

SUMMARY OF Vermont Laws Pertaining To Bicyclists & Pedestrians

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TITLE 10: CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 20: Vermont Trails System

10 VSA § 447. Coordination with the agency of transportation (a) The agency of natural resources shall coordinate the development of trails and the agency of transportation shall coordinate the development of bicycle and pedestrian paths. (b) The agency of transportation shall endeavor to purchase railroads over which rail service has been discontinued which then may be retained for transportation use or leased to the agency of natural resources for management as trails. (Added 1993) *This Chapter in its entirety may be of interest to those with a focus on hiking, walking, or bicycling trails.*

TITLE 19: HIGHWAYS

Chapter 1: State Highway Law

19 VSA § 11d. Funds for rehabilitation of historic bridges (a) Notwithstanding 32 VSA § 706(a)(1) and (b), the agency of transportation may transfer funds to the division for historic preservation in the agency of commerce and community development to be used for the following purposes: (1) Repairing, rehabilitating, restoring and maintaining historic bridges. To the maximum extent feasible, bridges shall be made available to the public for transportation and recreational uses, including but not limited to, bicycle paths, hiking trails, snowmobile trails, fishing access, picnic areas, or rest stops.

Chapter 3: Town Highways

19 V.S.A. § 306. Appropriation; state aid for town highways (5) each town shall use the monies apportioned to it solely for town highway construction, improvement, and maintenance purposes or as the nonfederal share for public transit assistance. These funds may also be used for the establishment and maintenance of bicycle routes. The members of the selectboard shall be personally liable to the state, in a civil action brought by the attorney general, for making any unauthorized expenditures from money apportioned to the town under this section. (Amended 1999)

Chapter 9: Repairs, Maintenance & Improvements

19 VSA § 905. Construction of sidewalks, bicycle paths and footpaths The legislative body of a municipality may construct and maintain suitable footpaths, bicycle paths or sidewalks, or any combination of these, within the limits of town highways where they do not conflict with travel on the highway. Permission may be granted by the agency for the construction and maintenance of these facilities on state highways. (Added 1985)

19 VSA § 905a. Curb cuts and ramps All newly constructed intersections or curbs in the state used by pedestrians shall be constructed with curb cuts or ramps which enable persons with ambulatory handicaps to have access to the sidewalk. Specifications for design of curb cuts or ramps shall be in accordance with the American National Standards Institute. All curb cuts or ramps in the state shall be of a uniform design where practical. (Added 1985)

19 VSA § 905b. Crosswalks All crosswalk markings shall be of uniform color, dimension and location and be in conformance with the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The secretary of the agency of transportation shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. (Added 1985)

§ 905c. Audible traffic signals Audible warning signals shall be installed at all intersections with an exclusive walk cycle where new traffic light systems are installed. As used in this section, "audible" means a signal which is sufficiently loud as to be heard when the traffic conditions in a particular location are considered. (Added 1985)

19 VSA § 921. School zones Municipalities shall erect or cause to be erected on all public highways near a school, warning signs bearing the legend "school zone." The signs shall conform to the standards of the manual on uniform traffic control devices. (Added 1985)

Chapter 23: Bicycle Routes

19 VSA § 2301. Definitions As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Bicycle" means every pedal-driven device propelled by human power having two or more wheels on which a person may ride, including a so-called pedal vehicle which may have an enclosed cab.
- (2) "Bicycle route" means any lane, way, or path, designated by appropriate signs, that explicitly provides for bicycle travel.
- (3) "Bicycle lane" means a portion of a roadway which has been designated for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles. It is distinguished from the portion of the roadway for motor vehicle traffic by a paint stripe or similar device. Paved road shoulders are considered bicycle lanes.
- (4) "Bicycle path" means a separate trail or path which is for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles, when authorized by state law or municipal ordinances. Where a trail or path forms a part of a highway, it is separated from the roadway for motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier.

