

# VIRGINIA BICYCLE

## Laws & Safety Tips

vélocity bicycle cooperative

### Rights and Duties

Every person riding a bicycle on a highway shall be subject to the provisions of the Code of Virginia section on motor vehicles and shall have the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle unless a provision clearly indicates otherwise.

Bicyclists and other users on sidewalks, shared use paths, and crosswalks have all the rights and duties of a pedestrian under the same circumstance.

Bicyclists and other users of shared use paths crossing highways at clearly marked crosswalks must come to a complete stop at stop signs prior to entering such crosswalk.

On shared use paths crossing highways in marked crosswalks without stop signs or other traffic control signals, bicyclists and pedestrians are not required to come to a full stop, but must not enter the road in disregard of approaching traffic.



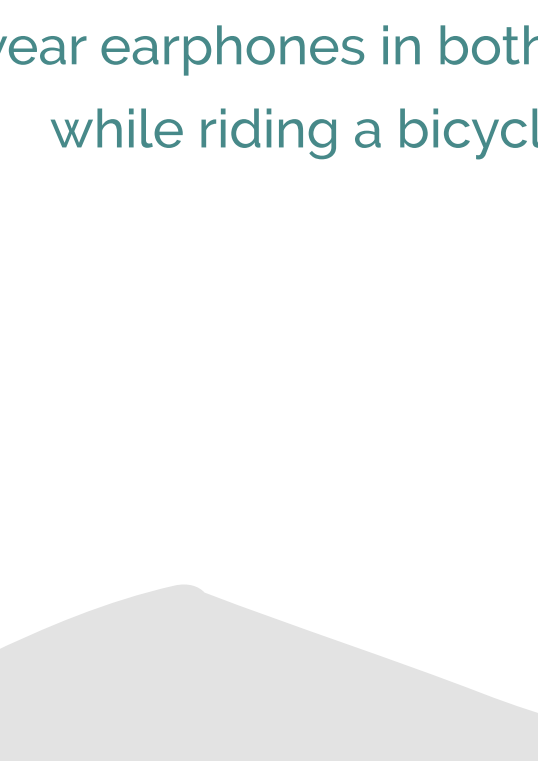
Bicyclists must not carry articles which prevent them from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.



Bicyclists must not carry more people than the bicycle is designed to accommodate, except for adult bicyclists carrying a child, under six years of age, securely attached to the bicycle in a seat or trailer designed to carry children.



Bicyclists must not attach themselves or their bicycles to any other vehicle on the roadway.



Bicyclists are not permitted to wear earphones in both ears while riding a bicycle.

### Accidents

Bicyclists must stop when they are in an accident involving death, injury, or property damage. The bicyclist's name and address must be given to the police and to any person involved in the accident or the owner of the property. The bicyclist's name and address must be given to the owner. If the owner can not be located, the bicyclist must leave a note in a conspicuous place at the accident site and report the accident to the police within 24 hours.

If unattended property is damaged, the bicyclist must make a reasonable effort to find the owner.

### Safe Bicycling Tips



Be a responsible bicyclist - obey all traffic control devices and use proper hand signals.



Always ride with the flow of traffic.



Dress safely - wear a helmet, wear bright colored clothing, and secure loose pant legs.



Ride defensively - anticipate the actions of other road users and watch for road hazards.



Pass vehicles with extreme care - turning vehicles may not see you.



Be aware of motor vehicle blind spots whether while riding or when stopped at an intersection.



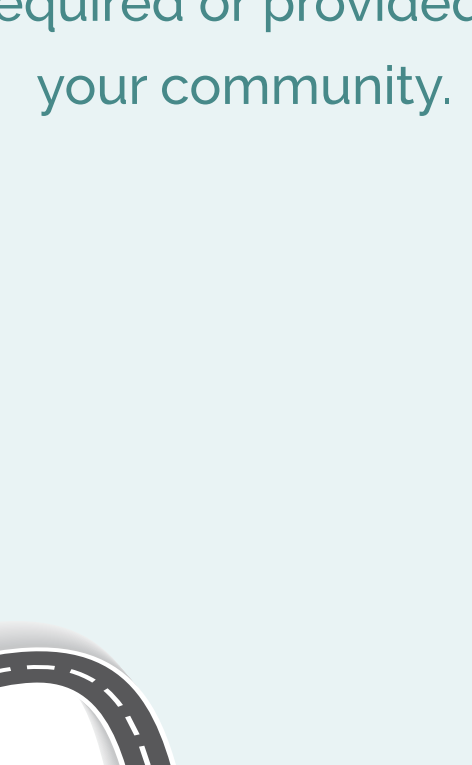
Maximize your visibility at night - wear reflective clothing and apply reflective tape to your bicycle.



