



BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE

SIDEWALK RIDING LAWS

The League of American Bicyclists recommends that bicyclists ride on the road. Riding on the sidewalk is a significant cause of bicyclist-motorist crashes and creates unnecessary conflicts with pedestrians. However, there may be appropriate times to ride on a sidewalk or crosswalk, such as when crossing an unsafe high speed roadway or when the adjacent roadway is not suited for the comfort, skill, or ability level of the rider. When a bicyclist chooses to ride on a sidewalk or crosswalk, sidewalk riding laws provide rules and expectations for pedestrians, motorists, and bicyclists regarding how each mode will interact. Learn more at bikeleague.org/bike-law-university.

State	Basic Rule			Rights and Duties on Sidewalks					
	Prohibited from Sidewalks	Permitted on Sidewalks	Rules Extend to Crosswalks	Rights & duties of Ped	Yield to Ped	Required Audible Signal	Speed Limited	Prohibited in Business District	Prohibited w/Signs by ordinance
Alabama	32-5A-52 (as vehicles)		Not unless crosswalks are within the "sidewalk area"						
Alaska		13 AAC 02.400(d) & (g)	Not unless crosswalks are within the "sidewalk area"		x	x		x	x
Arizona	28-904 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycle are not vehicles)		By case law permitted on crosswalks.						
Arkansas	No law found		27-51-1804 (must yield to peds in crosswalk & give audible signal)						
California	VC 21663 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)								21206
Colorado		42-4-710(3); 42-4-1412	x	x	x				x
Connecticut		14-286	x		x	x			x
Delaware	Where bike lane exists in a business district	21:§4136; 21:§4198B	x	x	x	x		x	x
District of Columbia		DC Rule 18-1201.9-13	1201.11 (must yield to peds in crosswalk)		x	x	x	x (unless otherwise signed)	x
Florida		316.2065(9) - (11)	x	x	x	x			
Georgia	§ 40-6-144 (as vehicles)	Children 12 and under are permitted							

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Hawaii		§291C-148			X		X	X	X
Idaho		49-721	X	X	X	X			X
Illinois		11-1512	X	X	X	X			X
Indiana	No law found								
Iowa	No law found								
Kansas	8-1575 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)								
Kentucky	189.570(7) (as vehicles)								
Louisiana	No law found								
Maine	No law found								
Maryland	§ 21-1103		Not unless crosswalks are within the "sidewalk area"						May be permitted by ordinance
Massachusetts		Ch. 85, §11B			X	X		X	X
Michigan		257.660c	X	X	X	X			X
Minnesota		169.222(4)(d) - (f)	X		X	X	X	X	X
Mississippi	No law found								
Missouri		300.347			X	X		X	
Montana		61-8-608	X	X	X	X			X
Nebraska		60-6,317(4)	60-6,154(4)	X	X				
Nevada	484.451 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)								
New Hampshire	265:26-a (as vehicles)								

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New Jersey		Permitted by case law							
New Mexico	66-7-361(b) (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)								
New York	25:1225-a (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)								
North Carolina	20-160(b) (as vehicles)								
North Dakota	39-10-52.1 (as vehicles)								
Ohio		4511.711							x (may not require sidewalk riding)
Oklahoma	No law found								
Oregon		814.41	814.410(2) ped rights & duties apply in crosswalks	x	x	x	x		
Pennsylvania	Where bike lane exists	75: 3508			x	x		x (may be altered by sign)	
Rhode Island		§ 31-19-11	x	x	x	x			x
South Carolina	56-5-3835 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)								
South Dakota		32-20B-2; 32-20B-3	x	x	x	x			
Tennessee	7-31-106 (as vehicles)								
Texas	545.422(a) (Unclear - Likely permitted because statute prohibits motor vehicles only)								

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Utah		41-6a-1106; 41-6a-1702	X	X	X	X	X		X
Vermont	23: 1132 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)								
Virginia		§ 46.2-904	X	X	X	X			X
Washington		46.61.261; 46.61.755	X	X	X				
West Virginia	No law found								
Wisconsin		346.804			X	X			
Wyoming	31-5-120 (as vehicles)								

SPOTLIGHT STATE - UTAH

Utah clearly navigates the hybrid nature of bicycling on sidewalks using statutes that address a bicycle as a vehicle, as a quasi-pedestrian, and as its own entity. In Utah, bicycles are vehicles and vehicles are prohibited from operating on sidewalks. However, bicycles are explicitly allowed to ride on sidewalks in the same statute that prohibits vehicles from doing so. In a separate statute the rights and duties of a bicyclist on a sidewalk are given. In general, bicyclists have all the rights and duties applicable to pedestrians on a sidewalk, path, trail or crosswalk, but there are several exceptions. These exceptions generally do one of two things:

1. Give priority to pedestrians
2. Establish rules specific to bicycles on a sidewalk

Upon the shared space of a sidewalk, path, trail, or crosswalk a bicyclist is most likely to be the largest, fastest moving user of that shared space, with the most potential to injure another user of that space. The exceptions that are found in Utah's law reflect the idea that a more dangerous user of a shared space should be subject to rules that account for that danger.