

Summary of State of Iowa Bicycling Laws



Obey Traffic Signs and Signals.

Bicyclists are responsible for knowing and obeying all traffic laws. In order to reinforce the fact that bicycles belong on the road, bicyclists must obey traffic laws and be courteous to other road users.



Never Ride Against Traffic.

Motorists and other cyclists aren't looking for a bicyclist on the wrong side of the roadway. Riding on the wrong side increases the likelihood and the severity of head-on collisions.



Follow Lane Markings.

Like other traffic, bicyclists must follow lane markings. Bicyclists can't turn left from the right lane or go straight on a right-turn-only lane.



Use Hand Signals.

Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy and self-protection.



Ride on the Right.

When no shoulder is available, move as far to the right as is practical and safe.



Don't Pass on the Right.

Motorists are not looking for a bicyclist to pass on the right. Passing must be done at a safe distance to the left. The return to the right side of the road must not be made until there is a safe, clear distance in front of the passed vehicle.



Obey Bicycle and Traffic Laws.

Bicyclists who violate traffic laws are subject to the same fines as motor vehicle drivers.



Use Lights at Night.

Every bicycle being used at night must be equipped with a white light on the front and a red light or reflector on the rear; both must be visible for at least 300 feet.



Don't Ride Bicycles on Interstate Highways.

Bicyclists are prohibited, by law, from using interstate highways in lowa.



Sharrows remind bicyclists and motorists that the lane must be shared, as well as showing bicyclists where to ride on the road.

Safety Tips for Bicyclists on Iowa State's Campus

Ride on the right.

Ride in the right lane, except when passing another vehicle, preparing for a left turn, or avoiding hazards.

Never ride against traffic.

Always ride with the flow of traffic.

Keep one earbud out.

Make sure you are always able to hear sirens, honking, or other warning signals from motorists.

Make eye contact with motorists.

Never assume a motorist sees you or that you have the right-of-way. Expect the unexpected, such as parked vehicles pulling into traffic, vehicle doors opening into your path, and debris on the road.

At night, use a headlight, taillight, and reflectors.



bicycle path to traffic traveling on a public roadway.

speeds under existing conditions.

City of Ames Regulations

by-side while on a city street, except on

Operate a bicycle equipped with a brake

Operate at reasonable and appropriate

Yield the right-of-way on an off-street

that will enable a braked-wheel skid on dry

designated bicycle paths.

pavement.

Ride with no more than two bicycles side-

Don't be attached to or towed by any vehicle.

Don't carry articles that prevent the rider from having at least one hand on the handle bars.

Don't operate a bicycle on sidewalks along Main Street (from Duff to Clark), Welch Avenue (Knapp to Lincoln Way), and Lincoln Way (Stanton to Hayward).

Don't operate a bicycle on Grand Avenue.



sidewalks.

Art on Campus Collection renderings of: *G-nome* by Andrew Leicester *Sequence* by John D. Jennings



Report Thefts and Accidents



ISU Police 515-294-4428

Ames Police Department 515-239-5133

Register your bike online through the ISU Parking Division.

You will need to know the make, model, type of bike, serial number, speeds, color, and style to complete registration.

Your information is recorded and you will receive a sticker with a registration number to affix to your bike.

The best chance for recovering your stolen bicycle is having a registered serial number.

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ISU Parking Division

Safety Tips for Motorists



Use extra caution when passing bicyclists.

Move entirely into the left lane; on a two-lane road, don't pass a bicycle if oncoming traffic is near.

Bicyclists might swerve to avoid road hazards.

Common road hazards for bicyclists are potholes, debris, drainage grates, railroad tracks, and narrow bridges.

Be careful when opening your vehicle door.

Road widths often force bicyclists to ride close to parked vehicles where they might be injured by an opening door.

When in doubt, yield to bicyclists.



No bicycles allowed in buildings on campus.