Walk your bicycle when you get into traffic situations beyond your cycling abilities.



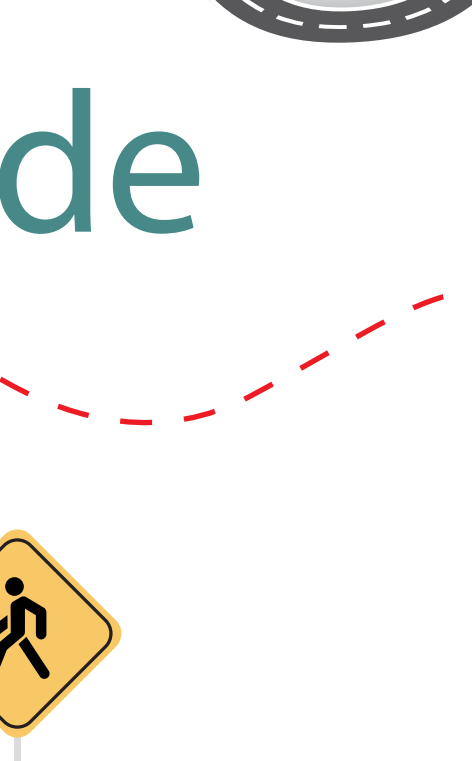
Exercise great caution when riding in bus traffic - watch out for buses pulling to and from curbs and passengers getting on and off buses.



Park your bicycle so you do not block sidewalks, handicap and building accesses or emergency drives.



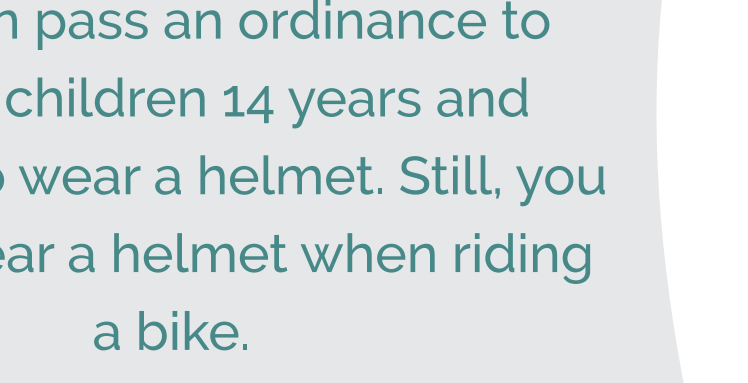
Lock your bicycle - secure both wheel and the frame to a stationary object using a sturdy lock.



Register or license your bicycle if required or provided by your community.

