

Appendix D
Model Bicycle
Ordinance





Model Bicycle Ordinances

For any community to effectually create an atmosphere which caters to bicycle traffic, the prime mover towards this goal would revolve around the implementation of bicycle-specific ordinances in their municipal codes. To this end, what follows below are experts from the City of West Lafayette’s code outlining numerous policies protecting those on bicycles in their community, as well as educating riders on proper use of their bikes.. Being an Indiana-specific set of guidelines, each of these ordinances can be adopted in communities throughout the NIRPC region.

West Lafayette Bicycle Ordinances

Sec. 20.08. Ordinance violations bureau fines.

A violation of any offense stated below shall result in the following fines:

(a) Parking violations:

(8) If payment for a parking violation fine is not postmarked or received by the city clerk-treasurer’s office within 14 days, the fine shall be double the amount set forth above.

(b) Bicycle related violations as defined by § 40.06 of the West Lafayette City Code: Twenty-five dollars.

Chapter 46. Bicycles

Sec. 46.01. Violations of chapter.

It is an infraction for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this chapter. (Code 1960, § 16-77, Ord No. 16-01(Amended), § 1.)

Sec. 46.02. License.

In order to deter theft and aid in recovery of stolen bicycles, the City of West Lafayette will issue bicycle licenses to be affixed to bicycles upon the terms and conditions set forth in this chapter. (Code 1960, § 16-78, Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), § 2.)

Sec. 46.03. License application; fee.

Application for a bicycle license and license number shall be made upon a form provided by the city and shall be made to the police department. A permanent license fee of one dollar shall be paid to the city before such license is granted. (Code 1960, § 16-79, Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), § 3.)

Sec. 46.04. License issuance; records.

(a) The police department, upon receiving proper application therefore, is authorized to issue a bicycle license which shall be a permanent license.

(b) The police department shall not issue a license for any bicycle if it determines that the applicant is not the owner of or entitled to the possession of such bicycle.

(c) The police department shall keep a record of the number of each license, the date issued, the name and address of the person to whom issued and the number on the frame of the bicycle for which issued, and a record of all bicycle license fees collected.

(d) The police department may authorize local bicycle shops to sell bicycle licenses, according to the same requirements of this chapter. The license fee shall be payable monthly from each such bicycle shop. The bicycle shop shall use such forms and documentation as required by the

police department. (Code 1960, § 16-80, Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), § 4)

Sec. 46.05. Replacement licenses.

If a license or license number is lost or destroyed, another number may be issued upon proper application and payment of an additional fee of fifty cents. (Code 1960, § 16-83, Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), § 5.)

Sec. 46.06. Attachment of license number.

(a) The police department upon issuing a bicycle license shall also issue a license number sticker bearing the license number assigned to the bicycle, and the name of the city.

(b) The police department shall cause such license number to be firmly attached to the rear of the frame of the bicycle for which issued in such position as to be plainly visible from the rear.

(c) No person shall remove a license number from a bicycle during the period for which issued except upon a transfer of ownership or in the event the bicycle is dismantled and no longer operated on any street within the city. (Code 1960, § 16-81, Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), § 6.)

Sec. 46.07. Inspection of bicycles.

The police department shall inspect each bicycle before licensing the same and shall refuse a license for any bicycle determined to be in unsafe mechanical condition. This requirement shall not apply to licenses issued under section 46.04(d). (Code 1960, § 16-82, Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), § 7.)

Sec. 46.08. Transfer of ownership.

Upon the sale or other transfer of a licensed bicycle the licensee shall remove the license number from the bicycle. The new owner shall then apply for a license number to be registered in the owner's name. (Code 1960, § 16-84.)

Sec. 46.09. Parking.

No person shall park a bicycle upon a street other than upon the roadway against the curb or on the sidewalk in a rack to support the bicycle or against a building or at the curb, in such manner as to afford the least obstruction to pedestrian traffic. (Code 1960, § 16-94, Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), §§ 8-9.)

Sec. 46.10. Riding on sidewalks.

(a) No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district.

(b) No person sixteen or more years of age shall ride a bicycle upon any sidewalk in any district.

(c) Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian. (Code 1960, § 16-95, Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), § 10.)

Sec. 46.11. Bicycle (and multi-use) paths.

Every person upon a path shall stay to the right-hand side, exercising due care when passing other path users.

Every person using a path shall remain on the path, unless signs expressly permit leaving the path.

Persons riding bicycles, inline skating or using any other device upon a path shall remain in single file.

Bicyclists shall yield the right of way to all other path users.

Ped & Pedal



Users of inline skates or other devices shall yield the right of way to pedestrians using the path.

Persons riding bicycles upon a path shall maintain a safe speed, compatible with other users.

Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a path, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such a pedestrian.

Any person using the path shall obey the instructions of official traffic-control signals, signs (including those specifying types of users or hours of use) and other control devices applicable to all path users, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

All dogs must be on a leash and the person with any such dog must observe the requirements of West Lafayette City Code section 61.12.

(j) After dusk, all persons upon a bicycle shall use lights and reflectors on any path. (Ord. No. 16-01(Amended), § 12.)