

BICYCLE SAFETY

What Every Bicyclist Must Know



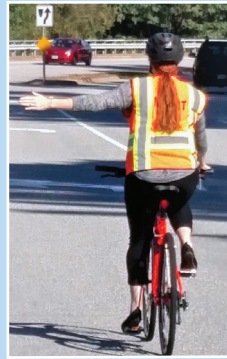
Bicycles are Vehicles

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 drive with traffic.

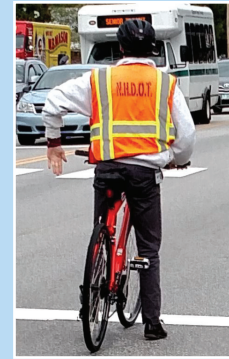


NH 116, Littleton

Signals on Stopping and Turning RSA 265:47



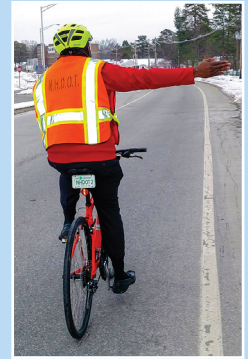
LEFT TURN



STOP



RIGHT TURN



ALT. RIGHT TURN

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 drive the wrong way on one-way streets. (RSA 265:23-II)
- Bicyclists must wear at least one item of reflective apparel from ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise. (RSA 265:144-XII)
- Helmets are required by law for bicyclists less than 16 years of age. (RSA 265:144-X)
- Drive on the right side of the road, with traffic. (RSA 265:16-II) Driving 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)



New Hampshire's Rules of the Road regard "Low Speed E-bikes" as any other bicycle. For additional information, see <https://bwanh.org/e-bikes>

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)
- A STOP sign requires that all vehicles, including bicycles, come to a complete stop. (RSA 265:30-I)
- A yield sign means that 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 traffic 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)
- In order to safely and legally pass a bicyclist, motorists may cross the unbroken painted line (including a double yellow centerline) when it is safe to do so. (RSA 265.22)



NHDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program - www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/index.htm

Bike-Walk Alliance of NH - www.bwanh.org

A 'sharrow' marking alerts road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way.