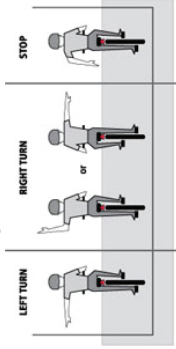


RIDERS MUST OBEY THE LAW

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

[RCW 46.61.750, 46.61.755]

- Use hand signals, as shown below



[RCW 46.61.758]

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Bikes MUST have brakes that can skid the tire.
- At night, bikes MUST have a steady white front light, red reflector on back (rear red light recommended).

[RCW 46.61.780]

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WABikes.org
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Revised: 4/8/2021

Washington Bicycle Law

Pocket Reference

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



BICYCLES ARE VEHICLES

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

[RCW 46.04.670, 46.61.755]

- Bike riders have the same RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES as cars and trucks 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]

E-BIKES

- Washington state law defines e-bikes as assisted bicycles with less than 750 watts of power, and clarifies that Class 1 and 2 e-bikes (less than 28 mph) can use sidewalks and trails.

[RCW 46.04.169]

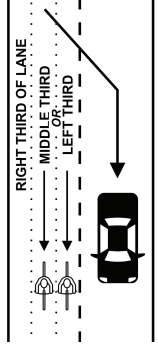
SAFE PASSING

- Vehicles passing bicycles shall allow at least three feet of distance.

[RCW 46.61.110]

CONTROLLING THE LANE

- 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.
- 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]

SAFETY STOP

- Washington state's Safety Stop law allows cyclists to treat stop signs as Yield signs.
- Cyclists must fully stop at stop lights, stop signs for school buses, and stop signs at railroad crossings.

[RCW 46.61.190]

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.