

## Bike Law FAQ



- **Q. Does a bicyclist have to stop at stop signs & obey all traffic laws?**
- **A.** Yes. Per CVC 21200 a person “riding a bicycle upon a highway has all the rights and is subject to all the provisions applicable to the driver of a vehicle.
  
- **Q. Should a bicycle ride with traffic or against it?**
- **A.** Always ride *the same direction* as traffic when riding in the street or in a bike lane CVC 21650.1
  
- **Q. Can bicyclists ride two or more abreast?**
- **A.** Per CMC 56.08.052, bicyclists may ride two abreast (but not more) on City streets, on bike paths and in bike lanes.
  
- **Q. Is bike riding on the sidewalk always illegal?**
- **A.** No. The CVC does not prohibit bicycle riding on sidewalks, but allows local municipalities to do so (CVC 21650 (g)). Per CMC 56.08.054, bicycle riding is prohibited on the sidewalks in Coronado’s “business districts”.
  
- **Q. Can a bike be parked so it blocks the sidewalk?**
- **A.** No. Per CVC 21210 “no person shall leave a bicycle lying on its side on any sidewalk, or shall park a bicycle on a sidewalk in any other position, so that there is not an adequate path for pedestrian traffic”.
  
- **Q. When can a bicyclist legally ride in the center of a lane?**
- **A.** Per CVC 21202 a bicyclist must ride as far to the right as “practicable” when traveling slower than the speed of traffic. However a number of exceptions apply that allow a bicyclist to legally ride in the center of a lane. These are:
  - when traveling at the same speed as traffic,
  - when passing,
  - when preparing to turn left, or
  - when avoiding conditions that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge (including, *but not limited to*, fixed or moving

objects, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or substandard width lanes).

- The substandard lane width clause means that bicyclists can legally ride in the center of a lane when it is too narrow to share side by side with a vehicle.
- Examples of some major streets in Coronado where bicyclists can legally ride in the center of the lane are Orange Ave and Ocean Blvd, among others.
- **Q. What should a bicyclist do if they are legally riding in the center of the lane and they are slower than traffic?**
- **A.** CVC 21202(a)(3) refers to CVC 21656, which means that if bicycles are taking the lane legally and vehicles are stacking up behind them and cannot pass (only one lane is present each way), the bicyclist must turn out to the side if five or more vehicles are behind them (same rule as for other slow moving vehicles). When the lane widens enough to safely share side by side with a vehicle, the bicyclist should move back to the right.
- **Q. What should a driver do if a bicycle is traveling slower in front of them in the center of the lane?**
- **A.** Drivers should wait patiently to pass until they can do so safely.
  - On Orange a driver should pass using the adjacent lane.
  - On streets with only one lane in each direction, a driver can merge into the oncoming lane when safe to do so, if not prevented by a double yellow line.
  - If a double yellow is present and there is only one lane in each direction a driver must wait patiently – in this scenario CVC 21656 requires the bicyclist to pull to the right when safe to do so to allow vehicles to pass (just like other slow moving vehicles).
  - Whenever a vehicle is passing a bicyclist, CVC 21760 (the Three Feet for Safety Act) requires drivers to leave at least 3 feet of clearance between their vehicle and a bicyclist.