

Bill No. 3652

Ordinance No. _____

Requested by: Joe Brazil

Sponsored by: Joe Brazil

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
INFORMATIONAL ROUTES ON ST. CHARLES
COUNTY ROADS FOR CYCLISTS, AND
REGULATIONS CONCERNING BICYCLE SAFETY
EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the St. Charles County Council desires to educate both cyclists and motorists about roadway safety and to make information about bicycle safety and regulations available to the public; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Charter of St. Charles County, Article II, §2.529 the Council is empowered to “(e)xercise legislative power pertaining to public health and welfare, Police and traffic, building construction, and planning and zoning, in the part of the County outside incorporated Cities, Towns, and Villages, and on such other subjects as may be authorized by the Constitution or by applicable law; and

WHEREAS, after much discussion of the issue of bicycle and vehicle safety, the County Council finds that the public health and welfare would be benefitted by the establishment of an informational program available to cyclists concerning the characteristics of County roads and the adoption of requirements for certain safety equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The County of St. Charles hereby establishes the bicycle education and map program within the County Highway Department to apprise cyclists of certain characteristics of highways and roads in the unincorporated portion of St. Charles County. The designations and educational materials resulting from this ordinance are in no manner a recommendation that cyclists should ride these highways and roads nor are they intended to assure any cyclist of safety in riding the highways and roads.

Section 2. Definitions.

GREEN roads Highways and roads where the speed limits are under 50 miles an hour and heavy commercial weekday traffic, or farm implement traffic, is not expected to be present on a regular basis. Green roads may still have limited site distance, may lack shoulders or have intermittent or gravel shoulders.

ORANGE Roads Highways and roads where the speed limits are 50 miles an hour or more. Orange Roads are expected to have heavy commercial traffic and or regular farm implement traffic. Site distance will be generally better than highways or roads designated as Red but may have intermittent or seasonal (e.g., crops) site distance problems.

RED Roads Highways and roads where the speed limits are 50 miles an hour or more. Red roads chronically have limited site distance (hills, crops). Red roads will not have shoulders, or if there are shoulders they are gravel. Cyclists should expect that Red roads will have heavy commercial weekday traffic and/or farm implement traffic.

Section 3. The Highway Department shall develop and post signage, and print and distribute maps through various means, such as the County website and to various organizations such as those whose mission includes trails, parks and promotion of active living, to reflect the above bicycle route information.

Section 4. All cyclists riding their bicycles on red or orange roads in the unincorporated part of St. Charles County shall:

1. Be equipped with a mirror that allows them a view of the road behind them;
2. Equip their bicycle with a the following lights and/or reflectors as follows:

(A) Every bicycle when in use from sunset to sunrise or when there is not sufficient light to render discernible any person on the highway or street at a distance of four hundred (400) feet ahead, shall be equipped with the following:
(1) A lamp mounted on the front of either the bicycle or the operator that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet to the front

and 300 feet to the sides. A generator powered lamp, which emits light only when the bicycle is moving, may be used to meet this requirement;

(2) A red reflector on the rear of a type that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle;

(3) A light emitting either flashing or steady red light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the reflector. If the red light performs as a reflector such that it is visible as specified in (2) above, it shall satisfy the requirement for a reflector.

(B) Additional lights and reflectors may be used in addition to those required under part (A) above except that red lights and reflectors shall not be used on the front of the bicycle nor shall white or colorless lights or reflectors be used on the rear of the bicycle.

Section 5. Cyclists shall obey all traffic regulations unless otherwise set out in this ordinance or unless cycling in a permitted event as set forth in County ordinance. Failure to obey traffic laws and equipment requirements shall be punishable in the same manner as failures of motor vehicles.

Section 6. Penalties. A violation of any provision of Sections 4 and 5 above of this ordinance is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Section 7. Enforcement and Prosecution. Enforcement of this ordinance shall be the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department and prosecution may be by the Prosecuting Attorney or the County Counselor.

Section 8. Publication of Ordinance. Following passage and approval, this ordinance shall be published at least once in a legal publication or in a newspaper of general circulation in St. Charles County and posted in six (6) public places within St. Charles County.

Section 9. Responsibility for Publication. The County Registrar shall be responsible for publishing this ordinance in accordance with Section 8 of this ordinance. Payment to any publication or newspaper publishing this ordinance shall be from the appropriate line item.

Section 10. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage and approval, however any penalty provisions shall be effective on the thirty-first (31st) day after publication of this ordinance.

DATE PASSED

DATE APPROVED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL