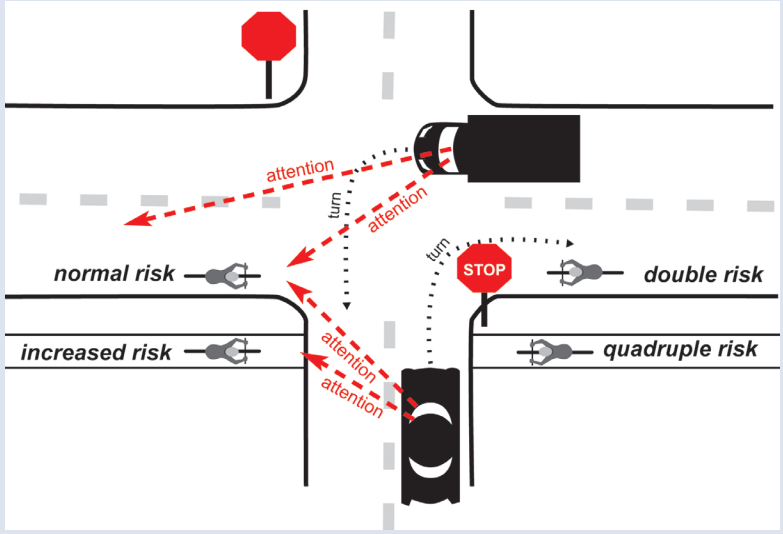
RIDING BICYCLES ON SIDEWALKS

CAN BE DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL IN MANY PLACES!

Bicycling on the sidewalk may seem safer than riding in the street because you are further away from cars; but most trips cross driveways and intersections. These areas can be very dangerous for a bicyclist who is riding on the sidewalk. Drivers in cars look mainly at traffic in the street. They usually don't look very far down any sidewalk because they only expect people moving at a slow speed because they are walking.

If you bicycle on the sidewalk, you may be hidden from a driver's view by things such as parked cars, buildings, fences, and trees. Your path is also more likely to be blocked by objects (signposts, fire hydrants, parking meters, mailboxes, benches, etc.) and people (pedestrians, joggers, skateboarders, roller skaters, and people in wheelchairs).

It is especially dangerous to bicycle against the normal traffic flow. Motorists usually look for traffic moving in the legal direction of street travel; traffic moving in the other direction is easily overlooked. The law requires bicyclists in the street to ride in the same direction as cars. Statistics show this leads to fewer conflicts and fewer accidents.



Bicycle Riding Prohibited on Public Sidewalks within the Central Business District

Central Business District Boundary

Riding on the sidewalk is illegal in many places. In the City of Reno, it is illegal to ride a bicycle on any sidewalk within the central business district (see map to left) or where signs prohibit it. In the City of Sparks, it's illegal for people older than 15 to bicycle on any sidewalk and for younger people to ride a bicycle on sidewalks in business districts. Under state law, riding a bicycle on any sidewalk may be considered illegal unless specifically authorized.

If you bicycle on the sidewalk, ride slowly and carefully. Be ready to stop immediately if necessary. Ride in the same direction as cars are traveling whenever possible. Be courteous. Remember to yield the right-of-way to people walking. If you are going to pass any pedestrians, warn them by calling out or making other noise they can hear.

RTC SMART TRIPS

rtcwashoe.com