

BICYCLE SAFETY

What Every Cyclist Must Know



Bicycles are Vehicles

Bicyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers of motor vehicles. (RSA 265:143) Bicyclists must stop at stop signs and red lights, yield to pedestrians, and ride with traffic.



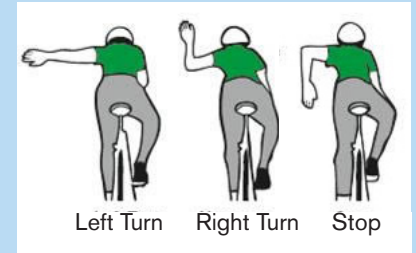
NH 116, Littleton

Rules of the Road

Look ahead for potholes, debris, and other hazards. As soon as you see one, look behind and merge left, as traffic permits, well before you reach the hazard.

When bicycling after dark you must use a white front headlight and a red rear light or rear reflector visible from 300 feet.

Check steering, brakes, tires, chains, and cables for safe operating condition before every ride.



Bicyclists intending to turn right or left shall not be required to give a continuous hand or arm signal if the hands is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle. (RSA 265:144-VI)

It's The Law

- Yield the right of way to approaching traffic before entering the roadway. (RSA 265:32)
- Stop at all stop signs. (RSA 265:30-I)
- Don't cross the stop line when the traffic signal is red. (RSA 265:10-III a&d)
- Stop for pedestrians in all crosswalks. Don't pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. (RSA 265:35-I&IV)
- Take left turn from the outermost left turn lane when multiple left turn lanes are available. (RSA 265:42-II) To prepare for the turn, first look behind and merge to the center line or left turn lane as traffic permits, signaling to get the cooperation of following drivers as necessary.
- Do not operate on sidewalks (RSA 265:26-a), or ride the wrong way on one-way streets (RSA 265:23-II).
- Bicyclists must wear at least one item of reflective apparel from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise (RSA 265:144-XII).
- Helmets are required by law for cyclists less than 16 years of age. (RSA 265:144-X).
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic. (RSA 265:16-II) Riding against traffic is illegal.
- A person propelling a bicycle upon a way at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction at that time and place shall remain on the right portion of the way as far as practicable except when it is unsafe to do so or when:
 - Overtaking or passing another bicycle or vehicle moving in the same direction;
 - Preparing to make a left hand turn;
 - Proceeding straight through an intersection where right hand turns are allowed;
 - Necessary to avoid hazardous conditions like broken pavement, glass, debris, sand, ice, the opening of doors of parked vehicles;
 - Necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects like vehicles, other bicycles, pedestrians, or animals. (RSA 265:144-XI)



NH 28A, Manchester

