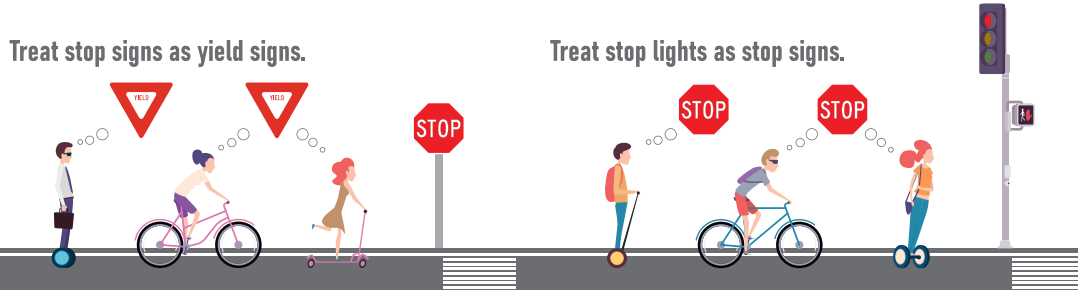


Colorado “Safety Stop” law: what is it and why is it important?

Earlier this year, Governor Polis signed into law the “Safety Stop” bill, which makes it legal for cyclists (and low-speed conveyances) to treat stop signs like yield signs and proceed through intersections after slowing to check traffic.

What is the Safety Stop?

The Safety Stop creates a safer way for people on bikes and other “low-speed conveyances” (e.g. scooters) to cross at intersections when they have the right of way. The maneuver allows people riding these vehicles to:



The Safety Stop does not impact the current right-of-way whatsoever. People on bicycles and low-speed conveyances can proceed straight, right, or left at a reasonable speed of no more than 15 miles per hour only when the coast is clear.

What is a low-speed conveyance?

Simply put, low-speed conveyances are small profile, low-speed vehicles that people use for transportation and recreation. This includes, but is not limited to:

Bicycles and electric bicycles



Electric scooters (not including mopeds)



Wheelchairs



HB22-1028 will define “low-speed conveyance” formally in statute.

Why is this important?

Intersections are by far the most dangerous locations for bicyclists, in Colorado and elsewhere. The most recent data we have from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), which is comprehensive for the state from 2017-2019, indicates that in that time frame **72.2%** of reported crashes between bicyclists and drivers took place at intersections or were “intersection related.” When bicyclists are able to get out of the intersection and away from that conflict zone before a potential crash can even occur their safety improves.

The Safety Stop is safer for bicyclists and motorists alike. Research shows that the Safety Stop:



Reduces interactions between motorists and bicyclists in intersections.



Increases the visibility of bicyclists in the intersection.



Reduces crashes in intersections.



Reduces the number of bicyclist-only injuries associated with starting and stopping on a bicycle.

A good resource for more information about the new law and additional rules of the road for cyclists and motorists is Bicycle Colorado. Visit bicyclecolorado.org/ride-colorado/rules-of-the-road.