

**Topic:** Healthy Communities; Complete Streets  
**Resource Type:** Regulations  
**State:** Pennsylvania  
**Jurisdiction Type:** Municipal  
**Municipality:** City of Philadelphia  
**Year (adopted, written, etc.):** 2012  
**Community Type – applicable to:** Urban  
**Title:** Bill NO. 120532  
**Document Last Updated in Database:** June 25, 2018

### ***Abstract***

This Ordinance amended Title 12 of The Philadelphia Code, the “Traffic Code,” providing for the manner in which bicyclists may operate bicycles in the streets, and by prohibiting motor vehicles from obstructing or creating hazards in bicycle lanes. This Ordinance also amends Title 11 of the Philadelphia Code, the “streets” section, providing for the establishment and implementation of a Complete Streets Policy.

### ***Resource***



## **City of Philadelphia**

**BILL NO. 120532**

**Introduced May 31, 2012**

**Councilmembers Squilla, Johnson, Reynolds Brown and Kenney**

**Referred to the Committee on Streets and Services**

### **AN ORDINANCE**

Amending Title 12 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Traffic Code,” by providing for the manner in which bicyclists may operate bicycles in the streets, and by prohibiting motor vehicles from obstructing or creating certain hazards in bicycle lanes, and further, amending Title 11 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Streets,” to provide for the establishment and implementation of a Complete Streets Policy, all under certain terms and conditions.

*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:*

SECTION 1. Title 12 of The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended to read as follows: TITLE 12. TRAFFIC CODE.

CHAPTER 12-100. GENERAL PROVISIONS. \*\* \*

§ 12-102. Definitions.

In this Title the following definitions apply:

( ) *Bicycle Lane. The portion of a street reserved for primarily bicycle travel.*

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CHAPTER 12-800. BICYCLE REGULATIONS AND PENALTIES.

City Council  
Chief Clerk's Office 402 City Hall Philadelphia, PA 19107

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§ 12-904. Loading and Unloading.

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§ 12-802. Obedience to Traffic-Control Devices.

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*(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 12-811 of this Chapter, the penalty for failure to obey a traffic-control signal illuminated with a steady red light shall be a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100), together with the costs of prosecution. The amount required to be remitted in response to a notice of violation, pursuant to Section 1- 112, shall be twenty dollars (\$20).*

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§ 12-804. Riding on Roadways and Bicycle Paths.

(1) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride [other than single file] *more than two abreast* except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. *Persons riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. lane.*

(2) [Whenever a useable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.]

\*\* \*

## CHAPTER 12-900. PARKING REGULATIONS AND PENALTIES.

*(4) Opening and closing vehicle doors. No person shall open the door of a vehicle on the side available to vehicular traffic unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so, and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, including bicycles, nor shall any person leave a door open on the side of a vehicle available to vehicular traffic, including bicycles, for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.*

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## § 12-913. Prohibitions in Specified Places.

(1) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to protect the safety of any person or vehicle or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or official traffic-control device, no person shall:

(a) Stop, stand or park a vehicle: \*\* \*

*(xi) within a designated bicycle lane.*

\*\* \*

SECTION 2. The provisions of Section 12-102 shall be renumbered to reflect the addition of a definition.

SECTION 3. Title 11 of The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended to read as follows: TITLE 11. STREETS.

\*\* \*

*CHAPTER 11-900. COMPLETE STREETS.*

*§11-901. Complete Streets Policy. All City departments and agencies shall, in connection with all transportation and development projects:*

- (1) Give full consideration to accommodation of the safety and convenience of all users of the transportation system, be they pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users or motor vehicle drivers;*
- (2) Balance the needs of all users in planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation; and*
- (3) Prioritize the safety of those traveling in the public right-of-way, and in particular the safety of children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Such efforts shall be known as the City's "Complete Streets Policy."*

*§11-902. Implementation of Complete Streets. All departments shall make the Complete Streets Policy an integral part of their planning and programming wherever practicable.*

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*Examples of how the Complete Streets Policy may be implemented include, but are not limited to:*

*(1) Use of good geometric design and features such as median refuges and curb extensions (bumpouts) in connection with streetscape design, in order to minimize crossing distances and increase visibility between pedestrians and motorists;*

- 2. (2) Timing of traffic signals to minimize pedestrian delay & conflicts;*
- 3. (3) Discouraging limited pull-off lanes, driveways and obstructions that*

*narrow sidewalks to the detriment of a comfortable pedestrian environment;*

*(4) Promotion of an expanded and improved bicycle network, including bike lanes, off-road trails and bicycle parking at automobile parking facilities;*

*(5) Reviewing motor vehicle traffic lanes to determine whether additional space for other lower-impact uses could be reasonably accommodated;*

*(6) Improving the rights-of-way in compliance with ADA accessibility guidelines; and*

*(7) Addressing the needs of bicycles, pedestrians, and public transit, as well as automobiles, when authorizing street and sidewalk closures for construction projects.*

*§ 11-903. Annual Reporting. The Department of Streets shall prepare an annual report on the implementation of the Complete Streets policy. Annual reports shall include, but are not limited to, specific objectives set for the realization of Complete Streets, steps taken and progress toward the realization of such objectives, the safety impact of the Complete Streets policy, and the fiscal impact of implementing the Complete Streets policy. The Department shall file this report with the President and Chief Clerk of Council before January 31 of each year, beginning in the year 2013.*

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon becoming law.

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**Explanation:**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted. *Italics* indicate new matter added.

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*City of Philadelphia*