

## Chapter 10-14

### BICYCLES

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#### Section 10-14-01 DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases when used in this Chapter shall have the meanings herein ascribed to them:

- A. BICYCLE: Every vehicle having wheels, any two (2) of which are not less than twelve (12) inches in diameter, propelled exclusively by human power upon which any person may ride, including tricycles and other multicycles, excluding scooters and similar devices.
- B. BIKE LANE: A portion of a roadway designated for preferential or exclusive use by bicycles which is distinguished from that portion of the roadway to be used by motor vehicles by a painted strip and other pavement markings.
- C. BIKE PATH: A completely separate right-of-way designated primarily for use by bicycles. Conflicts with pedestrians are kept to a minimum while cross-flows by motor vehicles are discouraged.  
  
As used herein, this term shall include both the paved surface and a minimum of two feet (2') on either side.
- D. BIKE PATH APPROACH: That area where a transition is made between a roadway, parking lot, sidewalk or other facility and a bike path. This area is generally identified by wooden bollards, pavement markings and a parking prohibition.

- E. **BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CURB RAMP:** A break in a curb designated to facilitate movement by a bicyclist, pedestrian or handicapped person from a street or parking lot to a sidewalk or bicycle facility.
- F. **BIKE ROUTE:** Any roadway specifically signed for shared use by bicycles and motor vehicles.  
(6763, Amended, 01/12/2010)

**Section 10-14-02 TRAFFIC LAWS APPLY TO PERSONS RIDING BICYCLES**

- A. Every person, regardless of age, who operates a bicycle upon a roadway, public parking lot, sidewalk, bike path, bike lane or other public vehicular right-of-way in the City of Boise shall be granted the same rights and shall be subject to the same responsibilities applicable to a motor vehicle operator by the laws of the State of Idaho, and the provisions of Title 10 of the Boise City Code not in conflict with and as authorized under Title 49, Idaho Code; except where provisions of those laws and ordinances by their very nature can have no application to bicycles, or where portions of this Ordinance direct otherwise.
- B.
  - 1. Any peace officer of jurisdiction as defined in I.C. 19-5101 (d), operating a bicycle during the course of his or her duties is exempt from the requirements of section A. if the bicycle is being operated under any of the following circumstances:
    - a. In response to an emergency call.
    - b. While engaged in rescue operations.
    - c. In the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.
  - 2. This section does not relieve a peace officer from the duty to operate a bicycle with due regard for the safety of all persons.  
(5719, Amended, 04/09/1996)

**Section 10-14-03 REQUIRED BICYCLE EQUIPMENT**

No person shall operate a bicycle without the following equipment:

- A. Brakes capable of causing the bicycle to stop within twenty-five feet (25') at ten (10) miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement;
- B. A permanent seat designed for the bicycle being operated;
- C. A bell, the human voice or other audible warning device capable of being heard at least one hundred feet (100'), except that no bicycle shall be equipped nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle;
- D. When in use at nighttime, a red reflector on the rear visible from a distance of three hundred feet (300') when directly in front of lawful upper beams of a motor vehicle, and a forward-facing white light attached either to the bicycle or the bicyclist which is visible from a distance of at

least five hundred feet (500') in front of the bicycle. A bicycle shall be equipped with a front-facing white or yellow reflector when the bicyclist uses a generator powered light which is unlit when the bicycle is stopped.

**Section 10-14-04 RIDING ON BICYCLES:**

- A. No person riding or operating a bicycle shall ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.
- B. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- C. No person shall operate a bicycle which is either too large or too small for such person to operate safely.
- D. Every person operating a bicycle shall keep at least one hand on the handlebar at all times, and shall carry nothing which prevents full control of the bicycle or obstructs the operator's vision.

**Section 10-14-05 CLINGING TO VEHICLES**

Persons riding or operating bicycles shall not attach themselves or such bicycles to a moving vehicle. This Section shall not prohibit attaching a trailer device to a bicycle which is designed to accommodate such a device.

