

What are the leading causes of pedestrian and bicycle crashes in your community?

If you don't know, then how do you know which laws to enforce to keep pedestrians and bicyclists safe?

Where does law enforcement fit in to pedestrian and bicycle safety?

The Highway Safety Triangle

The three key components of highway safety are Engineering, Education and Enforcement. Together they are often referred to as the Highway Safety Triangle, or the "3E's." While all three "E's" are important individually, no one component has the ability to completely solve pedestrian and/or bicycle safety problems. The most effective safety strategies draw on all three E's to come up with a long-lasting solution to a problem. Law enforcement is a key component of the Highway Safety Triangle.



"Crashes" are Not "Accidents"

Pedestrian and bicycle crashes are not "accidents" – they are **predictable** and **preventable**.

More than 80% of pedestrian and bicycle crashes with motor vehicles involve the following violations (NYS Legislature Vehicle and Traffic Law website):

Motorists

- Failure to stop at stop sign
VTL section 1172(a)
- Failure to obey traffic control signal
VTL section 1111
- Failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrian (in crosswalk)
VTL section 1151(a) - uncontrolled intersection
- Passing vehicle stopped for pedestrians
VTL section 1151(c)
- Failure to stop at sidewalks
VTL section 1151-A
- Failure to stop - school bus stop-signal/flashing red lights
VTL section 1174
- Failure to pass bicycle at safe distance
VTL section 1122-A
- Improper turning
VTL section 1163(a)
- Failure to exercise due care - bicyclist/pedestrian
VTL section 1146
- Speed
VTL section 1180
- DWI
VTL section 1192

Bicyclists

- Riding facing traffic
VTL section 1234(a)
- Failure to stop at stop signs
VTL section 1172

- Failure to obey traffic control signal
VTL section 1111
- Sudden entry into roadway
VTL section 1234(c)
- Failure to yield right-of-way to vehicle - non-crosswalk
VTL section 1143
- Improper turning
VTL section 1163(a)
- Failure to signal
VTL section 1163(b)
- Required lights and reflectors (on-road, sidewalks)
VTL section 1236(a)

Pedestrians

- Failure to yield right-of-way to vehicle – Non-intersection
VTL section 1152(a) or crosswalk
- Sudden entry into roadway
VTL section 1151(b)
- Walking on roadway with traffic
VTL section 1156
- Crossing against red light
VTL section 1111(d)4.
- Failure to obey pedestrian control signals
VTL section 1112

Training is the Key:

Officers don't enforce laws that they do not know and they do not enforce laws that they cannot defend.

See back panel for additional bicycle & pedestrian safety training and resources.

Rising gas prices, a shaky economy, a fitness craze and the “green” movement along with new and improved sidewalks, paths and bike lanes have more people walking and bicycling for both recreation and transportation. Unfortunately, this increase in popularity can mean more crashes – if we continue to do business as usual. As a law enforcement officer, **you** are the only one who can enforce laws (for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians) which can stop crashes before they happen. Bicycles are “vehicles.” [VTL section 1231] Pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles are all “traffic.” [VTL section 152]



Photo courtesy WE BIKE, etc.

Training and Resources

Capital District Transportation Committee

(www.capitalcoexist.org)

Enforcement for Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Course

Contact: Jason Purvis

Senior Transportation Planner

Capital District Transportation Committee

One Park Place

Albany, NY 12205

(518) 458-2161

jpurvis@cdtcmpo.org

New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services

(www.criminaljustice.ny.gov)

New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

(<http://www.safeny.ny.gov>)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

(www.nhtsa.gov)

Enforcing Laws for Bicycle Safety (roll call video)

Enforcing Laws for Pedestrian Safety (roll call video)

Enhancing Bicycle Safety: Law Enforcement's Role (CD-ROM)

Community Bicycle Safety for Law Enforcement (classroom instruction)

International Police Mountain Biking Association

(www.ipmba.org)

Police Cyclist Course

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

(www.pedbikeinfo.org)

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**ENFORCEMENT FOR
PEDESTRIAN &
BICYCLE SAFETY:**

**ARE YOU
PREPARED?**

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