

**Calumet Citizens for Connecting Communities
Model City Bicycle Ordinances Committee Report
Final Draft
27 January 2006**

1) Definition of Bicycle, Vehicle, and the bicycle's usage of the roads. "Bicycle" means any foot-propelled vehicle, irrespective of the number of wheels in contact with the ground (IC 9-13-2-14). "Vehicle" is a device in, upon, or by which a person or property is , or may be, transported or drawn upon a highway (IC 9-13-2-196a). So:

(a) Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the laws of this state declaring rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by the traffic ordinances of this city applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as to those provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature can have no application.

(b) The regulations in the traffic code applicable to bicycles shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any roadway or public sidewalk or upon any public path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, subject to those exceptions stated herein.

(c) Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating that no right or left turn or turn in the opposite direction is permitted, no person operating a bicycle shall disobey the direction of any such sign unless he dismounts from the bicycle to make the turn, in which event he shall then obey the regulations applicable to pedestrians.

(d) Every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter regulating bicycles shall be fined \$25.00.

2) Bicycle registration/licensing. Many localities use ordinances to define and explain how bicycle registration is handled in their cities. These, however, are large cities, or cities and towns that are the dominant city in their area. Due to the patchwork quilt of cities, towns, and unincorporated areas in the Calumet Region area of Lake County, further study is required to determine if we want to push for each town to have its own program, or to try to have a regional registration.

3) Riding on sidewalks

a) No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district.

b) No person sixteen or more years of age shall ride a bicycle upon any sidewalk in any district, unless sidewalk riding is permitted in a specified area by law.

c) Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

4) Greenways (roads for non-motorized traffic)

Every person upon a path shall stay to the right-hand side, exercising due care when passing other path users. Every person using a path shall remain on the path, unless signs expressly permit leaving the path. Bicyclists shall yield the right of way to all other path users. Users of inline skates or other devices shall yield the right of way to pedestrians using the path. Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a path, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such a pedestrian. Any person using the path shall obey the instructions of official traffic-control signals, signs (including

those specifying types of users or hours of use) and other control devices applicable to all path users, unless otherwise directed by a police officer. All pets must be on a leash. After dusk, all persons upon a bicycle shall use lights and reflectors on any path.

5) Bicycle Parking. No person shall park a bicycle upon a street other than upon the roadway against the curb or upon the sidewalk in a rack to support the bicycle or against a building or at the curb in such manner as to afford the least obstruction to pedestrian traffic.

6) Night riding. Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a head lamp which shall emit a white light visible from a minimum distance of 500 feet from the front and with a rear red reflector capable of reflecting the head lamp beams of an approaching motor vehicle back to the operator of such vehicle at distances up to 200 feet or a rear lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of at least 200 feet from the rear.

7) Legal Guardian's Responsibility. No parent or legal guardian of any child shall authorize or knowingly permit the child to violate any of the provisions of this chapter applicable to bicycles. Chicago (9-52-100).

8) Certain Road Restrictions. Bicycles shall not be operated on any roadway where the operation of bicycles has been prohibited and signs have been erected indicating such prohibition.

9) Yielding Right of Way. The operator of a bicycle emerging from an alley, driveway or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway, yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on the sidewalk or sidewalk area and, upon entering the roadway, shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on the roadway.

10) Bike Lanes - to keep them free and clear for cyclists. Parking, standing or stopping vehicles within, or otherwise obstructing, bike lanes is prohibited.

11) Driver's Hand on Steering Device. Drivers must have at least one hand on steering device or handlebars at all times.

12) Stop signs.

(a) 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.

(b) 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.