



Approved:  
*Chief Marcia Harnden*

Subject:

# 282. Bicycle Patrol

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## 282.1: PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the safe use of bicycles as an effective tool for conducting special operations and increasing officer visibility in congested areas.

## 282.2: POLICY

It is the policy of the Albany Police Department (APD) to use patrol bicycles for patrol duty, traffic enforcement, parking control, or special events in a way which emphasizes their mobility and visibility to the community.

APD equips and maintains a fleet of bicycles to be utilized:

- a. In the patrol areas where use of conventional patrol vehicles is not practical or suitable.
- b. In any instance where APD deems the use of bicycle patrol would better serve the needs of the public.
- c. Bicycle patrols should not be used in adverse weather conditions.

## 282.3: SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

- a. The Community Resource Unit (CRU) Sergeant who supervises the School Resource Unit will be in charge of bicycle patrols, and will be responsible for the following:
  - 1) Organizing bicycle patrol training through the Training Unit;
  - 2) Inspecting and maintaining inventory of patrol bicycles and program equipment;
  - 3) Scheduling maintenance and repairs;
  - 4) Coordinating bicycle patrol activities;
  - 5) Other activities as required to maintain efficient bicycle patrols.

- b. Certified bicycle officers should receive bicycle training. Officers interested in participating in bicycle patrol shall apply during an open process for selection and be evaluated by the following criteria:
  - 1) Recognized competence and ability as evidenced by performance;
  - 2) Special skills or training as they pertain to the assignment;
  - 3) Good physical condition;
  - 4) Willingness to perform duties using the bicycle as a mode of transportation.
- c. Final selection of bicycle patrol officers will be based upon recommendations by the CRU supervisor and made by the Support Division Captain.

#### 282.4: TRAINING

- a. Bicycle patrol officers must complete an initial department-approved bicycle training course after acceptance into the program or assignment.
- b. The initial training shall minimally include the following:
  - 1) Bicycle patrol strategies;
  - 2) Bicycle safety and crash prevention;
  - 3) Operational tactics using bicycles.
  - 4) Basic bicycle maintenance and care.
- c. Bicycle patrol officers will be required to qualify with their duty firearms while wearing bicycle safety equipment including helmet and riding gloves.
- d. Bicycle patrol officers should receive annual in-service training to improve skills and refresh safety, health, and operational procedures.

#### 282.5: UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- a. The bicycle patrol uniform consists of the standard short-sleeve uniform shirt or other department-approved shirt with department badge and patches, and department-approved bicycle patrol pants or shorts. Jackets may be worn, and turtlenecks are permitted when worn under the uniform shirt.
- b. Officers shall wear the department-approved uniform and safety equipment while operating the department bicycle. Safety equipment includes department-approved helmet, riding gloves, protective eyewear, and approved footwear.

- c. Bicycle patrol officers shall carry the same equipment on the bicycle patrol duty belt or external vest as they would on a regular patrol assignment and shall obtain necessary forms and other department equipment needed while on bicycle patrol.

#### 282.6: PATROL BICYCLE EQUIPMENT

- a. Patrol bicycles shall be equipped with front and rear reflectors, front lights, and a horn to satisfy the requirements of [ORS 815.280\(2\)](#).
- b. Bicycles utilized for uniformed bicycle patrol shall be equipped with a rear rack and/or saddlebag(s) sufficient to carry all necessary equipment to handle routine patrol calls.
- c. Each bicycle gear bag shall include a first aid kit, tire pump, repair tool, tire tube, and emergency roadside repair equipment.
- d. Each patrol bicycle shall be equipped with a flashing blue warning light that is visible from the front, sides, or rear of the bicycle, and a siren meeting the requirements set forth in the Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules in order to qualify as an emergency vehicle and exempt operators from the rules of the road.

#### 282.7: CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF PATROL BICYCLES

- a. Bicycle officers shall conduct an inspection of the bicycle and equipment prior to use to insure proper working order of the equipment. Officers are responsible for the routine care and maintenance of their assigned equipment (e.g., tire pressure, chain lubrication, overall cleaning).
- b. If a needed repair is beyond the ability of the bicycle officer, a repair work order will be completed and forwarded to the program supervisor for repair by an approved technician.
- c. Each bicycle will have scheduled maintenance twice yearly to be performed by a department-approved repair shop/technician.
- d. At the end of a bicycle assignment, the bicycle shall be returned clean and ready for the next tour of duty.
- e. Patrol bicycle batteries shall be rotated on the assigned charger at the end of each tour of duty and activate the charging timer.
- f. Except in the event of an emergency, officers shall not remove or add components or modify the patrol bicycle without the expressed approval of a supervisor.
- g. Vehicle bicycle racks are available should the officer need to transport the patrol bicycle. Due to possible component damage, transportation of the patrol bicycle in a vehicle trunk is discouraged.
- h. Except when emergency circumstances preclude doing so, patrol bicycles should be properly secured when not in the officer's immediate presence.

**282.8: OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY**

Officers must operate the bicycle in compliance with applicable codes under normal operation. Officers may operate the bicycle without lighting equipment during hours of darkness when such operation reasonably appears necessary for officer safety and/or tactical considerations. Officers must use caution and care when operating the bicycle without lighting equipment.

All bicycle operations shall be in compliance with the rules of the road except when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator. An emergency response or pursuit shall be conducted with due regard and caution for the safety of all persons.