

Information provided by Bruce Mackey  
 State Vehicle Code: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us>  
 Send new info. or direct questions to Fred Oswald, <fredoswald@yahoo.com>

## Rating of Nevada Bicycle Traffic Laws

**Nevada Bicycle Traffic Laws earn a **TENTATIVE** rating of B (79 points)**

Note: A bicycle IS NOT defined as a vehicle in Nevada

A: 91 to 98 points	(89-90 is A-, over 99 is A+)
B: 79 to 86 points	(87-88 is B+, 77-78 is B-)
C: 66 to 74 points	(75-76 is C+, 64-65 is C-)
D: 52 to 61 points	(62-63 is D+, 50-51 is D-)
F: 40 to 47 points	(48-49 is F+, below 40 points is F-)

Traffic Law Defects	
	Mandates riding wrong way (Automatic failing score) [-100]
	Mandates riding on sidewalk (creates failing score) [-80]
	Prohibits bicycles from all main streets (a “stealth” sidewalk law) [-80]
	Lower deduction if prohibition applies only where speed limit is above 50 mph [-30]
	Lower deduction if engineering study, alternate route & signs reqd. [-30]
	Mandates riding on sidewalk only for under age 16 [-30]
	Mandates riding on sidepath, shoulder or bike lane [-40]
	Lower deduction if applies only where sidepath is “usable” and signed [-25]
	Restriction only for under age 16 [-25]
	Lower deduction if includes UVC “far right” type exceptions [-20]
	Lower deduction if also includes CA “right turn authorized” exceptions [-15]
	Unlimited local “regulation of the operation of bicycles” (non-uniform laws) [-30]
	Lower deduction if allows only local sidepath ordinance. [-20]
	Allows local bicycle ban only on major highway [-15]
	Local authorities may mandate registration (rather than voluntary program) [-1]
<b>-12</b>	“Shall ride within 3 feet of right edge of road” (or similar unsafe rule) [-25] “Shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb”, with no exceptions [-20] Lower deduction if includes all UVC exceptions [-10] <b>NRS 484.509 Operating bicycle on roadway.</b> 1. Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall, except: (a) When traveling at a lawful rate of speed commensurate with the speed of any nearby traffic; (b) When preparing to turn left; or (c) When doing so would not be safe, <b>ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.</b>
	Mandatory helmet law that includes adult cyclists [-20]
	Lower deduction if applies only to children under 12 [-15]
	Lower still if also includes strong “contributory negligence” exclusion [-5]
	Prohibits normal vehicular left turn [-10]
	“Shall ride single file” (no exceptions) [-10]

	Lower deduction depending on exceptions	[-5]
	<b>Motor</b> vehicle restrictions that should not apply to bicycles: (following too closely, racing, parking lights, tire tread depth, etc.)	[up to -5]
<b>-3</b>	Irresponsible brake requirements (skid braked wheel)	[-3]
<b>-1</b>	“Nuisance” safety equipment required (bell, front, wheel & pedal reflectors, etc) <b>NRS 484.513 Lamps, reflectors and brakes required on bicycles.</b> (c) Reflective material of a sufficient size and reflectivity to be visible from both sides of the bicycle for 600 feet when directly in front of the lawful lower beams of the head lamps of a motor vehicle, or in lieu of such material, a lighted lamp visible from both sides from a distance of at least 500 feet.	[-2]
<b>-2</b>	Right-arm right turn signal not authorized	[-2]
<b>-2</b>	Unreasonable turn signal requirement (continuous, or even if not safe)	[-2]
	Authorizes bicycle-specific traffic control devices	[-2]
	Lacks provision allowing bicycle access to freeway shoulders The language below suggests that freeway shoulders are open unless otherwise restricted. <b>NRS 484.313 Restrictions on use of controlled access highway; penalty.</b> 1. The department of transportation or a local authority, after considering the advice of the Nevada bicycle advisory board, may with respect to any controlled access highway under its jurisdiction: (a) Require a permit for the use of the highway by pedestrians, bicycles or other nonmotorized traffic or by any person operating a power cycle;	[-1]
<b>-1</b>	Slow vehicle “as close as practicable to the right-hand curb”	[-1]
<b>-1</b>	Missing language “intent is to facilitate overtaking” in slow veh. rule	[-1]
<b>-2</b>	Other unnecessary regulation or bad laws The section below encourages dangerous practices for motorists turning right across a bike lane (right hook) instead of properly merging to near the curb. <b>NRS 484.324 Vehicles and bicycles.</b> 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the driver of a motor vehicle shall not enter or proceed through an intersection while driving within a pathway or lane provided for bicycles.	[?]
<b>-3</b>	<b>Minor Defects (scored as a group)</b>	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks provision allowing preparing for left turn early	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks exception to no-passing zone rule for passing of slow vehicles	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks language prohibiting “points” for bicycle violations	
<b>Y</b>	“Give way to the right on audible signal”	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks cycling skills course for violators	
<b>N</b>	Police authorized to inspect bicycles	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks child seat or trailer language or allow child in backpack	
<b>Y</b>	Lacks language authorizing additional lights or reflectors	

<b>Y</b>	Lacks language saying riding two abreast does not impede traffic if no conflicting traffic	
<b>N</b>	Poor definition of bicycle (not recognizing recumbents or trikes)	
<b>Positive Factors (points added)</b>		
<b>??</b>	Have issued a good state "Bicycle Drivers' Manual" and/or --- Drivers Handbook has vehicular cycling info.	[up to +15]
<b>N</b>	Permits <u>and</u> requires motorists to merge into a bike lane before turning. <b>484.324 (3) seems to prohibit this necessary practice.</b>	[+2]
<b>??</b>	Expressly permits but does not require cycling on the shoulder.	[+2]
<b>??</b>	Local authorities may reduce the fine for bicycling offenses	[+2]
<b>??</b>	Share the road license plate (or similar) with proceeds to benefit cycling	[+2]
<b>N</b>	Language to discourage unsafe sidewalk riding	[+2]
<b>+6</b>	Other positive factors <b>NRS 484.324 Vehicles and bicycles.</b> 1. The driver of a motor vehicle shall not: (a) Intentionally interfere with the movement of a person lawfully riding a bicycle; or (b) Overtake and pass a person riding a bicycle unless he can do so safely without endangering the person riding the bicycle. <b>NRS 205.2741 Throwing substance at or willfully damaging bicycle or motor vehicle.</b> 1. It is unlawful for any person: (a) To throw any stone, rock, missile or any substance at any <i>bicycle</i> , or at any motorbus, truck or other motor vehicle; or (b) Wrongfully to injure, deface or damage any <i>bicycle</i> , or any motorbus, truck or other motor vehicle, or any part thereof.	[?]

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