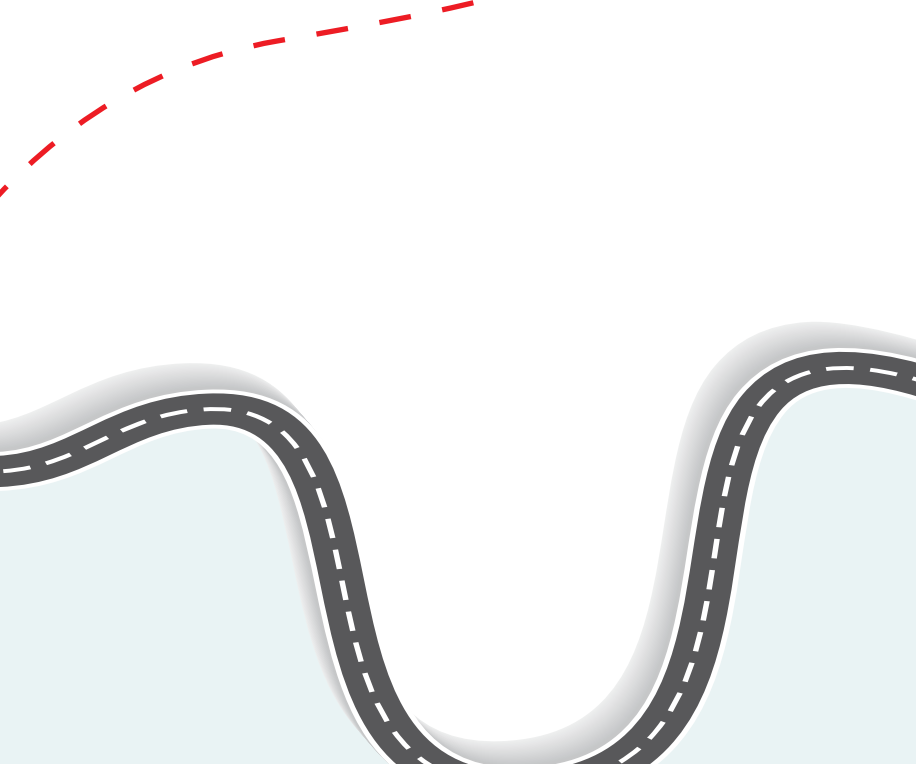
### Where to Ride

Bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks unless prohibited by local ordinance or traffic control devices. While on sidewalks and shared use paths, bicyclists must always yield the right of way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing a pedestrian.



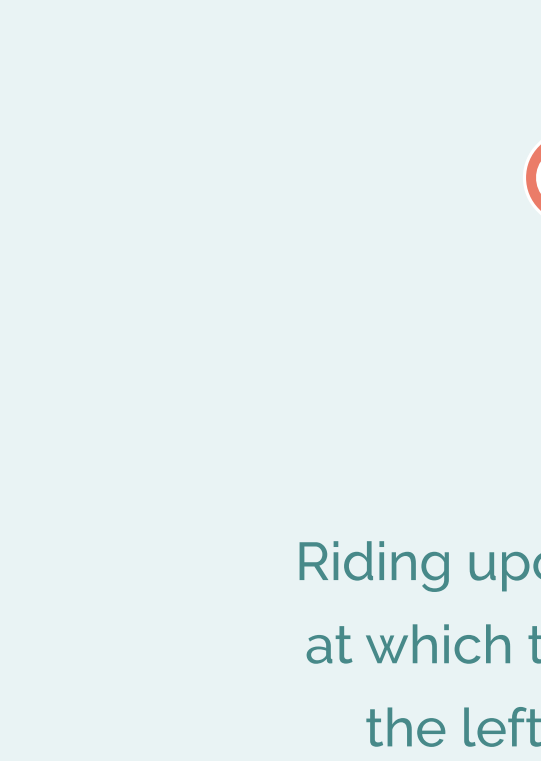
Virginia law does not require cyclists to wear a helmet. A county, city or town can pass an ordinance to require children 14 years and younger to wear a helmet. Still, you should wear a helmet when riding a bike.

Bicyclists can ride on roads where there is no dedicated bike lane for the most part. Bicyclists are not permitted to ride on interstate and certain controlled access highways, unless the operation is limited to bicycle or pedestrian facilities that are barrier-separated from the roadway and automobile traffic.

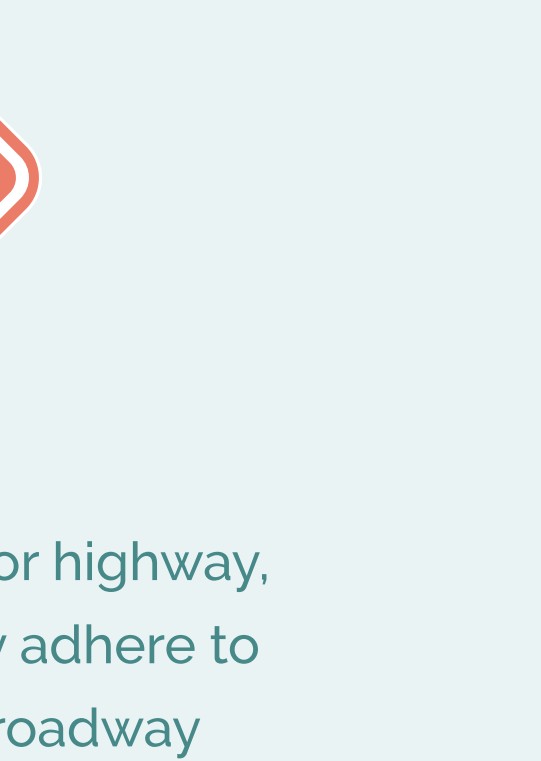


### Changing directions

According to basic Virginia bicycle law, cyclists must ride as close as safely practicable to the right edge of the roadway, except when:



Overtaking or passing a vehicle proceeding in the same direction



Preparing to take a left-hand turn at an intersection



Reasonably necessary to avoid and accommodate the road's conditions, which include, but are not limited to, objects, vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or substandard width lanes



Avoiding to ride in a lane that must turn or diverge to the right



Riding upon a one-way road or highway, at which time the cyclist may adhere to the left-hand edge of the roadway

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