



*Georgia*

# BIKE SENSE

A GUIDE FOR CYCLISTS & MOTORISTS



A Publication of the Georgia Department of Transportation



# Georgia **BIKE SENSE**

A GUIDE FOR CYCLISTS & MOTORISTS

This manual is intended to serve as a guide to help both motorists and cyclists safely share the road, and to help adult cyclists, and young cyclists and their parents, better understand how to ride safely and legally on trails, streets, and highways in Georgia.

It also includes safety suggestions that are not covered by Georgia traffic law. This manual is not to be considered a legal authority for bicycle safety, nor is it intended to be a source to cite in a court of law. Local traffic regulations in some cities, towns, and counties may vary somewhat from state law, provided they do not conflict with state law.



Photo: Bikes Belong

A PDF file of this document is available on the Georgia Department of Transportation web site at **www.dot.ga.gov**. For printed copies, contact:

**State Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator**

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Comments and suggestions for future versions of this manual are welcome. An updated listing of Georgia clubs, organizations, and cycling resources is available by visiting the Bicycle/Pedestrian page on the Georgia Department of Transportation web site at:

**www.dot.ga.gov**

Click on “**Traveling in Georgia**” and “**Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs**”. Please submit any new club or organizational listings, as well as contact information for existing groups through the web site.

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The information provided in “Georgia BIKE SENSE” is not legal advice. The information provided in this public guide is provided solely for general interest, applies to general principles of law, and may not reflect current legal developments or statutory changes in various jurisdictions and therefore should not be relied upon or interpreted as legal advice.



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**Georgia Department of Transportation** has a web site dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian issues:

**[www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov)**

Click on “**Traveling in Georgia**” and “**Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs**”. It includes bicycle route maps, links to statewide cycling organizations, and news and updates on recent meetings and events. For more information, email the State Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator at **[bikeped@dot.ga.gov](mailto:bikeped@dot.ga.gov)**

This Guide was originally funded through the federal Transportation Enhancement Program. The Georgia Department of Transportation would like to thank the State Transportation Board and the Federal Highway Administration for making these funds available for the development and printing of this Guide. Additional funds were furnished by the Office of Planning and Regional Commission.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is grateful to all of the individuals and organizations listed below who contributed to the content and production of this guide, providing time, photos, resources, and information:

@ the Hub Bicycles (Athens, Georgia): Brian Molloy  
 Athens Transit: Butch McDuffie  
 Atlanta Bicycle Campaign: Dennis Hoffarth  
 Bicycle Ride Across Georgia (BRAG): Jerry Colley, Miles McClelland  
 BikeAthens: Sandy Cederbaum, Paul Quick, Peter Norris, Kes Roberts, Amanda Worthington  
 Bikes Belong: Ray Keener  
 Georgia Bikes!: David Crites  
 Georgia Dept. of Economic Development: Kathleen Kern Hardison  
 Georgia Transit Association: Kermina Haynes  
 Kenneth A. Rosskopf, P.C.  
 MARTA: Kelly Mills  
 PATH Foundation: Ed McBrayer  
 Research Media (University of Georgia): Mark Dodson, Krysia Haag  
 Southern Bicycle League: Ellen Sharp  
 State Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

This guide also draws from some excellent cycling information previously published online and in print in the United States and Canada:

Colorado Department of Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Program:  
**Colorado Bicycling Manual**

Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition:

**The British Columbia Bicycle Operators Manual**

League of American Bicyclists: **[www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)**

Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition:

**Bicycle Resource Guide**

Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition: **[www.massbike.org](http://www.massbike.org)**

Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program:

**Oregon Bicyclists Manual**

Paul Dorn's Bicycle Commuting Pages: **[www.runmuki.com/commute/](http://www.runmuki.com/commute/)**

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center: **[www.bicyclinginfo.org](http://www.bicyclinginfo.org)**

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Traffic diagrams: Colorado Department of Transportation

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About the cover: BikeAthens cyclists travel through downtown Athens, near the University of Georgia.  
 Photo: Wendy Giminski, Research Media.



Lance Armstrong, 2004 Tour de Georgia champion, with the winner's trophy. Spectators have enjoyed watching the top professional racers from around the world compete in this multi-day stage race.

TOUR DE GEORGIA



## Introduction

### Georgia is a great place for cycling.

Like other southern states, it has a moderate climate that makes cycling an attractive option for both recreation and transportation all year-round. Georgia is also unique in its varied terrain. Cycling in the mountains of northern Georgia presents different challenges than the flat coastal regions to the south. This guide covers a wide range of situations and conditions you'll likely encounter while cycling here. It also stresses the importance of taking safety precautions and following the rules of the road.

Cycling provides many benefits to both individuals and communities around the state. In addition to exercise and better health, using bicycles for errands and commuting helps to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Those who commute by bicycle to work or school also benefit from reduced costs for parking, automobile maintenance, and insurance.

Spectators and participants visiting Georgia for cycling events are generating significant contributions to local economies all over the state. The Bicycle Ride Across Georgia (BRAG), one of the larger cross-state tours in the country, consistently draws about 2,000 riders each summer. The Tour de Georgia multi-day stage race has drawn a strong field of the top professional racers from around the world. A wide range of recreational rides and tours, many benefiting charities, are held throughout Georgia from early spring through the autumn months each year. Road riding and mountain biking organizations are active across the state,



Photo: Miles McClelland, BRAG

and you will find contact information for these groups in this guide.

The Georgia Department of Transportation and local jurisdictions are working hard to improve cycling conditions in all parts of the state. With the help of transportation planners and input from cycling advocates, many roads and facilities are being built or upgraded to better accommodate bicycles. These improvements will make it easier for cyclists and motorists to safely share the road.

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced rider, this guide provides an overview of how you can ride more safely and effectively. In addition to equipment and riding techniques, there are references throughout to Georgia traffic law and how it applies to cyclists.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to keeping our roads safe for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. By incorporating the safe cycling practices covered within, cyclists can build better relationships with motorists and make Georgia's roads safer and more enjoyable for everyone.