

**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

The City-Parish 20-Year Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan, the Horizon Plan, guides development in East Baton Rouge Parish. The Horizon Plan includes goals to make Baton Rouge safe and accessible for pedestrian and cyclists. The Transportation Element of the plan addresses bicycle and pedestrian needs through each of the following goals.

**Bike/Pedestrian Safety and the Horizon Plan**

- **Goal T3:** The City-Parish should plan and develop a unified roadway system of thoroughfares based on function and relative importance, providing an integrated balance of arterials, collectors, and local streets.
- **Goal T5:** The overall transportation system should be designed to include mass transit, carpools, bicycles and pedestrians and encourage the use of these alternative modes of travel to support a balanced transportation system.
- **Goal T6:** The City-Parish should plan to develop bikeways and pedestrian trails to foster alternative modes of transportation for commuting as well as recreational vehicles.
- **Goal T8:** The City-Parish should plan to develop bike ways and pedestrian trails to foster the use of bicyclists as an alternative mode of transportation for commuting as well as for recreational purposes.
- **Goal T9:** The City-Parish should provide safe and convenient facilities for pedestrian movement in new and existing urban areas.



**Simple steps to driving with a cyclist**

- **Pass only when there is enough room.** Keep at least three feet between you and the cyclist.
- **Be careful when turning.** Passing a cyclists and then immediately turning is dangerous. Treat them as a car and wait for them to pass the intersection.
- **No need to honk!** Honking may startle a cyclist and may cause an accident.
- **Bicycles are traffic too!** Give them the right of way as you would a car and check for them when opening your door on the street.

**What's a bicyclist doing on *this* street?**

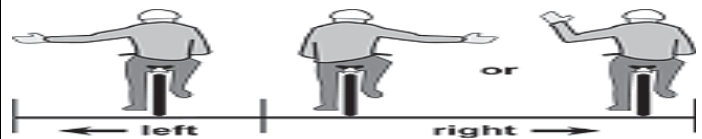
Louisiana traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles. City streets are made for everyone! As a driver of a car, you are the fastest and deadliest object on the road. It is your responsibility to respect the rules of the road as well as others on it.

**Louisiana Laws and Bicyclists**

**RS 32:193** The regulations applicable to bicyclists shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon a highway or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles

**RS 32:194** Every person riding a bicycle upon a highway of this state shall be granted all the rights and shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle.

**RS 32:76.1** Motor vehicles shall leave a safe distance of at least three feet from a bicycle when attempting to pass.



**Bicycle Safety Tips**

- **Obey traffic signs and signals** - Bicycles must be driven like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.
- **Helmet, don't leave home without it!** Wear a helmet that has been approved by Snell, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), or American National Standards Institute (ANSI) .
- **Never ride against traffic** - Motorists aren't looking for bicyclists riding along the wrong side of the road.
- **Don't ride with headphones.**
- **Use proper hand signals** - Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signaling is a matter of law, courtesy, and of self-protection.
- **Make eye contact with drivers** - Assume that other drivers don't see you until you are sure that they do.
- **Scan the road** - Learn to look around you while driving without losing your balance.
- **Keep both hands ready to brake.**
- **Avoid road hazards** - Be mindful of potentially dangerous debris in the road.
- **Dress appropriately** - Wear clothes that make you visible.
- **When riding through along busy streets, ride in single**

## Be Equipped Practice the Pre-Ride Inspection

Just remember the phrase!  
"ABC's Quick Check."



**Air** — Feel the tire for proper tire pressure, and visually check the tread.

**Brakes** — Examine the pads, cables for cracking or rusting and hand levers. (So you can stop it!)

**Cranks** — Check for bearing play and tightness.

**Quick** — Check the quick release levers or where the axles of the wheel connect to the forks and back portion of the frame.

**Check** — Lift up the bike about five inches and drop it on the tires to see if any components rattle or fall off the bike. Next do a slow speed ride before getting out into the streets.



### Simple Steps to Driving with Pedestrians

- You can encounter pedestrians anytime and anywhere - even in places where they are not supposed to be found. Pedestrians can be very hard to see - especially in bad weather or at night. You must keep a lookout and slow down if you can not see clearly.
- Stop for pedestrians who are in a crosswalk, even if it is not marked. When you stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, stop well back so that drivers in the other lanes can also see the pedestrian in time to stop.
- Cars stopped in the street may be stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross. Do not pass if there is any doubt!
- Do not assume that pedestrians see you or that they will act predictably. They may be physically or mentally impaired.
- When you are turning, you often will have to wait for a "gap" in traffic. Beware that while you are watching for that "gap", pedestrians may have moved into your intended path. Don't run someone down.
- Be especially attentive around schools and in neighborhoods where children are active. Drive there like you would like people to drive in front of your own home! Slow down.



## Louisiana Laws and Pedestrians

**RS 32:211** Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic-control signals at intersections as provided in R.S. 32:233 unless otherwise required by local ordinance, but at all other places pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and shall be subject to the restrictions stated in this Part.

**RS 32:233** Whenever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" are in place, such signals shall indicate as follows:

(1) Flashing or Steady WALK—A pedestrian facing the signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by a driver of a vehicle.

Flashing or Steady DON'T WALK—No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal, but a pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the "Walk" signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the "Don't Walk" signal is showing.

### • Pedestrian Safety Tips

- **Walk on the sidewalk.** Always walk toward the flow of traffic, on the left side of a roadway when there are no sidewalks available. Remember the saying, "The left side is the right side for walking." Stay far enough to the left so that you are not in the way of on-coming vehicles. People who are walking are much more maneuverable than vehicles.
- **Before crossing roads, always look both directions.** Although many rural roads have very little traffic, always assume that a vehicle can appear any time. Look RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT.
- **Wear light colored clothing.** Garments trimmed with reflective tape make you much more visible to drivers.
- **Wear sturdy footwear with good treads for safer footing.** Walking on various surfaces, all on one trip, such as pavement, gravel, or roadside sand can be challenging.
- **When children are walking with you, don't let them get too far ahead.** Carry and use a flashlight if you walk at dusk or dawn or after dark. Your light bobbing in the darkness will quickly get the attention of drivers.
- **Always hold your child's hand.** Never allow a child under 10 to cross the street alone.
- **In foul weather (rain or snow), allow extra time and distance for a vehicle to stop.** Do not let umbrellas or jacket hoods block your view of approaching traffic.

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