

## Frequently Asked Questions:

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### LANE USE

**Should bicyclists ride with the flow of traffic or facing traffic?**

ANSWER: Bicyclists should always ride with the flow of traffic. The law requires this. Riding with the flow of traffic greatly increases safety by making bicycles visible and predictable to drivers. Riding against traffic is a leading cause of bicycle accidents. Bicyclists may ride in the left lane of a one-way street which contains two or more marked lanes, exercising care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

**Can the bicycle lanes be used for wheelchairs, skateboards, scooters, etc.?**

ANSWER: None of these are considered vehicles and are not authorized on the roadway/bike lanes unless there is no sidewalk. Since that is not the case in the Borough of Carlisle, they are not authorized in the roadway/bike lanes and should be used on the sidewalk. Note: Skateboard use is prohibited in downtown Carlisle.

**How wide are the bicycle lanes?**

ANSWER: The bike lanes average 5 foot in width, the standard width of bicycle lanes.

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**Which lane should the bicyclist use when making a left turn?**

ANSWER: Left turns should be made from the left turn lane, or left side of the driving lane if there is not a designated left turn lane. Because this move places the bicyclist into traffic lanes, extra caution is required.

### RIGHT OF WAY

**If a motorist is making a right hand turn and the bicyclist is going straight, who should yield, the motorist or the bicyclist?**

ANSWER: The bicyclist has the right of way. However, having the right of way will be little consolation if the car turns right and collides with the bicyclist. The risk to bicyclists is that many motorists are either unaware or unconcerned that bicyclists have the right to ride on the road. This is the main reason that bicyclists must ride defensively and use extra caution. Bicyclists must assume that motorists will not yield to them when required.



## Borough of Carlisle

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Excellence in Customer Service

# Downtown Carlisle Bicycle Safety



Borough of Carlisle  
53 W. South Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
717-249-4422

[www.carlislepa.org](http://www.carlislepa.org)

## 10 Facts Bicyclists and Motorists Should Know:

1. **Bicycle helmets are required by law for all riders under the age of 12** who ride on the roadway. However, **it is recommended that all riders wear helmets.**
2. When riding a bicycle on a roadway, the bike is considered a vehicle. **A bicyclist must obey all traffic laws** just as the driver of a car would. **Hand signals are required** when turning, stopping or changing lanes.
3. When passing, a motorist should **allow at least four feet** between the vehicle and the bicycle.
4. A good resource for bicycle information is [www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/RideaBike/](http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/RideaBike/).
5. **Neither a bicyclist nor a motorist always has the right-of-way.** The facts and circumstances of the encounter dictate who has the right-of-way.
6. Both **municipal and state police are able to enforce bicycling laws** and write citations for infractions.
7. **Bicyclists must ride single file** on roadways and in bike lanes.
8. Bicyclists are required to **ride in the right hand lane or as close as practical to the right hand curb.** This would mean using the designated bike lane, if it is available. Bicyclists and motorists must remain aware that bicyclists have to be able to move to the left or stop quickly if a car door is opened in their path.
9. Bicycle riders are subject to all of the traffic rules and duties applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle, including **stopping at red lights and stop signs.**
10. Because a bicycle is a vehicle, for the purpose of yielding laws, **a bicyclist must yield to pedestrians** just as if the cyclist were driving a car.



## Bike Rack Locations:



- North Hanover Street at Mulberry Avenue.
- South Hanover Street at Church Avenue.
- 158 W. High Street - Bosler Memorial Library
- 53 W. South Street - Borough Hall
- 415 Franklin Street - Stuart Community Center
- 1236 Franklin Street - Carlisle Community Pool
- 240 Lincoln Street - Carlisle Police Department
- 350 Walnut Bottom Rd. - Thornwald Park
- 260 E. Pomfret Street - LeTort Park
- 311 E. North Street - Biddle Mission Park
- 151 W. Penn Street - Memorial Park
- 131 Lincoln Avenue - Heberlig Palmer Tot Lot
- 400 Mooreland Ave. - Mooreland Athletic Field
- 2 S. Courthouse Avenue - Old Courthouse
- 100 N. Hanover Street - Sadler Health Center
- 20 E. Pomfret Street - Salvation Army
- Additional bike racks are located at Dickinson College, Carlisle Area High School, Mooreland Elementary and Lamberton Middle School.