

Cyclists

In North Carolina, bicyclists have the same rights and duties as motorists. For a complete list of NC bike laws, visit www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle

Ride on the right

- Always ride in the same direction as traffic
- Ride as far to the right as practicable

Follow traffic laws

- Obey all traffic control devices, such as stop signs
- Always use hand signals when turning

Always wear a properly fitting helmet

- Children below the age of 16 are required by NC law to wear a helmet
- Make sure that the helmet fits snugly on top of the head, not tipped back
- Replace your helmet after any crash or impact

Ride predictably

- Ride in a straight line and don't swerve between parked cars
- Check for traffic before entering any street or intersection
- Give an audible warning to pedestrians before approaching from behind on a multi-use path

Be visible

- Wear brightly colored clothing
- At night, the law requires cyclists to use a white front light and a red rear light or reflector
- Make eye contact with motorists

Motorists

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Drive cautiously

- Reduce speed when encountering cyclists
- Give cyclists extra trailing and passing room in potentially dangerous situations

Yield to cyclists

- Cyclists are vehicles and should be given the appropriate right of way
- Cyclists may take the entire lane

Be considerate

- Scan for cyclists in traffic and at intersections, and watch for passing cyclists before opening a car door
- Do not blast your horn in close proximity to cyclists

Pass with care

- NC law requires 2 feet of passing room when overtaking a vehicle moving in the same direction; giving at least 3 feet of passing room is courteous when passing a cyclist
- Wait until traffic conditions allow you to pass safely
- Check over your shoulder after passing a cyclist before moving back to normal position

Watch for children

- Children on bicycles are often unpredictable—expect the unexpected and slow down