- (5) "Highways" include all facilities defined in section 1(12), (18), and (21) of this title. (Added 1985; amended 1993)

19 VSA § 2302. Establishment and maintenance The agency may establish and maintain bicycle routes separately or in conjunction with the construction, reconstruction or maintenance of an existing or new highway. In so doing, the agency may use funds from any available source. (Added 1985; amended 1993)

19 VSA § 2303. Rules The secretary may adopt rules concerning the development and use of bicycle routes, pursuant to the provisions of 3 VSA chapter 25. (Added 1985; amended 1993)

19 VSA § 2305. Agency powers and duties The agency:

- (1) may acquire, in accordance with the procedures of 19 VSA chapter 5 or by gift, any real property or interest in real property that shall be necessary or appropriate for the development of bicycle routes;
- (2) shall assist and cooperate with regional planning commissions, municipal governments, other state agencies and citizens' groups in the development and construction of local and regional bicycle projects and in the application for any funds available for these projects. (Added 1985; amended 1993, 1997)

19 VSA § 2307. Municipalities; legislative bodies

- (1) Legislative bodies of municipalities shall have the same powers granted the agency under sections 2302, 2303 and 2305 of this title relating to highways under their jurisdiction and funds appropriated to municipalities under 19 VSA § 306 may be used for the establishment of bicycle routes.
- (2) In the construction, reconstruction, alteration or repair of bicycle routes which involves the taking of private lands, the legislative body of a municipality shall follow the procedures outlined in 19 VSA chapter 5 or chapter 7 for the taking of private land for highways. (Added 1985, amended 1991, 1993)

19 VSA § 2309. Liability of landowner

No landowner shall be liable for any property damage or personal injury sustained by any person who is using, for any purpose permitted by state law or by a municipal ordinance, bicycle routes constructed on the landowner's property pursuant to this chapter, unless the landowner charges a fee for the use of the property. (Added 1985; amended 1993)

19 VSA § 2310. Pavement of highway shoulders

- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10c of this title, it is the policy of the state to provide paved shoulders on major state highways with the intent to develop an integrated bicycle route system. This shall not apply to the interstate highway and certain other limited access highways.
- (b) Any construction, or reconstruction, including upgrading and resurfacing projects on these highways shall include paved shoulders unless the agency deems certain sections to be cost prohibitive. (Added 1985, amended 1993, 1995)

19 VSA § 2311. Cooperating agencies For the purposes of this chapter, the agency of natural resources shall assist the agency of transportation in matters relating to the recreational use and the availability of government funds which might be used for the purposes of this chapter. The agency of commerce and community development shall assist the agency of transportation in matters relating to bicycle tourism. (Added 1993; amended 1995)

TITLE 20: INTERNAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Chapter 171: Fire Districts

20 VSA § 2601. Generally. A fire district may vote to adopt the town manager system in compliance with chapter 37 of Title 24. It may vote a tax upon the polls and taxable estate or upon the taxable estate only for the protection of property in the district from damage by fire; for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of sewers and sewage treatment works; sidewalks; public parks; water works, water companies and equipment and real estate used in connection therewith including reservoirs and dams; for lighting; and for other lawful purposes. The prudential committee and collector shall have the same power in assessing, levying and collecting the tax, as town officers have in assessing and collecting town taxes, including the collection of interest on overdue taxes. The prudential committee may expend such sums for acquiring, constructing and maintaining sewers and sewage treatment works; sidewalks; public parks; water works, water companies and all equipment and real estate used in connection therewith including reservoirs and dams; and for lighting purposes as the fire district may vote. The committee may use and occupy such portions of the highways within the district as may be necessary for constructing and maintaining sewers and sewage treatment works; sidewalks; public parks; water works and mains and for lighting purposes. (Amended 1969, 1981)

TITLE 23: MOTOR VEHICLES

Chapter 1: General Provisions

23 VSA § 4. Definitions Except as may be otherwise provided herein, and unless the context otherwise requires in statutes relating to motor vehicles and enforcement of the law regulating vehicles, as provided in this title and part 5 of Title 20, the following definitions shall apply:

- (7) "Crosswalks" (A) That part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable roadway; (B) Any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface;
- (9) "Edge of the roadway" is the extreme right-hand limit of any improved area within the right of way of the highway;
- (13) "Highway," "road," "public highway" or "public road" shall include all parts of any bridge, culvert, roadway, street, square,

fairground or other place open temporarily or permanently to public or general circulation of vehicles, and shall include a way laid out under authority of law;

(21) "Motor vehicle" shall include all vehicles propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power, except farm tractors, vehicles running only upon stationary rails or tracks, motorized highway building equipment, road making appliances, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, or tracked vehicles or electric personal assistive mobility devices;

(32) "Roadway" is that portion of a highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, exclusive of the shoulder;

(35) "Sidewalk" that portion of a street between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for use by pedestrians;

(67) "Pedestrian" means any person afoot, and shall also include any person 16 years of age or older operating an electric personal assistive mobility device. The age restriction of this subdivision shall not apply to a person who has an ambulatory disability as defined in section 304a of this title.

