

TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE REPORT



INITIAL REQUEST – NORTHEAST ARKANSAS BICYCLE COALITION

- Install “May Use Full Lane” signs on Matthews Medical Mile (From Main Street to the Marion Berry Parkway) and on the Loop Road and Access arterials in Craighead Forest Park.

ARKANSAS LAW – UNIFORM VEHICLE CODE

- ARKANSAS LAW DOES NOT DEFINE A BICYCLE AS A VEHICLE BUT, **A.C.A. § 27-49-111** CONTAINS LANGUAGE FROM THE UNIFORM VEHICLE CODE WHICH READS, “EVERY PERSON RIDING A BICYCLE OR AN ANIMAL, OR DRIVING ANY ANIMAL DRAWING A VEHICLE UPON A HIGHWAY, SHALL HAVE ALL THE RIGHTS AND ALL OF THE DUTIES APPLICABLE TO THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE, EXCEPT THOSE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT WHICH BY THEIR NATURE CAN HAVE NO APPLICABILITY”
- FORTY-TWO OF FIFTY STATES REQUIRES RIDING AS FAR TO THE RIGHT AS PRACTICABLE

TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE DECISION

- Not To Install “May Use Full Lane” on Matthews Medical or Craighead Forest Loop
 - I. The bicycle community is split on if the sign is a benefit or a hazard.
 - “Would have the unintended consequences of further endangering cyclists taking advantage of full lane usage – due to the fact that motorists would not be familiar with sharing the full road with them. The ensuing confusion could prove fatal to cyclists and or motorist.
 - “Would likely cause motorist and the general public to become more resentful of, and hostile towards, road cyclists.
 - II. Considering the lack of guidance in Arkansas Law, initial efforts should be focused on a Model Where to Ride Ordinance

TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE – RECOMMENDED NEXT STEP

- Draft a Where to Ride Ordinance modeled after The League of American Bicyclists
- Hold Public Meetings to discuss and critique the Ordinance

ARKANSAS LAW – RIDING AT NIGHT

When riding at night, Arkansas law (**A.C.A. § 27-36-220**) requires that you have a white headlight on the front of your bike, and a red tail light on the rear – both visible from at least 500 feet away. You may substitute a red reflector on the rear provided that it is still visible from at least 500 feet away when illuminated. The white and red reflectors that come on your bike from the sporting goods store or bike shop are insufficient; state law requires that you have active lighting systems when riding at night (reflectors are passive.)

ARKANSAS LAW – OVERTAKING A BICYCLE

27-51-311. Overtaking a bicycle.

(a) The driver of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction on a roadway shall exercise due care and pass to the left at a safe distance of not less than three feet (3') and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken bicycle.

(b) (1) A person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100).

(2) A person who violates this section with the violation resulting in a collision causing death or serious physical injury to the person operating the overtaken bicycle shall be subject to a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in addition to any other penalties prescribed by law.