

Bicycle and Pedestrian Laws
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By the end of the session, participants will be able to:


1. Discuss the importance of pedestrian and bicycle laws;
2. Identify laws applicable to regulation of pedestrians and bicycles; and
3. Explain administrative implications of pedestrian and bicycle laws.



**PART ONE:
WHY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE
LAWS HAVE BECOME
INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT.**

A. It's Recreation: WALKING

Why are People Walking?



- 27% - Exercise & Health
- 15.3% - Recreation

National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors (NHTSA 2002)

A. It's Recreation: RUNNING

- More than Half a Million Americans Ran a Marathon in 2010 (KSBW)
- There are 75 Million Runner in the USA
- Annually Americans Spend 17 BILLION dollars on Running Shoes (NSGA)



A. It's Recreation: BIKING



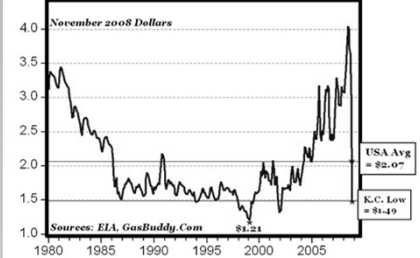
Austin Texas November 4, 2011

- 19,827,885 New Bicycles were Purchased in the USA in 2010 (U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
- 2/3 of Bike Purchases are for Adults
- 40 Million Americans Ride Bikes Every Month
- 1/3 of All Americans Ride a Bike at least Once a Year

B. It's the Economy

Transportation Costs are Up

Real Price of Gas, Jan. 1980 to Nov. 2008



B. It's the Economy: Transportation Costs are Up

Your monthly gasoline bill: \$368

ESTIMATED MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD COST FOR RETAIL GAS IN APRIL

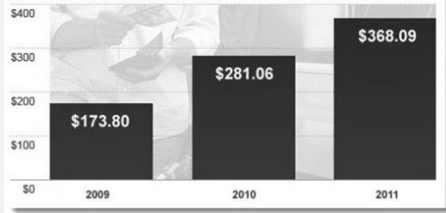
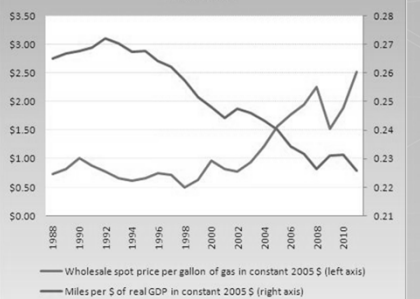


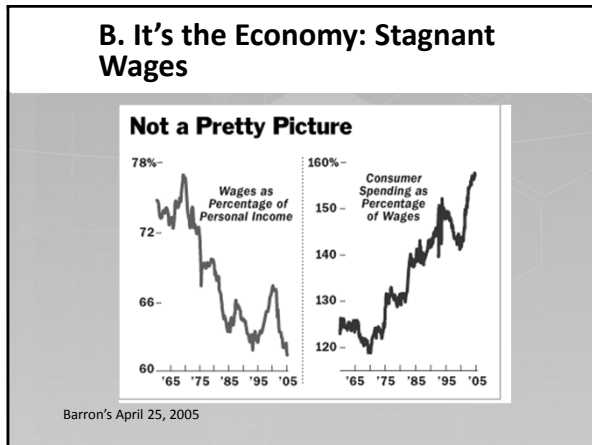
Chart: Monthly gasoline bill for month of April in 2009, 2010, & 2011 | Source: CNN Money

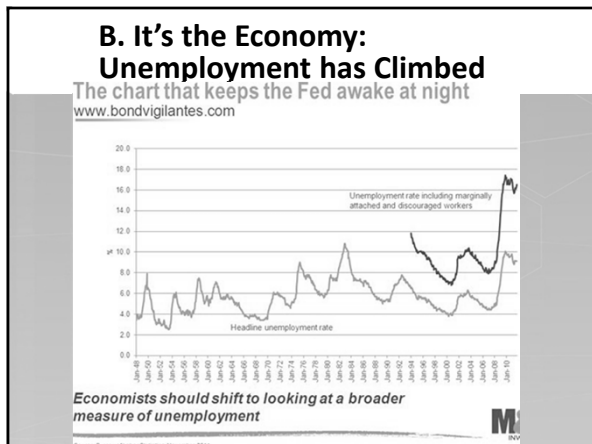
B. It's the Economy: Transportation Costs are Up

