

Tustin Police Department – California Bicycle Laws

WHERE BICYCLISTS CAN RIDE

Roadway: Bicyclists traveling slower than the normal speed of traffic must ride as close to the right side of the road as safely as possible, except when passing, preparing for a left turn, avoiding hazards, or if the lane is too narrow, per CVC 21202.

Bicycle Lanes: On a roadway with a bike lane, bicyclists traveling slower than traffic must use the bike lane except when making a left turn, passing, avoiding hazardous conditions or approaching a place where a right a right turn is authorized.

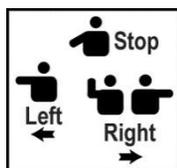
Direction of Travel: Bicyclists must travel on the right side of the roadway in the direction of traffic, except when passing, making a legal left turn, riding on a one-way street, riding on a road that is too narrow, or when the right side of the road is closed due to construction, per CVC 21650. A major cause of bicycle vs. vehicle collisions is caused by wrong-way riding.

Bicyclists operate on a roadway or highway shoulder in the same direction as vehicles, per CVC 21650.1.

Sidewalks: Individual cities and counties control whether bicyclists may ride on sidewalks, per CVC 21206. In the city of Tustin, bicyclists may ride on the sidewalks but must yield right of way to pedestrians. Upon reaching a crosswalk, if a person chooses to walk their bicycle across the roadway is subject to the laws governing a “pedestrian.”

OPERATING THE BICYCLE

Hand Signals: No person shall turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left upon a roadway until such movement can be made with reasonable safety and then only after the giving of an appropriate signal... in the event any other vehicle may be affected by the movement, per CVC 22107.



Helmets: Bicyclists and bicycle passengers under the age of 18 must wear an approved helmet when riding on a bicycle, per CVC 21212.

Headphones: Bicyclists may not wear earplugs in both ears or a headset covering both ears, per CVC 27400.

Alcohol and drugs: Bicyclists may not ride while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, per CVC 21200.5.

Hitching rides: Bicyclists may not hitch rides on vehicles, per CVC 21203

Pedestrians: Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, per CVC 21950 and CVC 21954(b).

Parking: Bicyclists may not leave bicycles on their sides on the sidewalk or park bicycles in a manner which obstructs pedestrians, per CVC 21210.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A person riding a bicycle on the highway is considered a “vehicle” and subject to the compliance with the rules of the road as the driver of a motor vehicle. This law includes, but is not limited to, obeying laws governing speed, stopping, turning, passing and compliance with regulatory signs, per CVC 21200(a). This is the most important rule for bicyclist in the California Vehicle Code.

“SHARE THE ROAD”

“Motor vehicles are permitted to enter a bicycle lane to park where permitted, enter the roadway and to prepare for a turn within 200 feet of an intersection.” (CVC 21209(a))

EQUIPPING THEIR BICYCLES

- **Brakes:** Bicycles must be equipped with a brake that allows an operator to execute a one-braked-wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement, per CVC 21201(a).
- **Handlebars:** Handlebars must not be higher than the rider’s shoulders, per CVC 21201(b).
- **Bicycle Size:** Bicycles must be small enough for the rider to stop, support it with one foot on the ground, and start safely, per CVC 21201(c).
- **Lights:** At night a white headlight visible from the front must be attached to the bicycle or the bicyclist, per CVC 21201(d) and CVC 21201(e).
- **Reflectors:** At night bicycles must have the following reflectors, per CVC 21201:
 - Visible from the back: red reflector.
 - Visible from the front & back: white or yellow reflector on each pedal or on the bicyclist’s shoes or ankle.
 - Visible from the side: white or yellow reflector on the front half of the bicycle and a red or white reflector on each side of the back half of the bike. These reflectors are not required if the bike has reflectorized front and back tires.
- **Seats:** All riders must have a permanent, regular seat, unless the bicycle is designed by the manufacturer to be ridden without a seat. Bicycle passengers weighing less than 40 lbs. or under the age of 4, must have a seat which retains them in place and protects them from moving parts, per CVC 21204. In other words, no “hitching a ride” on the handlebars, pegs or rear rack.