

Stockton, California Municipal Code, Charter, and Civil Service Rules

Title 10 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Chapter 10.12 BICYCLES

Article I. Licensing Requirements

- 10.12.010 Operation without license—Unlawful.
- 10.12.020 License issued by Police Department.
- 10.12.030 License plates—Identification cards.
- 10.12.040 License renewals.
- 10.12.050 License fee.
- 10.12.060 Alteration or removal of numbers on bicycle frames—Unlawful.
- 10.12.070 Purchase of secondhand bicycles.
- 10.12.080 Sale of new or secondhand bicycles.
- 10.12.090 Transfer of bicycle ownership.
- 10.12.100 Penalties.

Article II. Bicycles—Operation

- 10.12.110 Definitions.
- 10.12.120 Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles.
- 10.12.130 Obedience to traffic control devices.
- 10.12.140 Riding on roadways and bicycle paths.
- 10.12.150 Emerging from alley or driveways.
- 10.12.160 Bicycle lanes.
- 10.12.170 Direction along bicycle lanes.
- 10.12.180 Yield at intersections.
- 10.12.190 Leaving bicycle lane.

10.12.200 Walking bicycle.

10.12.210 Vehicles crossing bicycle lane.

10.12.220 Riding bicycles on sidewalks.

10.12.230 Signs and markings.

Article I. Licensing Requirements

10.12.010 Operation without license—Unlawful.

It is unlawful for any person to operate or use a bicycle propelled wholly or in part by muscular power upon any of the streets, alleys or public highways of the City, without first obtaining from the Police Department a license therefor. (Prior code § 10-072.1)

10.12.020 License issued by Police Department.

The Police Department of the City is hereby authorized to issue, upon written application, bicycle licenses which shall be effective from date of issuance. Such application shall be signed by the applicant, and if such applicant is under 18 years of age, the application shall also be signed by a parent of such applicant having legal custody of said minor, or by the guardian of the person of said minor. (Prior code § 10-072.2)

10.12.030 License plates—Identification cards.

A. The City shall provide metallic license plates and renewal stickers, which said metallic license plates shall have thereon numbers stamped or printed in numerical order. Such metallic license plates shall be suitable for attachment upon the frames of bicycles, and it shall be the duty of the Police Department to attach one such metallic license plate to the frame of each bicycle and to issue to said licensee a corresponding bicycle identification card upon payment of the license fee herein provided for. Such metallic license plate shall remain attached to said bicycle.

B. The Police Department shall also keep a record of the date of issue of each license, to whom issued and the number thereof. Records shall be maintained during the period of validity of the license either/or until notification that the bicycle is no longer to be operated. No bicycle license hereunder, or any transfer thereof shall be issued unless the bicycle which it covers, shall be equipped with a proper rear reflector or rear light, as defined by the [Vehicle Code](#) of the State. (Prior code § 10-072.3)

10.12.040 License renewals.

Bicycle licenses shall be renewed on January 1st of the third year following the year of registration. Renewal of a bicycle shall be indicated by a supplementary adhesive sticker affixed parallel to and above or below the metallic license plate with expiration date shown. (Prior code § 10-072.3.1)

10.12.050 License fee.

The bicycle license fee shall be as established by resolution of the City Council in accordance with Division 16.7 of the California [Vehicle Code](#) and regulations issued thereunder. (Prior code § 10-72.4)

10.12.060 Alteration or removal of numbers on bicycle frames—Unlawful.

It is unlawful for any person to willfully or maliciously remove, destroy, mutilate or alter the number of any bicycle frame licensed pursuant hereto. It is also unlawful for any person to remove, destroy, mutilate or alter any license plate, seal or registration card during the time in which said license plate, seal or registration card is operative. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall prohibit the Police Department from stamping or otherwise placing numbers on the frames of bicycles on which no serial number can be found, or on which said number is illegible or insufficient for identification purposes. (Prior code § 10-073)