Price of Gas and Driving Efficiency in the US,
1988-2011









B. It's the Economy: Unemployment has Climbed

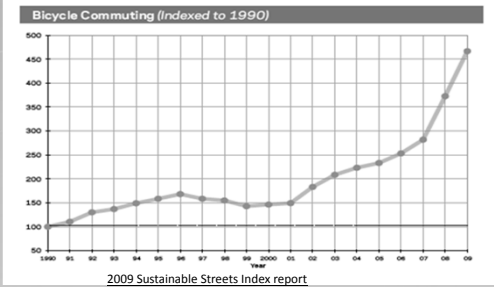


C. Walking and Biking are Means of Transportation

The Average Texans Notion of Public Transportation....



126% increase in people using bicycles to commute.



NHTSA (2002) – Why Walk?

Reasons for Walking	Percent
Exercise/Health	27.0
Personal Errands	17.3
Recreation	15.3
To go home	10.2
Visit a friend or relative	8.8
School/work	5.1
Walk the dog	4.0
Other	12.3

C. Walking and Biking are Means of Transportation: FREE?



“Granted, you are free to walk down the sidewalk or ride down a street on a bicycle without license, insurance, or registration. Don’t think, however, that you are free to do whatever you want while walking or biking. That’s a great way to get arrested.”

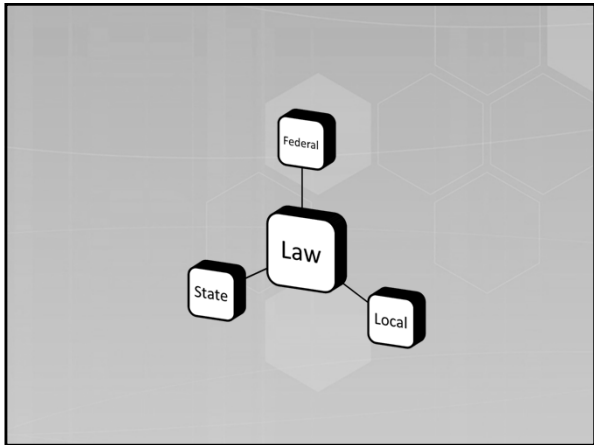
C. Walking and Biking are Means of Transportation: EQUAL?




**SAME ROADS
SAME RULES
SAME RIGHTS**


REALLY?

**PART TWO:
WHAT LAWS ARE APPLICABLE
TO PEDESTRIANS AND
BICYCLES?**



A. Federal Law

- 1. The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (49 USC 301)
- 2. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (49 CFR 571)
- USDOT Federal Highway and Pedestrian Program Guidance (“Complete Streets”)



B. State Law

- Operation of Bicycles, Mopeds, and Play Vehicles (Chapter 551 of the Transportation Code)
- Pedestrians (Chapter 552 of the Transportation Code)

You make the call



A person may not use a bicycle to carry more persons than the bicycle is designed or equipped to carry. 551.102(b), Trans. Code

You make the Call



May not carry an Object that prevents having at least one hand on the handlebars Sec. 551.102(c) Trans. Code

You make the Call



A person operating a bicycle shall ride only on or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle Sec. 551.102 (a), Trans. Code

C. Local Law

A. County Regulations


B. Municipal Ordinances

MUNICIPALITIES and HELMETS

- Arlington, Austin, Fort Worth and Houston (under 18 y/o)
- Benbrook (under 17y/o)
- Bedford (under 16 y/o)
- Coppell and Southlake (under 15 y/o)
- Dallas requires all persons, regardless of age, to wear a bicycle helmet.



Houston Ordinance (Section 45-311)



This ordinance required all bicycles to be registered. Owners of non registered bicycles could be ticketed and fined \$5.

BIKE BAN



“requires groups of 10 or more to apply for a rally permit.”

● Bartonville Code of City Ordinances 484-09

**PART THREE:
WHAT ARE THE ADMINISTRATIVE
IMPLICATIONS OF PEDESTRIANS
AND BICYCLE LAWS?**

Common Issues:

- What are the fines for pedestrian & bike offenses?
- Are defendants charged with pedestrian offenses eligible for any form of probation?
- What are the court costs for pedestrian & bike offenses?
- Are such offenses reported to DPS?

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