

WASHINGTON STATE BIKE LAWS

Summary of Washington State Bicycle Laws

RCW	Code Description
46.04.071	A Bicycle is defined as a human powered device with 2 wheels bigger than 16 inches.
46.61.050	Bicycles must obey traffic lights and stop signs (as well as all other traffic control devices).
46.61.110	Overtaking on the Left ("Safe passing")
46.61.126	Bicycles & Pedestrians must follow traffic laws.
46.61.160	Bicycles cannot ride on some limited access highways.
Bikes forbidden:	SR 520, I-405, I-90 (exit 0 to exit 17), I-5 (Lakewood to Marysville), parts of 18, 518, 522 & 599 and a few others.
46.61.261	A bicycle must yield to a pedestrian on a sidewalk or crosswalk.
46.61.700	Parents are responsible for kids obeying bike laws
46.61.710	Mopeds and gas powered bikes & scooters are not allowed on sidewalks or trails.
46.61.710	Electric-assist bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks. Electric-assist bicycles may be allowed on multipurpose trails, but may be restricted based on local jurisdiction regulation.
46.61.750	Bicyclists riding on roads must obey all traffic laws.
46.61.750	Bicyclists may be ticketed for violating traffic laws
46.61.750	Traffic laws apply on bicycle trails too.
46.61.755	Bicycles have all the same rights and responsibilities as cars.
46.61.755	A bicycle is a vehicle on the road or a pedestrian on the sidewalk.

Adapted from posting at Washington Bikes website. For more information and full text, go to www.wabikes.org/resources and click on "Washington State Bicycle Laws."

NOTE: Helmet required by law in Bellevue

RCW	Code Description
46.61.758	Must signal turns with left hand (right=up, left=out, stop=down). But Right hand signal for right turn is an acceptable substitute.
46.61.760	Only one person per bicycle seat.
46.61.765	Clinging to vehicles is illegal.
46.61.770	Can ride 2 abreast, not more
46.61.770	Bicycles may use the shoulder of the roadway or any specially designated bicycle lane if such exists.
46.61.770	Bicycles should ride as near to the right side of the right through lane as is safe except when turning or passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
46.61.770	Bicycles can ride on the left side of the left through lane as is safe (with the traffic flow) on one way streets.
46.61.775	Must have at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.
46.61.775	Cannot ride carrying anything with both hands while riding.
46.61.780	Bikes must have brakes.
46.61.780	At night, bikes must have white light on front, red reflector on the back.
46.61.780	Steady or flashing red rear light may be used in addition to the reflector.
46.61.790	Police may impound bicycle if you are too impaired.
47.36.025	New and updated traffic signals must detect bicycles.

As a bicyclist, you are responsible for understanding and following the current laws and rules of the road. This may not be a comprehensive or up to date summary of the laws that apply to bicyclists.