

Bicycle Laws of Cambridge and Massachusetts (www.cambridgema.gov)

- All bicyclists must obey all traffic laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts including red lights, stop signs, and riding with traffic.
- All bicyclists should stay to the right of the roadway, except for left hand turns, or where bike lanes direct otherwise and must ride single file.
- Cambridge discourages the riding of bicycles on sidewalks throughout the city and has provided bicycle lanes on certain streets.
- **Bicycles *may not* be ridden on a sidewalk in the Harvard Sq. and Central Sq. business districts, as well as some newly created banned areas:**
 - **Inman Sq.**
 - **Huron Village**
 - **Mass. Ave., from Wendell St. and Shepard St. to Russell St. and Cogswel**
 - **Somerville Ave (entirely)**
- In a banned area a bicyclist must either:
 - Walk his/her bicycle;
 - Ride on the street; or
 - Take an alternate route.
- In all other areas in the City of Cambridge a bicyclist, while riding on the sidewalk, **may not** ride at a speed "greater than a normal walk."
- A bicyclist shall give an audible warning before passing a pedestrian far enough in advance to allow the pedestrian time to react.
- A bicyclist, while operating on a sidewalk, must operate in a manner that does not endanger property or any person.
- Pedestrians have the right of way on all sidewalks, and a bicyclist must yield to pedestrians in all traffic situations.
- When involved in an accident resulting in bodily injury or property damage in excess of \$100 dollars, a bicyclist must notify the police in writing on a Cambridge Police Bicycle accident report.
- In the event of a collision between a bicyclist and a pedestrian or with another bicyclist, both parties shall stop and exchange information required to complete a Cambridge Police Bicycle accident report.
- A bicyclist shall not pass to the right of a bus or a minibus stopped at a bus stop.
- A bicyclist shall not be drawn or towed by another vehicle such as a car or any other moving vehicle.
- Always use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- A bicyclist shall park his/her bike upon a way or sidewalk so as to not obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic. There are bike racks throughout the City.
- A bicyclist shall not carry another passenger on his/her bicycle except on a tandem bike; or a child between one and four on a child safety seat attached to the bike, equipped with a harness and protection from the feet hitting the spokes of the wheel of the bicycle. A bicyclist shall not transport any person under the age of one year on a bicycle.
- All violations of these laws are punishable by a fine of \$20. A person who refuses to state his true name and address when stopped by a police officer for violating these laws is subject to arrest and a fine of \$50.
- Bicyclists riding together shall not ride more than 2 abreast but, on a roadway with more than 1 lane in the direction of travel, bicyclists shall ride within a single lane.
- The operator shall not carry any package, bundle or article except in or on a basket, rack, trailer or other device designed for such purposes. The operator shall keep at least one hand upon the handlebars at all times.
- Every bicycle operated upon a way shall be equipped with a braking system to enable the operator to bring the bicycle traveling at a speed of fifteen miles per hour to a smooth, safe stop within thirty feet on a dry, clean, hard, level surface.
- No bicycle shall be operated upon a way with handlebars so raised that the operator's hands are above his shoulders while gripping them. Any alteration to extend the fork of a bicycle from the original design and construction of the bicycle manufacturer is prohibited.