



Where to Ride

Texas requires that a person operating a bicycle on a roadway, at a speed less than the speed of traffic, shall ride as near as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway, unless:

- The person is passing another vehicle moving in the same direction
- The person is preparing to turn left at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway
- There exists a condition on or off the roadway that prevents the person from safely riding next to the right curb or edge of the roadway
- The person is operating a bicycle in an outside lane that is:
 - Less than 14 feet in width and does not have a designated bicycle lane adjacent to that lane
 - Too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side by side
 - The person is operating a bicycle on a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes, in which case they may ride as near as practicable to the left curb or edge of the roadway

Source: Tex. Transp. Code Ann. §551.103

Treatment as a Vehicle

In Texas bicycles are vehicles according to the statute that defines vehicles and a person riding a bicycle has all of the rights and duties of a driver of a vehicle under the Texas Rules of the Road, except for special regulations specific to bicycles and those provisions that by their nature can have no application.

Source: Tex. Transp. Code Ann. §§541.201(23); 551.101

Source of Laws

The laws regulating the operation of bicycles in the state of Texas are generally found in Titles 545 and 551 of the Texas Statutes (TS), available here:

<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Search.aspx>.

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

Texas 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.

Sidewalk Riding

Texas does not have a statute that specifically authorizes or prohibits the operation of a bicycle upon a sidewalk.

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). (Source: Tex. Transp. Code Ann. §551.104b)

The light is primarily so people can see you coming from the side, where their headlights do not shine on your reflectors. The law, effective as of Sept. 2001, states that a red light can replace a red reflector.

Sec. 541.201 Electric Bicycle Definition

"Electric bicycle" means a bicycle that:

- is designed to be propelled by an electric motor, exclusively or in combination with the application of human power;
- cannot attain a speed of more than 20 miles per hour without the application of human power; and
- does not exceed a weight of 100 pounds.