

A summary of the local bike laws (from www.waba.org)

| | District of Columbia | Maryland | Virginia |
|--|---|---|--|
| General | Bicyclists traveling on roadways have all the general rights and duties of drivers of vehicles. | | |
| Where to Ride | Ride with the flow of traffic as closely as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of roadway. | Ride with the flow of traffic as closely as practicable to the right side of roadway. | Same as DC. |
| | Full lane use allowed when traveling at the normal speed of traffic, passing, preparing for a turn, avoiding hazards, traveling in a lane 11 feet wide or less, avoiding a mandatory turn lane and when necessary for the bicyclist's safety. | Full lane use allowed when traveling at the normal speed of traffic, passing, preparing for a turn, avoiding hazards, traveling in a lane too narrow to share and avoiding a mandatory turn lane. | Same as MD. |
| One-way roads | May travel on the left or right side of one-way roads. | | |
| Passing Cars | Allowed to pass on left or right, in the same lane or changing lanes, or pass off road. | Exercise due care when passing. | Same as DC. |
| Dooring | No person shall open any door of a vehicle unless it is safe to do so and can be done without interfering with moving traffic. | A person may not open the door of any motor vehicle with intent to strike, injure or interfere with any bicyclist. | Not mentioned. |
| Bicycling Two Abreast | Allowed when it does not impede traffic. May not ride more than two abreast. | | |
| Mandatory Use of Bike Lanes and Paths | Not required. | Use of bike lanes required when available except when passing, preparing for a turn or avoiding hazards. No required use of separated paths. | Not required. |
| Cycling on Sidewalks | Yield right of way to pedestrians. | | |
| | Prohibited in the central business district (bounded by Massachusetts Ave. NW, 2nd St NE-SE, D St SE/SW, 14th St NW, Constitution Ave and 23rd St NW). Allowed where posted in this area, and prohibited where posted outside this area. | Allowed where permitted by local ordinance (such as in Montgomery County). | Allowed except where prohibited by local ordinance, such as Prince William County and Alexandria. Must give audible signal before passing pedestrian. |
| Audible Warning Devices | Bell or other device required, sirens prohibited. | Bells allowed (not required), sirens and whistles prohibited. | Bell not required. |
| Helmets | Required for any operator or passenger under 16 years of age. | Same as DC. | Required by local ordinance for any operator or passenger 14 years of age or younger in Alexandria, Arlington Co., Fairfax Co. Falls Church, Vienna and other jurisdictions. |
| Lights at Night | Front white light and rear red reflector (or rear red light) required when dark, may be attached to operator. | Front white light and rear red reflector (or rear red light) required when dark. | Front white light and rear red reflector required when dark, may be attached to operator; rear red light required on roads 35 mph and up. |