Traffic Laws/Bicycles

Boise Bike Plan Shareholders

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Traffic Law Application

• Every person operating a vehicle propelled by human power or riding a bicycle shall have all of the rights and all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle......except as otherwise provided in this chapter........

• Every operator or rider of a bicycle or human powered vehicle shall exercise due care (reasonable man theory).
Stopping

• A person operating a bicycle or human-powered vehicle approaching a stop sign shall slow down and, if required for safety, stop before entering the intersection. After slowing to a reasonable speed or stopping, the person shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another highway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time the person is moving across or within the intersection or junction of highways, except that a person after slowing to a reasonable speed and yielding the right-of-way if required, may cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping.  *(Very Subjective)*
Stopping (Cont.)

• A person operating a bicycle or human-powered vehicle approaching a steady red traffic control light shall stop before entering the intersection and shall yield to all other traffic. Once the person has yielded, he may proceed through the steady red light with caution. Provided however, that a person after slowing to a reasonable speed and yielding the right-of-way if required, may cautiously make a right-hand turn. A left-hand turn onto a one-way highway may be made on a red light after stopping and yielding to other traffic.
Riding on Roadways

• No Person shall operate a bicycle on a roadway against the flow of motorized traffic, except where permitted by official signs or pavement markings.

• Every person operating a bicycle upon a two-way roadway shall be entitled to use the right-hand lane and shall proceed in the same direction of travel as other vehicles in that lane. On one-way roadways a bicycle may be operated in any existing lane.
Riding on Roadways (Cont.)

• The operator of a bicycle traveling at a rate of speed which delays a vehicle or vehicles following in the same lane shall be required, when it is unlawful or unsafe for the following vehicle to pass, to move as far to the right of the traveled roadway, or to the left where the bicycle is in the left lane of a one-way roadway, as is safe under the conditions then existing; provided, however, that when the bicyclist is within 50’ of an intersection, he shall not be required to move to the right or left until he has moved through the intersection.
Using Provided Bike Lanes/Paths

• Wherever a bike lane is present upon a roadway, a bicyclist shall use that lane and shall not use the roadway; except that the bicyclist shall not be required to use or remain in a bike lane:
  – When the lane is of insufficient width to permit safe bicycle operation;
  – When the condition of the pavement, or the presence of water, dirt, glass or other foreign objects upon the pavement prevents safe bicycle operation in the lane;
  – When moving into position to make a right or left turn;
  – When an opening car door or other obstruction in an adjacent parking lane requires movement out of the lane.
Using Provided Bike Lanes/Paths (Cont.)

• Wherever a bike path has been provided immediately adjacent to a roadway (Federal Way), a bicyclist shall use that path and shall not use the roadway if official signs or markings so direct; except that a bicyclist shall not be required to use or remain on a bike path:
  – When the path is of insufficient width to permit safe bicycle operation; or
  – When the condition of the surface, or the presence of water, dirt, glass or other foreign objects upon the surface prevents safe bicycle operation on the path.
Riding on Sidewalks/Crosswalks

• A bicycle may be operated upon a sidewalk and upon and within a crosswalk, except where prohibited by official traffic control devices.

• Any bicyclist riding upon a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and within a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible warning before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

• A bicyclist riding upon a sidewalk, or across a roadway upon and within a crosswalk, shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances. *(Sudden Entry)*
Passing Other Vehicles

• The operator of a bicycle may pass another vehicle upon the right when traveling on a two-way roadway and may pass on the left when traveling in the left lane of a one-way roadway, but only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. A bicyclist shall not pass between two (2) lanes of motor vehicles proceeding in the same direction (splitting traffic).
Riding in Groups

• Persons riding bicycles shall not ride more than two (2) abreast except upon bike paths of twelve feet (12’) or more. Bicyclists operating two (2) abreast upon a roadway, or bike path, shall return to a single file configuration when a vehicle approaches from behind in the same lane.
Questions/Comments...

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