Cycling Safety
Cyclist Reference Guide

Cycling is a growing transportation alternative in the Omaha-Metropolitan area. It is important for all users of Metro-area roads to understand the rules and regulations for cyclists and motor vehicle users. Below are references to some of the more common rules governing shared use of the roads (Omaha City Ordinances “C/O” and Nebraska State Statutes “S/S”).

### Rules Governing Motor Vehicles

- Vehicles overtaking bicycles in the same direction shall give an audible signal of his intention to pass at a distance of 100 to 300 feet (C/O 36-63).
- Vehicles overtaking a bicycle in the same direction shall leave a safe distance of no less than three feet clearance when passing a bicycle and until safely past the overtaken bicycle (S/S 60-6,133).
- Cyclists upon a highway shall have all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle under the Nebraska Rules of the Road except for special bicycle regulations in the rules, except for those provisions of the rules which by their nature can have no application, and except as provided in section S/S 60-6,142 (S/S 60-6,314).

### Rules Governing Cyclists

- Cyclists shall use hand and arm signals to indicate intent: Left turn—hand and arm extended to the left horizontally; Right turn—hand and forearm extended upward or by fully extending the right arm and pointing; Stop or decrease speed—hand and arm extended downward (S/S 60-6,163).
- Cyclists shall ride as near the right-hand curb or right-hand edge of the roadway as practicable except when passing, turning left or as reasonably necessary due to unsafe conditions or when riding upon a lane of substandard width which is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane (S/S 60-6,317).
- Cyclists shall not attach himself to any vehicle upon a roadway: “Clinging to a vehicle” (S/S 60-6,316).

### Rules Governing Cycling at Night

- Bicycle must be equipped with a headlight visible at 500 feet on a clear night and a rear red reflector visible from 100 and 600 feet with vehicle low beams. A red light may be used in addition to a red reflector (S/S 60-6,318).
- Bicycle must be equipped with brake/s allowing it to stop within 25 feet at 10mph on dry, level pavement (S/S 60-6,318).

### Cycling Safety

- Wear high visibility, reflective clothing and protective equipment (helmet, gloves, etc.).
- Carry emergency repair supplies and have basic repair knowledge.
- Inform someone of your route and when you expect to return.
- Enable GPS on your phone to allow others to better locate you.
- Carry contact information in case of emergency.
- Consider using “live tracking” devices.
- Know where to find life essentials such as food, water and shelter.
- Know your location at all times.

**For Emergencies, Call 911**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Omaha Police Department</th>
<th>POLICE.CITYOFOMAHA.ORG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Services Unit</td>
<td>505 South 15th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(402) 444-5772</td>
<td>Omaha, NE 68102</td>
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