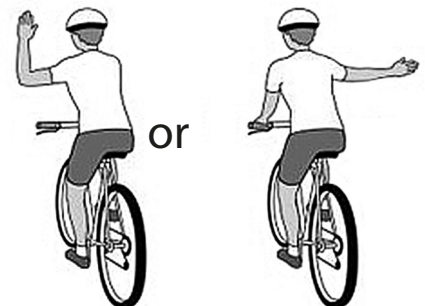
Before you ride, check your bike and be sure your tires have enough air, brakes are working, and your chain runs smoothly.



TURNING LEFT



SLOWING DOWN, STOPPING



TURNING RIGHT

SIGNALING Always let others know when you are turning, slowing down or stopping