



## Florida Department Of Transportation



### Legal status of bicycles

(Sections 316.003(2), (10) and 316.2065(1), F.S.)

A bicycle is classified as a vehicle. A person in control of a vehicle on a street or highway is a driver. As a driver, a cyclist must follow the traffic rules common to all drivers. As the driver of a bicycle, he must also obey regulations adopted specially for bicycles. **A person riding a bicycle has all the rights applicable to any driver**, except as to special regulations for bicycles.

### Roadway position

► A cyclist operating on a one-way street with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as close to the **left-hand edge** of the roadway as practicable.

*Comment: A bicycle lane is a lane marked with a **stripe and symbols** for the preferential use of bicycles on a roadway. The official symbol marking used in Florida to designate a bicycle lane is shown in the figure (FDOT Design Standards Index 17347 and Florida Greenbook Figure 9-13).*

**Where no bicycle lane is marked, a white line is often marked to indicate the edge of the roadway. On a road with curbs, a concrete gutter is not part of the roadway. A cyclist should avoid the gutter area; pavement joints and debris can be hazardous.**

**Roads with flush shoulders: where no bicycle lane is marked, a white line is typically marked to indicate the edge of the roadway; any pavement to the right of the edge line is shoulder pavement, not a bicycle lane unless it is marked with the bicycle lane symbol**

**The Double Yellow Line:** The prohibition of passing in a no-passing zone **does not apply** when an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the highway [§316.0875(3)]. Thus, **when a cyclist is traveling so slowly as to constitute an “obstruction,” a motorist may cross the center line in a no-passing zone to pass the cyclist if the way is clear to do so**, i.e., when it can be seen that any oncoming traffic is far enough ahead that the motorist could finish passing before coming within 200 feet of an oncoming vehicle.

### Overtaking and passing a vehicle

(Section 316.083, F.S.)

► The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. **The driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle or other non-motorized vehicle must pass the bicycle or other non-motorized vehicle at a safe distance of not less than 3 feet between the vehicle and the bicycle or other non-motorized vehicle.**

*Comment: About 2 percent of bicycle-motor vehicle crashes involve motorists who misjudge passing space. Passing too closely causes some cyclists to hug the curb or to ride on sidewalk, where crash risk is, on average, higher. To pass a cyclist with safe clearance, **it may be necessary for a motorist to enter (at least partially) the next lane, when and where it is safe to do so.***