

**CHAPTER 76**  
**BICYCLE ORDINANCE**

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**76.01 DEFINITIONS.**

1. "Bicycle" means either of the following:
  - A. A device having up to four wheels and having at least one saddle or seat for the use of a rider which is propelled by human power.
  - B. A device having up to four wheels with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of one horsepower or less.
2. "Multi-use trail" means a way or place, the use of which is controlled by the City as an owner of real property, designated by the multi-use recreational trail maps, as approved by resolution by the City Council, and no multi-use trail shall be considered as a street or highway.

**76.02 SCOPE OF REGULATIONS.** These regulations shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any street or upon any multi-use trail, subject to those exceptions stated herein.

**76.03 ALTERATION OF SERIAL FRAME NUMBER.** It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully or maliciously remove, destroy, mutilate, or alter the manufacturer's serial frame number of any bicycle.

**76.04 SIRENS AND WHISTLES PROHIBITED.** A bicycle shall not be equipped with, and a person shall not use upon a bicycle, any siren or whistle. This section shall not apply to bicycles ridden by peace officers in the line of duty.

**76.05 LAMPS AND REFLECTORS.**

1. Every bicycle ridden at any time from sunset to sunrise and at such other times when conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain provide insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 300 feet ahead shall be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from a distance of at least 300 feet to the front.
2. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 300 feet to the rear; except that a red reflector may be used in lieu of a rear light.

3. Equivalent equipment such as headlamps and red light attachments to the arm or leg may be used in lieu of a lamp on the front and a red light on the rear of the bicycle.
4. A peace officer riding a police bicycle is not required to use either front or rear lamps if duty so requires.

**76.06 STOPPING.** Every bicycle used upon the City streets, sidewalks, highways, park roads, or multi-use trails shall be able to come to a complete stop within a safe distance.

**76.07 APPLICABILITY OF MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS.** Every person operating a bicycle upon the City streets, highways, park roads, or multi-use trails shall be subject to this chapter and other City traffic ordinances and the State statutes applicable to the drivers of motor vehicles, except as to special regulations in this chapter and except as to those provisions of ordinances and statutes which by their nature can have no application or those provisions for which specific exceptions have been set forth regarding police bicycles.

**76.08 OBEDIENCE TO SIGNALS.** Every person operating a bicycle shall obey the directions of official traffic signals, signs, and other control devices applicable to other vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, and shall obey direction signs relative to turns permitted, unless such person dismounts from the bicycle, when he or she shall then obey the regulations applicable to pedestrians.

**76.09 IMPROPER RIDING.**

1. A person propelling a bicycle on any street, sidewalk, highway, park road, or multi-use recreational trail, shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle and shall not use a bicycle to carry more persons at one time than the number of persons for which the bicycle is designed and equipped.
2. This section does not apply to the use of a bicycle in a parade or special event authorized by the City.

**76.10 CARRYING PACKAGES.** No person operating a bicycle upon a street, sidewalk, highway, park road, or multi-use trail shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the rider from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.

**76.11 CONTROL WITH HANDS ON HANDLEBARS.** The operator of a bicycle upon a street, sidewalk, highway, park road, or multi-use trail shall keep the bicycle under control at all times and at all times during operation shall have one or both hands upon the handlebars and the feet engaged with the braking device if the braking device is designed to be actuated by the feet.

**76.12 PLACE OF RIDING.**

1. Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except under any of the following situations:
  - A. When overtaking and passing another bicycle vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
  - B. When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.

C. When reasonably necessary to avoid conditions (including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or substandard width lanes) that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge. For purposes of this section, a “substandard width lane” is a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

D. A facility that would allow bicycle traffic on the left side of the roadway.

2. Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway which carries traffic in one direction only and has two or more marked traffic lanes, may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway as practicable.

3. When so riding upon any multi-use trail with other cyclists, there shall not be more than two abreast.

4. Whenever a usable multi-use trail for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.

5. This section does not apply to the use of a bicycle in a parade or special event authorized by the City.

#### **76.13 BICYCLE LANES.**

1. Whenever a bicycle lane has been established on a roadway, any person operating a bicycle upon the roadway moving in the same direction may ride within the bicycle lane.

2. Any person operating a bicycle within a bicycle lane may move out of the lane when overtaking and passing another bicycle, vehicle, or pedestrian within the lane or about to enter the lane if such overtaking and passing cannot be done safely within the lane.

3. No person operating a bicycle shall leave a bicycle lane until the movement can be made with reasonable safety and then only after giving an appropriate signal.

4. No person shall drive a motor vehicle in a bicycle lane established on a roadway except as follows:

A. To park where parking is permitted.

B. To enter or leave the roadway.

C. To prepare for a turn within a distance of 200 feet from the intersection.

**76.14 EMERGING FROM ALLEY OR DRIVEWAY.** The operator of a bicycle emerging from an alley, driveway, or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway or driveway, yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on the sidewalk or sidewalk area and upon entering the roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on the roadway.

**76.15 OPERATION ON SIDEWALK.** Bicycles may be operated upon the public sidewalks in a careful and prudent manner and except where signs are erected prohibiting riding on the sidewalk. Every person lawfully operating a bicycle upon a public sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way when approaching a pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing.

**76.16 CLINGING TO OTHER VEHICLES.** No person riding upon any bicycle on a street, sidewalk, highway, park road, or multi-use trail shall attach the bicycle or himself or herself to any moving vehicle by tow rope, hand grip or otherwise.

**76.17 FOLLOWING EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** No person riding a bicycle shall follow closer than 500 feet of an emergency vehicle, as defined by Section 321.1 of the *Code of Iowa*, which has emergency lights or siren activated, and shall not stop, park, or leave a bicycle within 500 feet of an emergency vehicle stopped in response to an emergency.

**76.18 PARKING.** No person shall leave a bicycle lying on its side on any sidewalk, nor shall park a bicycle on a sidewalk in any other position so that there is not an adequate path for pedestrian traffic. Local authorities may, by ordinance or resolution, prohibit bicycle parking in designated areas of the public highway, provided that appropriate signs are erected.

**76.19 RECKLESS OPERATION.** No person shall operate a bicycle with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

**76.20 VIOLATIONS.** Any person violating the provisions of this chapter may, in lieu of the scheduled fine for bicyclists or standard penalty provided for violations of this Code of Ordinances, allow the person's bicycle to be impounded by the City for not less than five days for the first offense, 10 days for a second offense, and 30 days for a third offense.

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