**Section 10-14-06 RIDING ON ROADWAYS**

- A. No person shall operate a bicycle on a roadway against the flow of motorized traffic, except where permitted by official signs or pavement markings.
- B. Every person operating a bicycle upon a two-way roadway is entitled to use the lane appropriate for the intended destination, including the right-hand lane and any designated bus lane. The bicycle rider shall proceed in the same direction of travel as other vehicles authorized to use that lane. On one-way roadways a bicycle may be operated in any existing lane.
- C. The operator of a bicycle traveling at a rate of speed which delays a vehicle or vehicles following in the same lane shall be required, when it is unlawful or unsafe for the following vehicle to pass, to move as far to the right of the traveled roadway, or to the left where the bicycle is in the left lane of a one-way roadway, as is safe under the conditions then existing; provided, however, that when the bicyclist is within fifty feet (50') of an intersection, he shall not be required to move to the right or left until he has moved through the intersection.
- D. In right turn only lanes where traffic signs or signals indicate a bus, trolley or street car is permitted to go straight rather than turn right, a bicycle operator shall be permitted to go straight rather than turn right.

(6763, Amended, 01/12/2010)

**Section 10-14-07 USING PROVIDED BIKE LANES AND BIKE PATHS**

- A. Wherever a bike lane is present upon a roadway, a bicyclist shall use that lane and shall not use the roadway; except that the bicyclist shall not be required to use or remain in a bike lane:
  - 1. When the lane is of insufficient width to permit safe bicycle operation;
  - 2. When the condition of the pavement, or the presence of water, dirt, glass or other foreign objects upon the pavement prevents safe bicycle operation in the lane;
  - 3. When moving into position to make a right or left turn;
  - 4. When an opening car door or other obstruction in an adjacent parking lane requires movement out of the lane.
  
- B. Wherever a bike path has been provided immediately adjacent to a roadway, a bicyclist shall use that path and shall not use the roadway if official signs or markings so direct; except that a bicyclist shall not be required to use or remain on a bike path:
  - 1. When the path is of insufficient width to permit safe bicycle operation; or
  - 2. When the condition of the surface, or the presence of water, dirt, glass or other foreign objects upon the surface prevents safe bicycle operation on the path.

(4406, 05/29/1979)

**Section 10-14-08 RIDING ON SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS**

- A. A bicycle may be operated upon a sidewalk and upon and within a crosswalk, except where prohibited by official traffic control devices, except when the number of pedestrians using the sidewalk renders bicycle riding on the sidewalk unsafe because of the risk of colliding with one of the pedestrians, in which case the bicycle rider must dismount and walk the bicycle to an area where safe riding may resume.
  
- B. Any bicyclist riding upon a sidewalk, or across a road way upon and within a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible warning before overtaking and passing such pedestrian. The audible warning may be given by the voice or by a bell or other lawful device capable of giving an audible signal to the person or persons being overtaken and passed.
  
- C. A bicyclist riding upon a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and within a crosswalk, shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.
  
- D. A bicyclist riding on the sidewalk shall not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and move into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

(6763, Amended, 01/12/2010; 4406-A, 06/11/1979)

**Section 10-14-09 PASSING OTHER VEHICLES**

The operator of a bicycle may pass another vehicle upon the right when traveling on a two-way roadway and may pass on the left when traveling in the left lane of a one-way roadway, but only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. A bicyclist shall not pass between two (2) lanes of motor vehicles proceeding in the same direction.

**Section 10-14-10 BICYCLIST NOT REQUIRED TO DISMOUNT WHEN STOPPING**

Whenever a bicycle operator is required to bring the bicycle to a stop in conformance with the official traffic control devices, the operator shall halt forward motion but shall not be required to dismount or remove his/her feet from the pedals.

**Section 10-14-11 TURN SIGNALS**

The operator of a bicycle intending to turn shall signal his intent to turn with the appropriate hand and arm signal at least one hundred feet (100') prior to turning. The hand signal need not be continuous.

**Section 10-14-12 RIDING IN GROUPS**

Persons riding bicycles shall not ride more than two (2) abreast except upon bike paths of twelve feet (12') or more. Bicyclists operating two (2) abreast upon a roadway, or bike path, shall return to a single file configuration when a vehicle approaches from behind in the same lane.

**Section 10-14-13 BICYCLE PARKING**

Bicycles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct or impede the movement of pedestrians, motor vehicles or other bicycles, or to cause damage to trees, shrubs or other living plants.

