

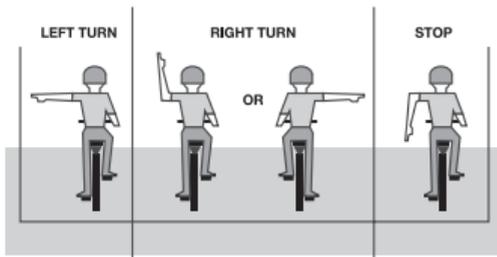
RIDERS MUST OBEY THE LAW

- Bike riders on roads, bikeways and shared trails must obey all traffic laws and may be ticketed for violations.

[RCW 46.61.750]

- Use hand signals (shown below)

[RCW 46.61.758]



EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Bikes **MUST** have brakes that can skid the tire.

[RWC 46.61.780]

- At nights, bikes **MUST** have a steady white light on front, red reflector on the back (rear red light recommended).

[RCW 46.61.780]

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Washington Bicycle Law Pocket Reference

For more complete information, including complete RCW text, visit WABikes.org/RCW



BICYCLES ARE VEHICLES

- A bike is legally defined as a vehicle when on the road and a pedestrian when on the sidewalk or crosswalk.

[RCW 46.04.670 & 46.61.755]

- Bike riders have the same RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES as cars and truck drivers EXCEPT as noted in RCW 46.61.750 through 46.61.780

- Bike riders must yield to pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks

[RCW.46.61.261]

BROKEN RED LIGHTS

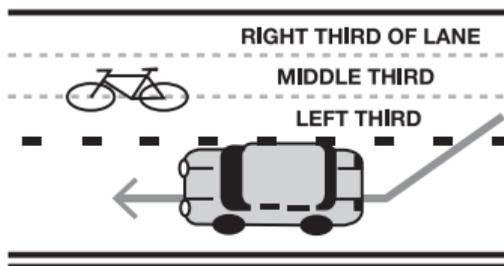
If a red stoplight, including the left turn signal, fails to detect a bicycle after one cycle of the traffic signal, a bike rider (after exercising due care) may proceed through the intersection or turn left. (If you find broken stoplights that fail to detect bicycles, contact your local transportation department to fix the signal sensors - it's the law that traffic signals detect bicycles!)

[RCW 47.36.025]

CONTROLLING THE LANE

[RCW 46.61.770]

- Bike riders MAY legally control the lane. (“Controlling the lane” refers to riding in the middle or left third of a lane so that faster traffic merges fully into the next lane in order to pass, rather than crowding the bike rider within the same lane.)



- When faster traffic is present, ride as far to the right in the right through lane as safety allows - except when turning or passing. Stay out of the “door zone” (the right third of lane, when adjacent to parked cars).

- When turning at an intersection, riders should use turn lanes as a vehicle, or crosswalks as a pedestrian.

CONTROLLING THE LANE

(continued)

- Bike riders are NOT required to use a bike lane or shoulder.

- Bikes may ride 2 abreast, but not more.

[RCW.46.61.770]

CAR DOORS

- Drivers and passengers are responsible for checking that it's safe, and that it won't impede other traffic (including bike riders), before opening car doors. Don't leave a car door open longer than necessary.

[RCW.46.61.620]

LOCAL LAWS

This pocket guide refers only to statewide laws. Some cities may have their own bicycling-related laws in addition to these, such as mandatory helmet laws and sidewalk restrictions. Always consult your local jurisdiction to learn about other laws that may apply to you.