

Summary of Ohio Traffic Laws relating to bicycles

A bicycle is defined (in section 4501.01) as a vehicle by the Ohio motor vehicle code. This means that the cyclist is bound to obey all traffic rules applicable to vehicles (section 4511.52). This includes riding on the **right side of the road**. Cyclists have "All of the rights and all the responsibilities."

4511.40 Hand and arm signals

(B) As an alternative to division (A)(2) of this section, a person operating a bicycle may give a right turn signal by extending the right hand and arm horizontally to the right side of the bicycle.

4511.53 Rules for bicycles, ...

A person operating a bicycle or motorcycle shall not ride other than upon the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor carry any other person upon such bicycle...

No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand on the handle bars.

No bicycle or motorcycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it was designed and equipped...

4511.54 Prohibition against attaching bicycles and sleds to vehicles

No person riding upon any bicycle, ... shall attach the same or himself to any ... vehicle upon a roadway.

4511.55 Place and manner of operating bicycles; riding bicycles and ...

(A) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to right side of the roadway as **practicable** obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles and exercise due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. (This does **not** require riding in the gutter. Let cars pass when you can. Take the lane when you must.)

(B) Persons riding bicycles or motorcycles upon a roadway shall ride not more than two abreast in a single lane....

4511.56 Equipment of bicycles

(A) Every bicycle when in use at the times specified in section 4513.03 of the Revised Code [when lights are required] shall be equipped with the following:

- (1) A lamp on the front that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front;
- (2) A red reflector on the rear of a type approved by the director of public safety that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.
- (3) A lamp emitting red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector;

(B) ... equipped with a bell or other device giving a signal audible... 100 feet...

(C) Every bicycle shall be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street or a highway.

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(A) Every bicycle when in use at the times specified in section 4513.03 of the Revised Code [when lights are required] shall be equipped with the following:

- (4) A lamp on the front that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front;
- (5) A red reflector on the rear of a type approved by the director of public safety that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.
- (6) A lamp emitting red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector;

(B) ... equipped with a bell or other device giving a signal audible... 100 feet...

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