23 VSA § 1007. Local speed limits

§ 1007. Local speed limits (a) The legislative body of a municipality may establish, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a speed limit on all or a part of any city, town or village highway within its jurisdiction, which: (1) is not more than 50 miles per hour; however, after considering neighborhood character, abutting land use, bicycle and pedestrian use, and physical characteristics of the highways, the legislative body of a municipality may vote to set the maximum speed limit, without an engineering and traffic investigation, at not more than 50 miles per hour nor less than 35 miles per hour, on all or a portion of unpaved town highways within its boundaries, unless otherwise posted in accordance with the provisions of this section; or (2) is not less than 25 miles per hour.

Chapter 13: Operation Of Vehicles

23 VSA § 1021. Obedience to traffic-control devices (a) The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic-control device applicable to him placed in accordance with this chapter unless otherwise directed by an enforcement officer, subject to the exceptions granted in this chapter.

23 VSA § 1022. Traffic-control signals (a) Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic-control signals exhibiting different colored lights, or colored lighted arrows, successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors green, red and yellow may be used, except for special pedestrian signals carrying a word legend, and the signals shall indicate and apply to drivers and pedestrians as follows:

(1) Green signal (A) Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign prohibits either turn. Vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right of way to other vehicles or to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or on an

adjacent crosswalk at the time the signal is exhibited. (B) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal, shown alone or in combination with another signal, may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by the arrow, or such other movement as is permitted by other signals shown at the same time. Vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk or to other traffic lawfully using the intersection. (C) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal, as provided in section 1023 of this title, pedestrians facing a green signal may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk, but not when the sole green signal is a turn arrow.

(b) Steady yellow signal (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow signal is thereby warned that the related green signal is being terminated or that a red signal will be exhibited immediately thereafter, when vehicular traffic shall not enter the intersection. (2) Pedestrians facing a steady yellow signal, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in section 1023 of this title, are advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before a red signal is shown, and no pedestrian shall then start to cross the roadway.

(c) Steady red signal (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. (2) Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn, vehicular traffic facing any steady red signal may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right, or to turn left from a one way street into a one way street, after stopping as required by subdivision (c)(1) of this section. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection. (3) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian-control signal as provided in section 1023 of this title, pedestrians facing a steady red signal alone shall not enter the roadway.

(d) If an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, this section is applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop is to be made, but in the absence of any sign or marking the stop shall be made at the signal. (Added 1971; amended 1975)

23 VSA § 1023. Pedestrian-control signals Whenever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" are in place the signals indicate as follows: (1) "Walk": pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right of way by all drivers. (2) "Don't Walk": no pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal, but any pedestrian who has begun his crossing on the "Walk" signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or a safety island while the "Don't Walk" signal is showing. (Added 1971)

§ 1034. Passing on the right (a) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only as follows:

- (1) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn;
 - (2) Upon a street or highway of sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles in one or more directions and with unobstructed pavement not occupied by parked vehicles; or
 - (3) Upon a one-way street, or upon any roadway on which traffic is restricted to one direction of movement, where the roadway is free from obstructions and of sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles.
- (b) In no event may a vehicle be passed by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1035. Limitations [on passing] (a) No vehicle shall be driven to the left side of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless authorized by the provisions of this chapter and unless the left side is clearly visible and free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit overtaking and passing to be completed without interfering with the operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or of any vehicle overtaken. In every event the overtaking vehicle shall return to an authorized lane of travel as soon as practicable and, if the passing movement involves the use of a lane authorized for vehicles approaching from the opposite direction, before coming within two hundred feet of any approaching vehicle.

(b) A vehicle shall not pass another from the rear under any of the following conditions: (1) When approaching or upon the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway where the driver's view is in any way obstructed. (2) When approaching within one hundred feet of, or traversing, any intersection or railroad grade crossing unless otherwise indicated by official traffic control devices; or (3) When the view is obstructed upon approaching within one hundred feet of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel.

