

# Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Laws in RURAL COMMUNITIES



## Pedestrian Survey Findings and The Law

**70%** of rural respondents reported walking at least a few times a month.

Of those who reported **WALKING**,



approximately **61%** reported doing so **for exercise or other health benefits**



and about **33%** reported **walking for transportation.**

## Bicyclist Survey Findings and The Law

**21%** of rural respondents reported bicycling at least a few times a month.

Of those who reported **RIDING A BIKE**,



about **50%** reported doing so **for exercise or other health benefits**



and about **25%** reported riding **for transportation.**



## Obstacles to Walking and the Texas Transportation Code (TTC)

**63%** of rural respondents reported **lack of sidewalks as an obstacle to walking more.**

### Did you know?

If no sidewalk is available, a pedestrian should walk on the left side of the roadway or shoulder facing oncoming traffic (TTC §552.006).



**43%** of rural respondents **reported lack of crossing signals/signs as an obstacle to walking more.**

### Did you know?

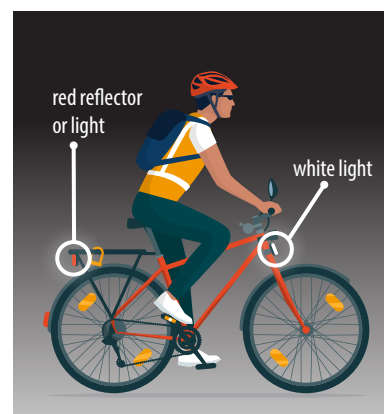
Pedestrians crossing a road must yield right-of-way to a vehicle on the highway if at a place other than a crosswalk or intersection (TTC §552.005).

## Obstacles to Bicycling and the TTC

**55%** of rural respondents **reported lack of bike lanes/trails as an obstacle to riding more.**

### Did you know?

Motorists must pass a bicyclist at a safe distance (TTC §551.101).



**Almost a quarter** of rural respondents **reported poor lighting as an obstacle to riding more.**

### Did you know?

When riding at night a bicycle must be equipped with a white light on the front and a red reflector or light on the back (TTC §551.104).

Find more information about **existing pedestrian and bicycle laws** here: [tinyurl.com/xhanbyaw](https://tinyurl.com/xhanbyaw).

You can find **existing pedestrian and bicycle laws published by TxDOT** here: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>.

**Additional information and resources** can be found at: <https://www.walkbikesafetexas.org/>.

# Improving Familiarity with Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Laws

## Motorists should yield right-of-way:

- At both marked and unmarked crosswalks (TTC §552.003),
- When pedestrians are in a crosswalk if there is no traffic-control signal (TTC §552.003),
- If a pedestrian is crossing on the same half of the roadway as the vehicle (TTC §552.003),
- When emerging from an alley, driveway, or building (TTC §545.256), and
- When making turns — even if the light is green — unless you have a green turn arrow (TTC §552.001).

## A pedestrian has the right-of-way when:

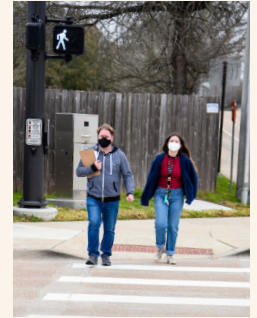
- Facing a “walk” signal (TTC §552.002),
- The signal light is green in their direction of travel, if there are no pedestrian signals (TTC §552.001), and
- Crossing in a crosswalk without a traffic signal (TTC §552.003).

**When crossing at a point other than an intersection or crosswalk the pedestrian should yield the right-of-way to vehicles. (TTC §552.005)**

## A bicyclist should yield right-of-way:

- As if they are driving a vehicle since they have the same rights and responsibilities on Texas roadways (TTC §551.101).

**Ride as far to the right-hand side of the street as possible, unless: preparing to make a left turn, avoiding obstructions, or if the lane is too narrow for a bicycle and motor vehicle to travel side-by-side. (TTC §551.103)**



**Check for local ordinances which may include stricter policies.**



CTS21103.8296.0721