

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]
-12	“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] NRS 484.509 Operating bicycle on roadway. 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, 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.
	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]
	Motor vehicle restrictions that should not apply to bicycles: (following too closely, racing, parking lights, tire tread depth, etc.)	[up to -5]
-3	Irresponsible brake requirements (skid braked wheel)	[-3]
-1	“Nuisance” safety equipment required (bell, front, wheel & pedal reflectors, etc) NRS 484.513 Lamps, reflectors and brakes required on bicycles. (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]
-2	Right-arm right turn signal not authorized	[-2]
-2	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. NRS 484.313 Restrictions on use of controlled access highway; penalty. 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]
-1	Slow vehicle “as close as practicable to the right-hand curb”	[-1]
-1	Missing language “intent is to facilitate overtaking” in slow veh. rule	[-1]
-2	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. NRS 484.324 Vehicles and bicycles. 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.	[?]
-3	Minor Defects (scored as a group)	
Y	Lacks provision allowing preparing for left turn early	
Y	Lacks exception to no-passing zone rule for passing of slow vehicles	
Y	Lacks language prohibiting “points” for bicycle violations	
Y	“Give way to the right on audible signal”	
Y	Lacks cycling skills course for violators	
N	Police authorized to inspect bicycles	
Y	Lacks child seat or trailer language or allow child in backpack	
Y	Lacks language authorizing additional lights or reflectors	

Y	Lacks language saying riding two abreast does not impede traffic if no conflicting traffic	
N	Poor definition of bicycle (not recognizing recumbents or trikes)	
Positive Factors (points added)		
??	Have issued a good state "Bicycle Drivers' Manual" and/or --- Drivers Handbook has vehicular cycling info.	[up to +15]
N	Permits <u>and</u> requires motorists to merge into a bike lane before turning. 484.324 (3) seems to prohibit this necessary practice.	[+2]
??	Expressly permits but does not require cycling on the shoulder.	[+2]
??	Local authorities may reduce the fine for bicycling offenses	[+2]
??	Share the road license plate (or similar) with proceeds to benefit cycling	[+2]
N	Language to discourage unsafe sidewalk riding	[+2]
+6	Other positive factors NRS 484.324 Vehicles and bicycles. 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. NRS 205.2741 Throwing substance at or willfully damaging bicycle or motor vehicle. 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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