**Section 10-14-14 USE OF BIKE PATHS AND BIKE LANES BY OTHER NON-MOTORIZED MODES OF TRANSPORTATION**

- A. No person shall drive, lead or ride a horse or other animal upon a bike lane or bike path.
- B. No person shall roller skate, ride or operate a skateboard or gravity-operated or human powered vehicle not classified as a bicycle upon a bike lane or bike path except in public parks.
- C. Pedestrians shall not travel upon a bike path where a separate foot path has been provided or upon a bike lane where a sidewalk is provided.
- D. When a pedestrian is traveling upon a bike path or bike lane:
  - 1. A bicyclist approaching the pedestrian from the rear shall be required to give audible warning when overtaking and passing such pedestrian;
  - 2. A bicyclist and a pedestrian approaching each other shall each be required to move to and remain upon their right-hand half of the surface.
- E. A bicyclist shall always yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian who is physically disabled.

**Section 10-14-15 GROUP EVENTS**

A bicycle race, parade or other group event for bicyclists may be conducted upon public rights-

of-way in the City of Boise if a permit is obtained. Permit applications shall be made through the office of the City Clerk.

**Section 10-14-16 UNLAWFUL USE OF BIKE LANES AND BIKE PATHS**

It shall be unlawful for any person without authorization from the local authority having jurisdiction thereof to cut, alter, break, injure, damage or perform work upon any bike path or bike lane in the City of Boise.

**Section 10-14-17 RECKLESS OPERATION**

A person who uses or rides a bicycle on a sidewalk, street, roadway, highway or any public or private property open to public use, carelessly and heedlessly, or without due caution and circumspection, or at such speed or in any other manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property shall be guilty of reckless bicycling and, upon conviction may be sentencing to jail for not more than six (6) months or may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or may be punished by both fine and imprisonment.

(6763, Amended, 01/12/2010)

**Section 10-14-18 BICYCLE LICENSES:**

- A. License Recommended. The City of Boise City, as a matter of public policy, recommends that all residents of Boise who own a bicycle have such bicycle registered with and tagged by the Boise Police Department or its designated agents. The purpose of a bicycle license is to assist the bicycle owner, the Boise Police Department, or other public safety agencies in recovering said bicycle should the bicycle be stolen or otherwise misplaced.
- B. Registration. A bicycle may be registered by filing with the Boise Police Department the name and address of the owner together with a complete description of the bicycle on forms provided by or made available through the Boise Police Department. The fee for said registration may be established by resolution of the Boise City Council. The registration fee applies for the entire period the license registrant owns the licensed bicycle. Registration shall be serially numbered and kept on file by the Boise Police Department. Upon such registration, the Boise Police Department or its designee shall cause an identification tag to be affixed to the registered bicycle which shall be serially numbered to correspond with the registration number. Such tag shall remain affixed to the bicycle unless removed by the said Department for cause or for re-tagging upon re-registration.
- C. Any person who willfully removes, defaces, or destroys any bicycle identification tag issued by the City of Boise on a bicycle not owned by the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction may be sentenced to jail for not more than six (6) months or may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or may be punished by both fine and imprisonment.
- D. Transfer or Non-Use. Within ten (10) days after any bicycle registered hereunder shall have changed ownership or have been dismantled or taken out of operation, the person whose name the bicycle has been registered is encouraged to report such information to the Boise Police Department. In case of change of ownership, upon payment of the registration fee and production of a bill of sale signed by the previous registered owner, the registration shall be changed to show the name of the new owner or reregistered with a new number and cancellation of the former.

- E. Revenue from sale of bicycle registration and licenses shall be used to benefit the bicycle community through safety education and infrastructure improvements.  
(6763, Added, 01/12/2010)

**Section 10-14-19 VIOLATION**

Unless otherwise specified within this chapter, any person violating any of the moving or traffic provisions of an ordinance in this chapter shall be an infraction, the penalty for which shall be as specified in the Idaho Infraction Rules for bicycle offenses. An infraction is a civil public offense, not constituting a crime, which is punishable only by a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and for which no period of incarceration may be imposed. There is no right to trial by jury of a citation or complaint for an infraction and such trials shall be held before the court without a jury.

(6763, Added, 01/12/2010; 4406, 05/29/1979)