23 VSA § 1051. Pedestrians' right of way in crosswalks

- (a) If traffic-control signals are not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if necessary, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk.
- (b) No pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for a driver to yield.
- (c) If any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear may not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle. (Added 1971; amended 1985)

23 VSA § 1052. Crossing except at crosswalks

- (a) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.
- (b) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.
- (c) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic-control signals are in operation pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.
- (d) No pedestrian may cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic-control devices or an enforcement officer. When authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians may cross only in accordance with the official traffic-control devices or signal of an enforcement officer. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1053. Drivers to exercise due care Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway, shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary, and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any obviously confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1054. Pedestrians to use right half of crosswalks Pedestrians may move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks only. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1055. Pedestrians on roadways (a) Where public sidewalks are provided no person may walk along or upon an adjacent roadway. (b) Where public sidewalks are not provided any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall, when practicable, walk only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing the direction of possible oncoming traffic. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1058. Duties of pedestrians All pedestrians shall obey the instructions of all traffic control devices which are applicable to them, and all instructions of enforcement officers relating to control of traffic. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1065. Hand signals

- (a) All signals to indicate change of speed or direction, when given by hand, shall be given from the left side of the vehicle and in the following manner:
- (1) Left turn. - Hand and arm extended horizontally.
 - (2) Right turn. - Hand and arm extended upward.
 - (3) Stop or decrease speed. - Hand and arm extended downward.
- (b) No turn to right or left may be made without first giving a signal of an intention to do so either by hand or by signal in accordance with section 1064 of this title. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1082. Slow-moving vehicles All slow-moving vehicles shall keep at all times as close to the right-hand side of the highway as is reasonably practicable. A person operating a

motor vehicle which impedes other traffic on a highway shall pull off the highway at the first opportunity to allow the traffic to pass before proceeding. (Added 1971). *[Note: this specifies that motor vehicles must pull over.]*

23 VSA § 1096 General penalties (b) A parent or guardian who knowingly permits a child under the age of sixteen years, in his custody, to violate any provision of sections 1136 through 1141, inclusive, of this title shall be fined not more than \$25.00. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1119. Opening and closing vehicle doors No person shall open the door of a motor vehicle on the side nearest to moving traffic unless it is reasonably safe to do so and can be done without interfering with the movement of traffic, nor may any person leave a door open on the side of a vehicle nearest to moving traffic for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers. (Added 1971)

Subchapter XII. Operation of Bicycles & Play Vehicles

23 VSA § 1136. Application of subchapter (a) The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward may not authorize or knowingly permit any such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this subchapter.

(b) This subchapter applies whenever a bicycle is operated upon any highway or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles subject to those exceptions stated herein.

(c) Every person riding a bicycle is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to operators of vehicles, except as to those provisions which by their very nature can have no application. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1137. Riding on bicycles

(a) No person propelling a bicycle may ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

(b) No person may use a bicycle to carry more persons at any one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1138. Clinging to motor vehicles No person may attach himself or any bicycle, wagon, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle upon which he is riding or will ride to any motor vehicle. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1139. Riding on roadways and bicycle paths

(a) A person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(b) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway may not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or except as otherwise permitted by the commissioner of public safety in connection with a public sporting event in which case the commissioner shall be authorized to adopt such rules as the public good

requires. Persons riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

(c) (Repealed, 2004)

(d) Bicycles may be operated on the shoulders of partially controlled access highways, which are those highways where access is controlled by public authority but where there are some connections with selected public highways, some crossings at grade, and some private driveway connections. The traffic committee may determine that any portion of these highways is unsafe and therefore closed to bicycle operation. (Added 1971; amended 1989, 1991, 1993)

23 VSA § 1140. Carrying articles

No person operating a bicycle may carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars. (Added 1971)

23 VSA § 1141. Equipment on bicycles

(a) No person may operate a bicycle at nighttime unless it is equipped with a lamp on the front, which emits a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front, and with a red reflector on the rear, which shall be visible at least three hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. Lamps emitting red lights visible to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

(b) No person may equip a bicycle with any siren or whistle, or any device simulating a siren of an authorized emergency vehicle, nor may he operate a bicycle so equipped.

(c) No person may operate a bicycle unless it is equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement. (Added 1971; amended 1979)

24 VSA § 1142. Penalties A person who violates any provision of sections 1136 through 1141(a) of this title shall be fined not more than \$25.00 for each offense. (Added 1971).

