



# Allentown Bicycle Bill

## February 12, 2025



# Project Overview



# Student Experiences Biking in Allentown



# Ordinance Recommendations #1

#	Allentown Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 177. Bicycles	Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75	Changes Advised
1	<p><u>§ 177-1. Definition.</u> [Amended 2-19-1975 by Ord. No. 12123; 6-10-2002 by Ord. No. 13984] As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:</p> <p><b><u>BICYCLE</u></b> A vehicle propelled solely by human-powered pedals. The term does not mean a three-wheeled human-powered pedal-driven vehicle with a main driving wheel 20 inches in diameter or under and primarily designed for children six years of age or younger.</p>	<p><b>§ 102. Definitions. "<u>Pedalcycle.</u>"</b> A vehicle propelled solely by human-powered pedals or a <u>pedalcycle</u> with electric assist. The term does not mean a three-wheeled human-powered pedal-driven vehicle with a main driving wheel 20 inches in diameter or under and primarily designed for children six years of age or younger.</p> <p><b><u>"Pedalcycle with electric assist."</u></b> A vehicle weighing not more than 100 pounds with two or three wheels more than 11 inches in diameter, manufactured or assembled with an electric motor system rated at not more than 750 watts and equipped with operable pedals and capable of a speed not more than 20 miles per hour on a level surface when powered by the motor source only. The term does not include a device specifically designed for use by persons with disabilities.</p> <p><b>§ 3514. Operation of <u>pedalcycles with electric assist.</u></b> No person under 16 years of age shall operate a <u>pedalcycle</u> with electric assist. (Oct. 22, 2014, P.L.2543, No.154, eff. 60 days)</p>	<p>Allentown code is inconsistent with PA Vehicle Code.</p> <p>Recommend to <u>update</u> Allentown code language from "Bicycle" to "<u>Pedalcycle</u>" for consistency with PA Vehicle Code. This will bring inclusion to adult trikes and other similar bicycle variants.</p> <p>Also, include updated definition for electric-assist bikes.</p>

# Ordinance Recommendations #2

#	Allentown Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 177. Bicycles	Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75	Changes Advised
2	<p><u>§ 177-2. Secured and lost bicycles.</u>            [Amended 2-19-1975 by Ord. No. 12123; 10-16-1997 by Ord. No. 13609]</p> <p><u>A.</u> Secured bicycle. A bicycle is defined as a "secured bicycle" when it is made inoperable by application to the bicycle of a lock device which utilizes a key, combination lock or other such mechanism.</p> <p><u>B.</u> Lost bicycle. A bicycle is defined as a "lost bicycle" when it is found unsecured on any public alley, street, parkway, thoroughfare, public school property, park property, City property or any other public property in the City.</p> <p><u>C.</u> Handling of lost bicycles.</p> <p><u>(1)</u> A lost and found bicycle collection and retrieval area shall be designated by the Chief of the Police Department.</p>	Not addressed by state laws	Clerical changes only: "Bicycle" to <u>Pedalcycle</u> and in C(3) change "his" to "their".
	<p><u>(2)</u> Any lost bicycle shall be removed by the law enforcement officer or other person designated by the Chief of the Police Department to the lost and found area.</p> <p><u>(3)</u> The lost bicycle shall be returned to its owner upon proof of ownership satisfactory to the Chief of the Police Department or his designee, within 90 days of the date the bicycle is taken into possession; after said period, the Department may dispose of said bicycle according to applicable law.</p>		

# Ordinance Recommendations #3

#	Allentown Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 177. Bicycles	Changes Advised
3	<p><u><a href="#">§ 177-3. Owner to register with Chief of Police.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">§ 177-4. Registration; tag; fees.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">§ 177-5. Cancellation of registration; removal of tag.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">§ 177-6. Report of change of ownership or dismantling.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">§ 177-7. Impounding by police for improper registration.</a></u></p>	<p>Repeal municipal ordinances 177-3 thru 177-7 and advise police department to direct bike owners, bike shops, universities, neighborhoods, and community groups to register their bikes in national database at <a href="https://bikeindex.org/">https://bikeindex.org/</a></p> <p>Registration via bikeindex.org though not mandatory is encouraged to prevent theft and assist in recovery across multiple jurisdictions.</p>

