



Where to Ride

Colorado has some of the most specific laws regarding where a bicyclist should ride, and just as importantly, where a bicyclist should not be obligated to ride in the nation. The general rule is that:

If the right-hand lane then available for traffic is wide enough to be safely shared with overtaking vehicles, a bicyclist shall ride far enough to the right as judged safe by the bicyclist to facilitate the movement of such overtaking vehicles unless other conditions make it unsafe to do so. A bicyclist may use a lane other than the right-hand lane when:

- Preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private roadway or driveway
- Overtaking a slower vehicle
- Taking reasonably necessary precautions to avoid hazards or road conditions

A bicyclist shall not be expected or required to:

- Ride over or through hazards at the edge of a roadway, including but not limited to fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow lanes
- Ride without a reasonable safety margin on the right-hand side of the roadway

Source: Colo. Rev. Stat. §42-4-1412(5)

Sidewalk Riding

Colorado provides that no person shall drive any vehicle other than a bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, or any other human-powered vehicle upon a sidewalk or sidewalk area, except upon a permanent or duly authorized temporary driveway.

In addition, when a person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, pathway or crosswalk the bicyclist shall:

- Yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian in a manner that is safe for pedestrians.
- Not ride a bicycle where such use is prohibited by official traffic control devices or local ordinances. A person riding a bicycle shall dismount before entering any crosswalk where required by official traffic control devices or local ordinances.
- Have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

Sources: Colo. Rev. Stat. §§42-4-710; 42-4-1412(10)

Mandatory Use of Separated Facilities

Colorado does not require that bicyclists use any lane or path other than a normal vehicular traffic lane.

"[Idaho Stop](#)" and Vehicle Detection Errors

Colorado does not provide any modifications to the requirement to come to a complete stop when directed to stop by traffic control devices and does not authorize bicyclists to disobey traffic lights that fail to detect bicyclists.

Treatment as a Vehicle

In Colorado bicycles are vehicles according to the statute that defines vehicles and a person riding a bicycle has all of the rights and duties of the driver of a vehicle as provided in Article 42-4.

Source: Colo. Rev. Stat. §§42-1-102(112); 42-4-1412

Source of Laws

The laws regulating the operation of bicycles in the state of Colorado are generally found in the Colorado Revised Statutes (Colo. Rev. Stat.), available here:

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/Colorado/>

Follow the Law

Your safety and image of bicyclists depend on you. You have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers. Obey traffic signals and stop signs. Ride with traffic; use the rightmost lane headed in the direction you are going.

Be Predictable

Make your intentions clear to everyone on the road. Ride in a straight line and don't swerve between parked cars. Signal turns, and check behind you well before turning or changing lanes.

Be Conspicuous

Ride where people can see you and wear bright clothing. Use a front white light, red rear light and reflectors when visibility is poor. Make eye contact with others and don't ride on sidewalks.

Must have a white light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the rear (for riding at night). The light is primarily so people can see you coming from the side, where their headlights do not shine on your reflectors.