In the past, people on bicycles were required to follow the same rules as motorists when approaching an intersection with a stop sign or flashing red light. They had to come to a full stop, even if there was no cross traffic.

Starting in 2020, a person riding a bicycle may treat a stop sign or flashing red light as a yield sign. Staying efficient, while staying safe – it’s another way Oregonians stand out!

Today, under Oregon’s new Stop as Yield law, riders are allowed to slow to a safe speed, check for cross traffic and proceed without stopping. It’s more efficient for riders and all the rules of right of way still apply.

On wheels or on foot, whatever the mode, let’s all look out for each other!

Ride, Drive & Walk Safely. The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety – ODOT

Introducing Oregon’s New Law for People on Bicycles

Improving the efficiency of traffic flow at intersections while keeping an eye out for each other.
The Law of Physics
The Stop as Yield law helps riders stay upright and in motion at intersections. Unlike driving, people riding bicycles must use their muscle power to get started again, which can be difficult after a complete stop. With the new law, they can now maintain some momentum, keep their balance, and carefully move through intersections efficiently, keeping traffic moving for everyone.

Common Sense Rules
We all need to look out for each other. Because people on bicycles are naturally more vulnerable than motorists – with only their helmet to protect them – it’s up to all of us to pay extra attention at intersections.

What the Law Says
A person riding a bicycle who is approaching an intersection where traffic is controlled by a stop sign or a flashing red light may, without violating the law (ORS 811.265), do any of the following without stopping if the person slows the bicycle to a safe speed and yields to other traffic:

(a) Proceed through the intersection.
(b) Make a right or left turn onto a two-way street.
(c) Make a right or left turn onto a one-way street in the direction of traffic upon the one-way street.

What Hasn’t Changed
Riders are still required to come to a stop and remain stopped at a steady red light. Failure to do so can result in a $65-250 ticket – or much worse.

When riding, we must...
- Slow to a safe speed for conditions, allowing enough time to stop if needed.
- Yield the right of way to traffic approaching or already within the intersection.
- Follow the directions of any road work flaggers and/or law enforcement officers.
- Yield to pedestrians crossing the road.
- Do what we can to stay visible and predictable!

While driving, we must...
- Always watch for bicyclists, especially at intersections.
- Yield the right of way to riders before turning.
- Allow plenty of space around riders while passing them.
- Avoid distractions and other impairments when behind the wheel.