# Ordinance Recommendations #4

## Allentown Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 177. Bicycles

### § 177-8. Keeping to right.

[Amended 11-29-1938 by Ord. No. 4080 ; 10-16-1997 by Ord. No. 13609; 8-18-2005 by Ord. No. 14311]

The rider of a bicycle upon a street or roadway shall ride as near as practicable within five feet of the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when passing a standing or other vehicle or making a left-hand turn at an intersection, and at all times shall obey the traffic laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Allentown.

## Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75 (highlights only—see document for more details)

### § 3301. Driving on right side of roadway.

(a) **General rule.**—Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway except as follows:

- (1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction...
- (2) When an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the roadway, provided the driver yields the right-of-way to all vehicles traveling in the proper direction...
- (4) Upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic.
- (5) When making a left turn...

### (c) **Pedalcycles.**—

(1) Upon all roadways, any pedalcycle operating in accordance with Chapter 35, proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into an alley, private road or driveway.

(2) This subsection does not apply to:

- (i) A pedalcycle using any portion of an available roadway due to unsafe surface conditions.
- (ii) A pedalcycle using a roadway that has a width of not more than one lane of traffic in each direction.  
(Feb. 2, 2012, P.L.27, No.3, eff. 60 days)

### § 3505. Riding on roadway and pedalcycle paths

#### Changes Advised

Allentown code is inconsistent with PA Vehicle Code. Recommend to repeal Allentown code to be superseded by PA Vehicle Code.

Comment from PennDOT Bicycle Driver's Manual: "Taken together, 3505 (c) and 3301 (b) state that slower vehicles should keep to the right, which is the normal expectation of all road users, while permitting bicyclists to make movements consistent with their intended route. This language does not require a bicyclist to ride on the shoulder or on the white fog line. A bicyclist may operate on the roadway and ride in the center of the rightmost lane when appropriate or to avoid hazardous road conditions. See generally pages 9-10."



# Ordinance Recommendations #5

#	Allentown Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 177. Bicycles	Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75	Changes Advised
5	<p><u>§ 177-9. Trick riding.</u>                      [Amended 11-29-1938 by Ord. No. 4080]                      No operator of any bicycle shall carry any other person upon the bar, handle or other part of any bicycle and no other person shall so ride upon any bicycle. No operator of a bicycle shall do trick riding such as riding the same without having his hands on the handlebars.</p>	<p>Not directly addressed in PA Vehicle Code. Closest section:  <b>§ 3504. Riding on pedalcycles.</b>  <b>(a) Use of seat by operator.</b>--A person propelling a pedalcycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the pedalcycle.  <b>§ 3506. Articles carried by operator.</b>                      No person operating a pedalcycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.</p>	<p>No change recommended</p>

# Ordinance Recommendations #6

## Allentown Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 177. Bicycles

### § 177-10. Brakes; warning device.

[Amended 11-29-1938 by Ord. No. 4080; 10-16-1997 by Ord. No. 13609; 6-10-2002 by Ord. No. 13984]

Every bicycle shall be equipped with brakes in good condition and lights, if operated during darkness.

## Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75 (highlights only—see document for more details)

### **§ 3507. Lamps and other equipment on pedalcycles.**

**(a) Lamps and reflectors.**--Every pedalcycle when in use between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped on the front with a lamp which emits a beam of white light intended to illuminate the pedalcycle operator's path and visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front, a red reflector facing to the rear which shall be visible at least 500 feet to the rear and an amber reflector on each side. Operators of pedalcycles may supplement the required front lamp with a white flashing lamp, light-emitting diode or similar device to enhance their visibility to other traffic and with a lamp emitting a red flashing lamp, light-emitting diode or similar device visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. A lamp or lamps worn by the operator of a pedalcycle shall comply with the requirements of this subsection if the lamp or lamps can be seen at the distances specified.

