

Frequently Asked Questions:

* 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, as practicable, exercising care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

Can the bicycle lanes be accessed 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 isn't the case in the Borough, at least not where the Road Diet is located, they are not authorized in the roadway/bike lanes. They are supposed to use the sidewalk (except downtown where the Borough has an ordinance prohibiting skateboarders on sidewalks).

Are the newly created bicycle lanes considered standard width?

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

Frequently Asked Questions:

What lane should the bicyclist be in 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 yields the motorist or the bicyclist?

ANSWER: The bicyclist has the right of way. HOWEVER, having the ROW will be little consolation if the car turns right and runs into the bicyclist. The problem or safety risk for bicyclists is that many motorists are either unaware or do not care that a bicyclist has a right to ride on the road/street. 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.

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Borough of Carlisle

Excellence in Customer Service

Downtown Carlisle Bicycle Safety



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10 facts bicyclists and motorists should know about bicycling in downtown Carlisle.

1. **Bicycle helmets** are required by law for all riders under the age of 12 who ride on the roadway. However, it is recommended all riders wear a helmet.
2. When riding a bicycle on a roadway, the bicycle is considered a vehicle. **A bicyclist must obey all traffic laws** just as the driver of a car; therefore, **hand signals are required**.
3. There are currently **no age restrictions for the bicycle lanes** in downtown Carlisle.
4. A good resource for bicycle information is the PennDOT Bike Safe website at www.dot.state.pa.us/BIKE/WEB/index.htm.
5. **Bicycle riders have the same responsibilities to follow traffic laws as motor vehicle operators.** Neither a bicyclist nor a motor vehicle always has the right-of-way because of the type of vehicle they are operating. 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 are required to operate/drive** their bike in the **right hand lane or as close as practical to the right hand curb**. This would mean to **use the bike lane designated if it is available**, realizing bicyclists have to be able to move to the left or stop quickly if a car door is opened in their path.
8. Bicyclists are not permitted to ride two abreast. The Vehicle Code states, "...shall not ride more than 2 abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of pedal cycles." Since the borough's bike lanes are not wide enough for two abreast, the **borough highly recommends riding single file**.
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, for the purpose of yielding laws, a vehicle, **a bicyclist must yield to a pedestrian** just as if the cyclist were driving a car.



Bike Rack Locations:



As part of the Road Diet project, several new bike racks have been installed downtown. Bike racks to accommodate nine bikes each can be found at the following locations:

- ⇒ North Hanover Street-bike racks available on both sides of the street next to Mulberry Avenue.
- ⇒ South Hanover Street-bike racks available on both sides of the street next to Church Avenue.
- ⇒ Bike racks are also available for public use at different locations throughout the campus of Dickinson College and at most borough parks and public buildings.

Bicycle racks to accommodate 4 bicycles each will be installed in various locations throughout downtown.