10.12.070 Purchase of secondhand bicycles.

All persons engaged in the business of buying secondhand bicycles are hereby required to make daily reports to the Police Department, giving the name and address of the person from whom each bicycle is purchased, the description of each bicycle purchased, the frame number thereof, and the number of the metallic license plate attached thereto, if any. (Prior code § 10-074)

10.12.080 Sale of new or secondhand bicycles.

All persons engaged in the business of selling new or secondhand bicycles are hereby required to make a daily report to the Police Department, giving a list of all sales made by such dealers, which list shall include the name and address of each person to whom sold, the kind of bicycle sold, together with a description and frame number thereof, and the number of the metallic license plate attached thereto, if any. (Prior code § 10-075)

10.12.090 Transfer of bicycle ownership.

It shall be the duty of every person who sells or transfers ownership of any bicycle, to report such sale or transfer by returning to the Police Department the registration card issued to such person or licensee thereof, together with the name and address of the person to whom said bicycle was sold or transferred, and such report shall be made within five (5) days from the date of said sale or transfer. It shall be the duty of the purchaser or transferee of such bicycle to apply for a transfer of registration therefor, within five (5) days from date of said sale or transfer. (Prior code § 10-076)

10.12.100 Penalties.

A. Violation a Misdemeanor. Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision hereof shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable as such.

B. Seizure and Impounding. In addition to the penalty set forth in subsection A of this section, the Chief of Police or any member of the Police Department of the City, may impound and retain possession of any bicycle operated in violation of any of the provisions of this article and retain possession of the same until the license provided for herein is obtained by the owner of said bicycle.

C. Suspension of Registration. In addition to the penalties set forth in subsection A of this section, the said Chief of Police of the City is hereby granted authority to suspend, for a period not to exceed 30 days, the registration card of, and to remove the license tag from any bicycle which is operated by the owner or rider thereof in violation of or contrary to any law of the State, or any ordinance of the City, during which time, the said Chief of Police may take possession of and impound said bicycle. That at the expiration of the said period of suspension, the said registration card and license tag, shall be restored to said bicycle, and the said bicycle delivered to its owner at the office of the said Chief of Police. (Prior code §§ 10-077—10-077.3)

Article II. Bicycles—Operation

10.12.110 Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section.

“Bicycle lane” means that portion of a public street or roadway set aside for the use of bicycles.

“Bicycle path” means a pathway for bicycles and pedestrians paralleling a public street or roadway, the side of the bicycle path closest to the street or roadway being not more than 75 feet distant from said street or roadway. (Prior code § 10-160)

10.12.120 Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles.

Every person riding a bicycle upon a street or sidewalk shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the laws of this State declaring rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by the ordinances of this City applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as to those provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature can have no application and except as otherwise provided in this title. (Prior code § 10-161)

10.12.130 Obedience to traffic control devices.

Any person operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of official traffic control signs and other control devices applicable to vehicles and bicycles unless otherwise directed by a Police Officer. (Prior code § 10-162)

10.12.140 Riding on roadways and bicycle paths.

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

B. Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway or a highway which carries traffic in one direction only and has two (2) or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway or highway as practicable exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

C. Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for exclusive use of bicycles. (Prior code § 10-163)

10.12.150 Emerging from alley or driveways.

The operator of a bicycle emerging from any alley, driveway, bicycle path, or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across any alley, driveway, or bicycle path, yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on said sidewalk or sidewalk area; and upon entering a bicycle lane, shall yield the right-of-way to all bicycles approaching on said lane; and upon entering the roadway, shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on said roadway. (Prior code § 10-164)

10.12.160 Bicycle lanes.

No person shall ride or operate a bicycle upon a roadway adjacent to which bicycle lanes have been designated except within such bicycle lane or except as otherwise permitted by the provisions of this article. (Prior code § 10-165)

10.12.170 Direction along bicycle lanes.

No person shall ride or operate a bicycle within a bicycle lane in any direction except that permitted of vehicular traffic traveling on the same side of the roadway provided that bicycles may proceed either way along a bicycle lane where arrows appear on the surface of the lane designating two (2) way bicycle traffic. (Prior code § 10-166)