**(b) Audible signal devices.**--A pedalcycle may be equipped with a device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least 100 feet except that a pedalcycle shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a pedalcycle any siren.

**(c) Brakes.**--Every pedalcycle shall be equipped with a braking system which will stop the pedalcycle in 15 feet from an initial speed of 15 miles per hour on a dry, level and clean pavement.

(Dec. 15, 1995, P.L.655, No.72, eff. 60 days; Dec. 21, 1998, P.L.1126, No.151, eff. 60 days)

## Changes Advised

Allentown ordinances are inconsistent with PA Vehicle Code.

Recommend to repeal Allentown code to be superseded by PA Vehicle Code

# Ordinance Recommendations #7

#	Allentown Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 177. Bicycles	Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75	Changes Advised
7	<p><u>§ 177-11. Violations and penalties.</u>            [Amended 11-29-1938 by Ord. No. 4080; 8-18-2005 by Ord. No. 14311]            Any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be fined not more than \$25 and, <b>in default of payment of fine and costs, imprisoned not more than 10 days.</b> For all sections of this chapter, except § <u>177-8</u>, the fine shall be \$50.</p>	<p><b>§ 3502. Penalty for violation of subchapter.</b>            Any person violating any provision of this subchapter is guilty of a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$10.</p> <p><b>§ 3503. Responsibility of parent or guardian.</b>            The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit the child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this title relating to the operation of pedalcycles.</p>	<p>Allentown ordinances are inconsistent with PA Vehicle Code and threaten potential imprisonment for traffic offenses such as not having brakes on one's bike.</p> <p>Recommend to <u>repeal</u> Allentown code to be superseded by PA Vehicle Code.</p>

# Ordinance Recommendations #8

#	Allentown Municipal Ordinance, Chapter 177. Bicycles	Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75
8	<p><a href="#">Chapter 319 Hamilton Street Regulations</a></p> <p>[HISTORY: Adopted by the City Council of the City of Allentown 11-6-1974 by Ord. No. 12099 (Article 961 of the 1962 Codified Ordinances). Amendments noted where applicable.]</p> <p><a href="#">§ 319-6 Bicycles.</a> [Amended 6-5-1991 by Ord. No. 13060; 6-4-2004 by Ord. No. 14191]</p> <p><b>A.</b> Bicycles may be ridden in the street and shall not be ridden on the sidewalk at any <u>time, but</u> may be walked on the sidewalk area.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Bicycles shall be parked in the bicycle racks when racks are provided.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Bicycles operated by on-duty police officers and Allentown Parking Authority personnel are exempt from any prohibiting provisions of this chapter.</p>	<p><b>§ 3508. Pedalcycles on sidewalks and pedalcycle paths.</b></p> <p><b>(a) Right-of-way to pedestrians.</b>--A person riding a pedalcycle upon a sidewalk or pedalcycle path used by pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.</p> <p><b>(b) Business districts.</b>--A person shall not ride a pedalcycle upon a sidewalk in a business district</p> <p><b>§ 3509. Parking.</b></p> <p><b>(a) Sidewalks.--</b></p> <p>(1) A person may park a pedalcycle on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic-control device.</p> <p>(2) A pedalcycle parked on a sidewalk shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic.</p> <p><b>(b) Roadways.--</b></p>

<b>Changes Advised</b>
<p>Clerical changes only: "Bicycle" to Pedalcycle"</p> <p>No other changes recommended, but this opens a bigger discussion about traffic environment, street design, and navigating one-way streets in Allentown for the public and law enforcement/parking officers – and exercise of care related to speed, safety, and behavior for bicyclists on sidewalks.</p> <p>International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) guidance for law Enforcement officers: "Legality of operating a bike on pedestrian facilities has a unique impact on uniformed cyclists, who are bound to uphold the law and set a good example." "The Complete Guide to Public Safety Cycling", Second Edition, International Police Mountain Bike Association, 2007</p>

