



**LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION NEWS RELEASE**  
**May 18, 2026**

**May is Bicycle Safety Month**  
**Bicycle safety “is a shared responsibility”**

**May 18, 2026** – In 2024, 44 bicyclists were killed on Louisiana roads, tying a tragic record set just two years earlier and serving as a stark reminder of the importance of bicycle safety for all road users.

May is Bicycle Safety Month, a great time for motor vehicle drivers and bicyclists to review rules of the road, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission Executive Director Lisa Freeman said.

“It is a shared responsibility, and whether you are pedaling a bike through your neighborhood or driving a large SUV, there are rules that everyone must follow,” Freeman said.

Bicyclists generally have the same right to use the road as any car, truck, van, or SUV, but Louisiana law does apply a few regulations, including:

- Bicyclists must ride “as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable.”
- Bicyclists “shall not ride more than two abreast” except on paths in designated bicycle lanes.
- Bicyclists are allowed to ride on the shoulder of a road.
- All children under the age of 12 must wear a bicycle helmet.

Bicycle usage — and fatalities — rose sharply among adults during the pandemic, and the trend has continued through 2024. Of the 192 bicycle fatalities from 2020-2024, 58% were between the ages of 45 and 74, according to data from the Center for Analytics and Research in Transportation Safety at LSU.

The statistics point to the need for bicyclists to protect themselves when they are riding around motor vehicles, Freeman said.

“Sometimes, it's hard for a motor vehicle driver to see a bike on the road because bikes are much smaller,” Freeman said. “Wear light, reflective clothing, and make sure you have plenty of reflectors on your bike. Always wear a helmet, and don’t do anything on your bike that would distract you from safely operating that bike.”

Drivers should maintain a safe distance from bicyclists that are ahead of them, and pass them only when it is safe, Freeman said.

For more information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration about bicycle safety in English, [click here](#). En Español, [aquí](#).

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