



# Washington State Bicycle Traffic Laws

## What traffic laws apply to cyclists?

Cyclists have all the RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES of vehicle drivers. Bicyclists must obey all traffic laws.

📖 RCW 46.61.775

## What lane position should cyclists use?

- Ride as far to the right as is SAFE, except when preparing to turn or when passing another vehicle.
- Occupy the center of a lane when the lane is too narrow to share or when it would be unsafe to ride to the right.
- Cyclists may ride on a path, lane, shoulder, or travel lane.

📖 RCW 46.61.770

## Are cyclists required to wear helmets?

Helmets are required by law in King County and many other jurisdictions.

📖 King County Board of Health Title 9

## Are cyclists required to use lights?

Use a white front light (visible for 500 feet) and a red rear reflector at night. A red rear light may be used in addition to the rear reflector. 📖 RCW 46.61.780

## Are cyclists required to signal turns?

Use hand signals (and look) before turning. 📖 RCW 46.61.758

## May cyclists ride on sidewalks?

Cyclists may ride on sidewalks in Seattle, but not in some other cities. Cyclists must ride at a reasonable speed, yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian, and must give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.

📖 Seattle Traffic Code Section 11.44.120

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**BICYCLE TRAFFIC LAWS**