

# 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.*



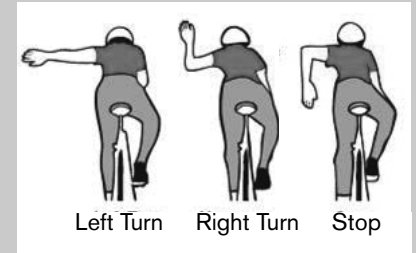
NH 116, Littleton

## 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



# SHARING THE ROAD

## What Every Motorist Must Know



### It's the Law - Bicycles are Vehicles

*New Hampshire law says bicyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers of motor vehicles. (RSA 265:143)*

*Motorists must yield to bicyclists when turning, merging into bicycle lanes, and opening doors. (RSA 265:96)*



NH 125, Epping

## Make Room for Bicyclists

Every driver of a vehicle, when approaching a bicyclist, shall insure the safety and protection of the bicyclist and shall exercise due care by leaving a reasonable and prudent distance between the vehicle and the bicycle. The distance shall be presumed to be reasonable and prudent if it is at least 3 feet when the vehicle is traveling at 30 mph or less, with one additional foot of clearance required for every 10 mph above 30 mph. (RSA 265:143-a)

Bicycles may require the full lane in order to make a left turn or prepare to make a left turn at an intersection or into a driveway. Expect bicycles to move away from the right side of the road when overtaking and passing another bicycle or any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction, when proceeding straight in a place where right turns are permitted, when necessary to avoid hazardous conditions, including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, broken pavement, glass, sand, puddles, ice or opening of doors of parked vehicles. (RSA 265:144-XI)

## You Can Prevent Crashes

- Expect bicyclists to use designated turn lanes and to move away from the right edge of the road to avoid hazards. (RSA 265:144-XI (d))
- Before turning right, slow and merge behind a bicyclist ahead of you.
- When turning left, yield to on-coming bicyclists or any other vehicle. (RSA 265:29) Don't underestimate the speed of a bicyclist.
- A stop sign means you must stop and wait until no traffic, whether bicycle or car, is close enough to be a danger. (RSA 265:30-I)
- A yield sign means you must wait for traffic, bicyclists included. (RSA 265:31) This may require you to stop.
- Signal well in advance of turns (at least 100 feet), so that bicyclists and other vehicles know your intentions. (RSA 265:45-II)
- Every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or any person propelling a human-powered vehicle. (RSA 265:37)



NHDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program - [www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/index.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/index.htm)

Bike Walk Alliance of NH - [www.bwanh.org](http://www.bwanh.org)



*Alerts road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way*