

Excerpts from Ohio Traffic Laws relating to bicycles

A bicycle is defined as a vehicle (§4501.01). Cyclists are drivers and are required to follow traffic rules applicable to vehicles (§4511.52). This includes riding on the **right side of the road**.

§ 4511.07. Local traffic regulations.

(A) Sections ... of the Revised Code do not prevent local authorities from carrying out the following activities ...

(8) Regulating the operation of bicycles; provided that no such regulation shall be fundamentally inconsistent with the uniform rules of the road prescribed by this chapter and that no such regulation shall prohibit the use of bicycles on any public street or highway except ... [on freeways]

(B) No ordinance or regulation... shall be effective until signs giving notice of the local traffic regulations are posted ...

4511.40 Hand and arm signals

(B) ... a person operating a bicycle may give a right turn signal by extending the right hand and arm horizontally to the right side of the bicycle.

4511.53 Rules for bicycles, ...

A person operating a bicycle or motorcycle shall not ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor carry any other person upon such bicycle...

No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand on the handle bars.

4511.55 Bicycle to be ridden near right side of roadway; ...

(A) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to right side of the roadway as **practicable** obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles ... **(This does not require riding in the gutter.)**

(B) Persons riding bicycles or motorcycles upon a roadway shall ride not more than two abreast in a single lane....

(C) This section does not require a person operating a bicycle to ride at the edge of the roadway when it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so. Conditions ... include when necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, surface hazards, or if it otherwise is unsafe or impracticable to do so, including if the lane is too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

4511.56 Signal devices on bicycle; brake

(A) Every bicycle when in use at the times specified in section 4513.03 of the Revised Code [when lights are required] shall be equipped with the following:

(1) A lamp on the front ... that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front. A generator-powered lamp ... may be used to meet this requirement.

(2) A red reflector on the rear

(3) A lamp emitting either flashing or steady red light ...

(D) Every bicycle shall be equipped with an adequate brake

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