KANSAS LAWS APPLICABLE TO BICYCLE AND E-SCOOTER OPERATION

This memorandum summarizes State of Kansas traffic laws applicable to the operation of bicycles and electric-assisted scooters (e-scooters) on roadways. Local ordinances also may apply and may address additional topics.  

General Traffic Laws

All the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle apply to a cyclist and the operator of an e-scooter. The following are examples:

- Obey traffic control devices unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer;
- Yield the right-of-way as indicated to other vehicles (stopping as necessary for emergency vehicles) and pedestrians; Exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian. A pedestrian has the right-of-way on any sidewalk;
- Stop before crossing a sidewalk when emerging from an alley, building, private road, or driveway;
- Speed must be reasonable and prudent for actual conditions. Obey speed limits, and
- Signal turns.

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1 An e-scooter is defined in KSA 8-1498 as a self-propelled vehicle that has at least two wheels in contact with the ground, an electric motor, handlebars, a brake, and a deck that is designed to be stood upon when riding.

2 For example, Kansas state laws regarding operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs do not apply to operation of a bicycle, but the Code of Ordinances, City of Wichita, Sec. 11.48.190 makes such operation unlawful. Another example of an exception is the Code of the City of Lawrence Section 17-702, which prohibits riding a bicycle on sidewalks in the downtown commercial district.

3 The governing body of a city or county may adopt an ordinance or resolution that further restricts or prohibits the operation of e-scooters on any public highway, street, or sidewalk within such city or county (KSA 8-15,113). Wichita ordinance No. 51-049, for example, restricts operations, including prohibiting e-scooter operation on sidewalks.
Traffic Laws Specific to Bicycles and E-scooters

Which roadways. It is unlawful to operate an e-scooter on any interstate highway, federal highway, or state highway, except the e-scooter may cross a federal or state highway. Counties or cities may further restrict where e-scooters may operate.\textsuperscript{ix}

Keep right. If going less than the normal speed of traffic, stay as near to the right side of the roadway as is practicable with these exceptions:

- Overtaking and passing another vehicle going the same direction;
- Preparing for a left turn;
- When reasonably necessary to avoid obstacles and surface hazards; or
- When riding on a one-way highway with two or more marked lanes, as close to the left side of the roadway as practicable.\textsuperscript{x}

Passing. A driver going the same direction may pass to the left at a distance of not less than three feet to the left and may pass in a no-passing zone only if it is safe to do so.\textsuperscript{x}

Two abreast. Do not ride more than two abreast except on exclusive bike paths or within exclusive lanes.\textsuperscript{xi}

Use the path. Whenever a usable path is adjacent to a roadway, use the path and not the roadway.\textsuperscript{xii}

Keep hands on handlebars. Clinging to any vehicle is prohibited.\textsuperscript{xiv} Keep at least one hand on the handlebars.\textsuperscript{xv}

Red light exception. If a traffic signal fails to change to a green light within a reasonable period of time because of a signal malfunction or because the signal has failed to detect the bicycle or e-scooter, proceed but yield the right-of-way to a motor vehicle or pedestrian.\textsuperscript{xvi}

Required Equipment

Lights. Every bicycle ridden between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with a white-light lamp on the front visible from at least 500 feet. It also must have a red reflector on the rear visible with low beams from 100 feet to 600 feet or a lamp on the rear emitting red light visible from 500 feet to the rear, or the cyclist must wear a device that emits a red or amber light visible from 500 feet to the rear. Pedals must have reflectors visible from the front and rear from 200 feet.\textsuperscript{xvii}

Brakes. Brakes must allow the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.\textsuperscript{xviii}

Seats. Each person propelling a bicycle must ride on or astride a permanent and regular attached seat.\textsuperscript{xix} No bicycle may carry more people than the number for which it is designed and equipped.\textsuperscript{xx}
Kansas Statutes Annotated (KSA) 8-1587 and 8-15,113. Statutes are available from the Office of Revisor of Statutes, through www.ksrevisor.org. All citations refer to those versions in effect as of July 1, 2019.

KSA 8-1507, 8-1508.

KSA 8-1528(c), 8-1529, 8-1530, 8-1531, 8-1531a, 8-1533, 8-1542.

KSA 8-1535.

KSA 8-1540.

KSA 8-1555.

KSA 8-1557, 8-1558.

KSA 8-1548, 8-1549, 8-1550.

KSA 8-15,113.

KSA 8-1590(a), (b).

KSA 8-1516.

KSA 8-1590(c).

KSA 8-1590(d). Similarly, pedestrians must use provided sidewalks (KSA 8-1537(a)).

KSA 8-1589. This applies also to coasters, roller skates, sleds, and toy vehicles.

KSA 8-1591.

KSA 8-1508(c)(4). This provision also applies to motorcycles.

KSA 8-1592(a) and (c).

KSA 8-1592(b).

KSA 8-1588(a).

KSA 8-1588(b).