*Chapter 61: Regulatory Provisions;
Police Power Of Municipalities*

24 VSA § 2291. Enumeration of powers For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare and convenience, a town, city or incorporated village shall have the following powers: (1) To set off portions of public highways of the municipality for sidewalks and bicycle paths and to regulate their use. (4) To regulate the operation and use of vehicles of every kind including the power: to erect traffic signs and signals; to regulate the speed of vehicles subject to sections 1141 through 1147 of Title 23; to regulate or exclude the parking of all vehicles; and to provide for waiver of the right of appearance and arraignment in court by persons charged with parking violations by payment of specified fines within a stated period of

time. (5) To establish rules for pedestrian traffic on public highways and to establish crosswalks.

TITLE 24: MUNICIPAL & COUNTY GOV'T

*Chapter 117: Municipal & Regional
Planning & Development*

24 VSA § 4348. Adoption and amendment of regional plan

(a) A regional planning commission shall adopt a regional plan. Any plan for a region, and any amendment thereof, shall be prepared by the regional planning commission. At the outset of the planning process and throughout the process, regional planning commissions shall solicit the participation of local citizens and organizations by holding informal working sessions that suit the needs of local people.

24 VSA § 4348a. Elements of a regional plan (a) A regional plan shall be consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title and shall include but need not be limited to the following:

(4) A transportation element, which may consist of a statement of present and prospective transportation and circulation facilities, and a map showing existing and proposed highways, including limited access highways, and streets by type and character of improvement, and where pertinent, anticipated points of congestion, parking facilities, transit routes, terminals, bicycle paths and trails, scenic roads, airports, railroads and port facilities, and other similar facilities or uses, and recommendations to meet future needs for such facilities, with indications of priorities of need, costs and method of financing;

24 VSA § 4382. The plan for a municipality (a) A plan for a municipality may be consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title and compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan and shall include the following:

(3) A transportation plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective transportation and circulation facilities showing existing and proposed highways and streets by type and character of improvement, and where pertinent, parking facilities, transit routes, terminals, bicycle paths and trails, scenic roads, airports, railroads and port facilities, and other similar facilities or uses, with indications of priority of need;

24 VSA § 4407. Permitted types of regulations Any municipality may adopt zoning regulations that may include, but shall not be limited to, any of the following provisions:

(4) Parking and loading facilities. Provisions setting forth standards for permitted and required facilities for off-street parking and loading which may vary by district and by uses within each district. Such regulations may also include provisions covering the location, size, design, access, landscaping and screening of such facilities. In determining the number and size of parking spaces required under such regulations, the municipal planning commission may take into account the existence of "transit passes," and other evidence that employers will save parking spaces because employees

commute to and from work in carpools, in van pools, by **bicycle**, or by foot. The actual number of parking spaces saved may be substituted for parking facilities on a one-for-one basis, provided the number of parking spaces saved becomes a condition of the permit that the employer receives from the municipal planning commission.

MUNICIPAL CHARTERS (Title 24 Appendix)

The Municipal Charters of several Vermont cities and towns provide for specific municipal powers with regard to bicycle paths, regulating bicycles, registering bicycles, and regulating bicycle races. The charters have been omitted here because they do not say anything about what the local ordinances are, and because they do not seem to significantly expand the powers already granted to municipalities by state law. For reference, the towns which specifically mention bicycling are: South Burlington, Bennington, Brattleboro, Essex Junction, & Waterbury.

BICYCLE RIDING ON SIDEWALKS

State law restricts motor vehicles from driving on sidewalks, but does not prohibit other vehicles (including bicycles). However, Vermont municipalities may regulate sidewalks (24 VSA § 2291, as above).

Many Vermont municipalities have exercised this right and have established laws about sidewalk bicycle riding; some prohibit it, and some require it. For example, Burlington city ordinance forbids bicyclists over age 16 to ride on the sidewalk. Rutland requires bicyclists to use the sidewalks along Routes 4 & 7; such regulations are established at the discretion of the chief of police. Brandon ordinance makes it unlawful for bicyclists of any age to ride on sidewalks between the Brandon Inn and the Town Office; in other areas, bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks but pedestrians have the right of way.

Most towns do not have signage indicating the local ordinance, and in many cases the ordinance may not be enforced. Check with the town office to determine the legal status of bicycle riding on sidewalks in a given municipality.



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"Your voice for better bicycling & walking in Vermont."