# Public Awareness Recommendations #9

## § 3510. Pedalcycle helmets for certain persons.

(a) **General rule.**--A person under 12 years of age shall not operate a pedalcycle or ride as a passenger on a pedalcycle unless the person is wearing a pedalcycle helmet meeting the standards of the American National Standards Institute, the American Society for Testing and Materials, the Snell Memorial Foundation's Standards for Protective Headgear for Use in Bicycling or any other nationally recognized standard for pedalcycle helmet approval. This subsection shall also apply to a person who rides:

- (1) upon a pedalcycle while in a restraining seat attached to a pedalcycle; or
- (2) in a trailer towed by a pedalcycle.

PA Vehicle Code for reference only, no changes advised. We strongly advocate helmet use by all.

# Public Awareness Recommendations #10

<p><b>§ 3705. Opening and closing vehicle doors.</b>— No person shall open any door on a motor vehicle unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, nor shall any person leave a door open on a side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a <u>period of time</u> longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.</p> <p>Comment: The operator of a parked vehicle <u>has to</u> proceed with due care when opening a door into traffic. Opening a door and interfering with the movement of traffic, including bicycle traffic, is punishable as a summary offense.</p>	<p>PA Vehicle Code for reference only, no changes advised.</p> <p>We strongly advocate car occupants not to open doors into the paths of bicyclists, as well as for bicyclists not ride in the door zone.</p>
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# Public Awareness Recommendations #10

Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75	Changes Advised
<p data-bbox="443 468 1625 818">§ 3705. Opening and closing vehicle doors.— No person shall open any door on a motor vehicle unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, nor shall any person leave a door open on a side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a <u>period of time</u> longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.</p> <p data-bbox="443 875 1625 1071">Comment: The operator of a parked vehicle <u>has to</u> proceed with due care when opening a door into traffic. Opening a door and interfering with the movement of traffic, including bicycle traffic, is punishable as a summary offense.</p>	<p data-bbox="1663 468 2066 615">PA Vehicle Code for reference only, no changes advised.</p> <p data-bbox="1663 672 2097 1019">We strongly advocate car occupants not to open doors into the paths of bicyclists, as well as for bicyclists not ride in the door zone.</p>

# Public Awareness Recommendations #12

## Rights and Responsibilities for All Drivers

1. **Bicycle riders: stop at stop signs and red lights**
2. **Bicycle riders: ride the same direction as other vehicles**
3. **Motor vehicle drivers: slow down near bicycles**
4. **Motor vehicle drivers: change lanes to pass bicycles.**

# Public Awareness Recommendations #11

Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75	Changes Advised
<p data-bbox="499 411 1429 454"><b>§ 3331. Required position and method of turning.</b></p> <p data-bbox="499 458 1284 501"><i>Subsections (a) – (e) not included for brevity</i></p> <p data-bbox="499 505 1556 682">(e) Interference with pedalcycles.— No turn by a driver of a motor vehicle shall interfere with a pedalcycle proceeding straight while operating in accordance with Chapter 35 (relating to special vehicles and pedestrians).</p> <p data-bbox="499 729 1505 906">PennDOT comments from PA Bicycle Drivers' Manual: People on bikes, as well as in motor vehicles, must make the right turn as close to the curb as practical and the left turns are to be made from the left lane.</p> <p data-bbox="499 958 1556 1275">Motor vehicles can and do “right-hook” cyclists by partially overtaking them (not completing the passing maneuver) and then performing <u>an</u> right turn that cuts off the cyclist’s lane of travel. This maneuver can cause a collision with the cyclist throwing them off their vehicle and under the wheels of the motor vehicle. The correct action is to fall in behind the cyclist and make the right turn from that position.</p>	<p data-bbox="1589 411 1951 544">PA Vehicle Code for reference only, no changes advised.</p>

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