

## Florida Bike Safety Laws & Local Ordinances

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle, and the bicyclist is a driver. Bicyclists have the same rights to the roadways and must obey the same traffic laws as drivers of other vehicles.

### Florida Law

- Florida Law Synopsis:  
<https://www.alerttodayflorida.com/Resource/Law%20Synopsis%20Brochure%20English%202020%20-%20Bicyclist.pdf>
- Florida Bike Signs, Signals & Markings:  
<https://www.alerttodayflorida.com/Resource/Bike%20Signs%20and%20Signals.pdf>
- 2023 Florida Statutes:  
316.2065 Bicycle regulations- [Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine \(state.fl.us\)](#)  
316.20655 Electric bike regulations- [Statutes & Constitution :Search Statutes : Online Sunshine \(state.fl.us\)](#)

Below is a recap of the laws that are applicable to the library's book bike:

- At least one hand must be kept on the handlebars at all times while riding.
- A bicyclist must obey all traffic controls and signals.
- A bicyclist must use a fixed, regular seat for riding.
- Every bicycle must be equipped with a brake or brakes which allow the rider to stop within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.
- Sidewalk Riding
  - When riding on sidewalks or in crosswalks, a bicyclist has the same rights and duties as a pedestrian.
  - A bicyclist riding on sidewalks or in crosswalks must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and must give an audible signal before passing.
  - Stop behind the crosswalk at the stop bar.
- Lighting
  - A bicycle operated between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from 500 feet to the front and both a red reflector and a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from 600 feet to the rear.
  - Additional lighting is permitted and recommended.
- Roadway Position
  - A bicyclist who is not traveling at the same speed of other traffic must ride in a designated bike lane or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway.
  - Bicyclists have the right to be in traffic lanes but should let motor vehicles pass when safe to do so.
  - A bicyclist may leave the right-most portion of the road in the following situations:
    - when passing another vehicle moving in the same direction.
    - when preparing for a left turn.
    - when reasonably necessary to avoid any condition or potential conflict including, but not limited to, a fixed or moving object, parked, or moving vehicle, pedestrian, animal, surface hazard, or turn lane.
    - when a lane is too narrow for a bicycle and another vehicle to travel safely side by side.
  - A bicyclist operating on a one-way street with two or more traffic lanes may ride as close to the left-hand edge of the roadway as practicable.
- Left Turns

- A bicyclist intending to make a vehicle left turn is entitled to full use of the lane from which the turn is made. After scanning, signaling, and moving to the center of that lane, the bicyclist must check the signal, then proceed when it is green and safe to do so.
- In addition to the normal vehicle left turn, a bicyclist may proceed through the right-most portion of the intersection and turn as close to the curb or edge as possible at the far side. After complying with any official traffic control device, the bicyclist may proceed in the new direction.
- Signaling Turns
  - A signal of intention to turn must be given during the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning. If a bicyclist needs both hands for control, the signal need not be given continuously.
  - A bicyclist may signal intent to turn right either by extending the left hand and arm upward or by extending the right hand and arm horizontally to the right side of the bicycle.
- Headsets
  - A bicyclist may not wear a headset, headphone, or other listening device other than a hearing aid when riding.
- Civil Penalties
  - Non-moving violations, such as failure to use required lighting equipment when riding at night, failure to have working brakes.
  - Moving violations, such as running stop sign or signal, riding against traffic.
- Local Ordinances
  - The local governments of counties, cities, towns, and other municipalities can adopt ordinances regulating bicycle riding. Some towns may also have registration and licensing ordinances. Sidewalk riding may be prohibited entirely or only in certain areas such as business districts.
  - Winter Garden- bikes cannot be ridden on a sidewalk in the commercial areas of the city, this includes Plant Street.  
[Chapter 74 - TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES | Code of Ordinances | Winter Garden, FL | Municode Library](#)
  - City of Orlando- bikes cannot be ridden around Lake Eola, permission must be granted by the City of Orlando for scheduled book bike events.  
[Chapter 10 - BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, MICROMOBILITY DEVICES AND BICYCLE PATHS | Code of Ordinances | Orlando, FL | Municode Library](#)
  - Orange County- has specific laws for electric bikes.  
[Chapter 35 - TRAFFIC | Code of Ordinances | Orange County, FL | Municode Library](#)