

# City of East Lansing One Pager Plus

## Rules of the Road: Bicycle Safety FAQs

### May I ride my bicycle on the sidewalk?

According to the East Lansing City Code, cyclists who ride on sidewalks have the same rights as pedestrians<sup>1</sup>. However, if you are riding across a roadway on a crosswalk, you must not exceed walking or pedestrian speed. Furthermore, upon crossing a roadway at a crosswalk, you must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian along with providing an audible sign before overtaking and passing pedestrians. The optimal choice for a cyclist is to ride in the bicycle lanes where available. If you do need to ride on the sidewalk, ***remember that you must yield to pedestrians.***

### Are there any rules regarding carrying a passenger or some kind of baggage while operating my bicycle?

Yes. You may not carry more persons than the number for which your bicycle is designed or equipped. However, an adult cyclist may carry a child securely attached to his/her person in a backpack or sling. Also, you may not carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the use of ***both hands*** in the control or operation of the bicycle.

### I have a sturdy bicycle and like to do tricks sometimes. Is this permitted?

No. You may not ride a bicycle in a careless, reckless or acrobatic manner on any public right-of-way or publicly-owned property. You must also keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times. It is strictly prohibited to attach yourself to another vehicle on a roadway while operating a bicycle.

### Can I ride in the middle of a car lane?

Section 257.660a of the MVC states:

- “A person operating a bicycle upon a highway or street at less than the existing speed of traffic shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except as follows:
- (a) When overtaking and passing another bicycle or any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
  - (b) When preparing to turn left.
  - (c) When conditions make the right-hand edge of the roadway unsafe or reasonably unusable by bicycles, including, but not limited to, surface hazards, an uneven roadway surface, drain openings, debris, parked or moving vehicles or bicycles, pedestrians, animals, or other obstacles, or if the lane is too narrow to permit a vehicle to safely overtake and pass a bicycle.

<sup>1</sup>Beginning Oct. 15, 1999, a person may operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk, a pedestrian mall or across a roadway upon a crosswalk located on adjacent to that portion of the north one-half of Grand River between Abbot Road and Collingwood Drive.



## Rules of the Road: Bicycle Safety FAQs (Continued)

- (d) When operating a bicycle in a lane in which the traffic is turning right but the individual intends to go straight through the intersection.
- (e) When operating a bicycle upon a 1-way highway or street that has 2 or more marked traffic lanes, in which case the individual may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of that roadway as practicable.”

### Can I ride next to someone else?

Yes you may—with some limitations. First, you cannot ride more than two abreast. Second, you may not, in any way, impede the flow of traffic. Also, if you are riding on a multi-laned roadway, you may only occupy a single lane. Cyclists riding a three-wheel bicycle or a bicycle with a trailer attached are legally obligated to ride in single-file.

### Where in the City can I park my bicycle?

Unless otherwise prohibited, you may park a bicycle on a sidewalk and secure it to any publicly-owned pole or post (except a tree, fire hydrant, police or fire callbox) in any manner that does not obstruct or present a safety hazard to pedestrians or other traffic.

### Do I need to register my bicycle?

Yes. You can register your new or used bike at the Police Desk at East Lansing City Hall. You can do so 24-7 by filling out a short form, after which you will be issued a sticker for your bike. Registering your bike provides law enforcement with a tracking tool in the event that your bike is stolen.

You should be aware that Michigan State University also requires that bicycles bear a current and valid license or permit issued by the Michigan State University Department of Police and Public Safety, the City of Lansing, the City of East Lansing, Lansing Township or Meridian Township. Bicycles that are not properly registered run the risk of being impounded on campus.

### Other useful reminders:

- Always ride with the flow of traffic.
- Try not to swing between the sidewalks and the streets.
- Be predictable so that drivers know where you are going.
- Wear a helmet and make sure that you are visible.

### For more information about campus bike ordinances, visit:

[http://trustees.msu.edu/ordinances/ordinances\\_sec33.html](http://trustees.msu.edu/ordinances/ordinances_sec33.html)



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**For information regarding state statutes pertaining to cyclists, visit:**

[http://www.lmb.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=157&Itemid=190#Adult](http://www.lmb.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=157&Itemid=190#Adult)

**For extensive resources regarding bicycle safety, activities and enjoyment, visit:**

<http://www.biketcba.org/links.php>