10.12.180 Yield at intersections.

Upon approaching an intersection, any person riding or operating a bicycle shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles within or approaching such intersection except that all vehicles which must stop before entering an intersection because of a stop sign and all vehicles making a left hand turn at an intersection shall not proceed into said intersection nor make such a turn without first yielding the right-of-way to all bicycles within or approaching said intersection and shall proceed only when it is safe to do so. (Prior code § 10-167)

10.12.190 Leaving bicycle lane.

Once having entered a bicycle lane, no person riding or operating a bicycle shall leave such lane except at intersections, provided, however, that such person may leave a bicycle lane upon dismounting from a bicycle, walking the same, and being subject then to all laws applicable to pedestrians. Provided further that such person may leave the bicycle lane between intersections in order to make a U-turn, where such a turn is permissible for vehicular traffic or to turn into driveways on the right or left hand sides of the bicycle lane. Upon leaving a bicycle lane, the rider or operator of such bicycle shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles and shall not leave the bicycle lane until it is safe to do so. (Prior code § 10-168)

10.12.200 Walking bicycle.

Bicycles may be walked subject to all provisions of law applicable to pedestrians. (Prior code § 10-169)

10.12.210 Vehicles crossing bicycle lane.

No person shall drive a vehicle within, upon or across a bicycle lane except to enter a driveway, courtesy mailbox zone, and except to park such vehicle or leave a parking space. No person shall drive within, upon or across a bicycle lane as permitted by this section except after giving the right-of-way to all bicycles within the lane. (Prior code § 10-170)

10.12.220 Riding bicycles on sidewalks.

A. No person shall ride or attempt to ride any bicycle upon or over any walking area situated inside a private shopping center or parking area, or over any sidewalk space in the following areas unless signs permitting such riding are posted:

Areas zoned:

1. CO Commercial Office District;
2. CN Commercial Neighborhood District;
3. CG Commercial General District;
4. CD Commercial Downtown District;
5. CL Commercial Large-Scale District.

B. The City Manager or authorized representative may post signs permitting the riding of bicycles in any of the above areas or portions of the above areas if it is found and determined after a traffic engineering and safety survey, that such riding will not endanger pedestrian traffic, public or private safety.

C. Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon or over any walking area situated inside a private shopping center or parking area, or over any sidewalk or sidewalk space, such person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

D. The provisions of subsection A of this section shall not apply to the following persons:

1. Peace officers, as defined in [Penal Code](#) Section 830, and emergency personnel who are acting within the course and scope of their employment;

2. Operators of pedicabs while otherwise lawfully operating a pedicab pursuant to the terms of a valid permit issued in accordance with Chapter [5.90](#) of this code, and at reasonable speeds based on conditions but never more than five (5) miles per hour, upon:

a. Janet Leigh Plaza, Joan Darrah Waterfront Promenade, and DeCarli Square.

b. Within the area of the Stockton arena and ballpark, subject to the limitations, prohibitions, and directions of the property owner, owner's agents, and law enforcement officers to facilitate the free flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and ensure public safety. Notwithstanding the foregoing, pedicabs shall not operate within a parking structure. (Ord. 2022-11-01-1201 C.S. § 2; Ord. 2014-12-16-1501 C.S. § 1; prior code § 10-171)

10.12.230 Signs and markings.

The City Manager is authorized to designate bicycles lanes and to direct the City Traffic Engineer to erect or place signs upon any street or adjacent to any street in the City indicating the existence of a bicycle lane and otherwise regulating the operation and use of vehicles and bicycles with respect thereto so long as the same are consistent with this article. Before such a sign is erected, the subject bicycle lane shall be designated on such street by appropriate painting or in such other manner as the City Traffic Engineer shall determine will provide sufficient notice of existence of such bicycle lane. When such signs are in place, no person shall disobey the same. (Prior code § 10-172)

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