

## Eau Claire Transit Bikes on Buses

The City bus system operates routes Monday through Saturday in the City of Eau Claire. Each bus has a rack on the front capable of holding two bicycles. Traveling with your bike on the bus is included in your fare and provides winter bicyclists a warm ride option.

### What Kind of Bikes are Allowed to be Stowed on Bus Bike Racks?

Conventional, single seat, two-wheeled bikes are allowed. Tandem, recumbent, three-wheeled or motor-driven bikes are not allowed. Both wheels must fit into the bike rack wheel slots, and the support arm/hook must fit over the top of the bike wheel.

### Safety Tip

When you get off the bus, notify the driver that you'll be removing your bike from the rack. Once your bike is removed, move to the curb on the right side of the bus. Never ride out to the left in front of the bus.



*Websites for Winter Bicycling:*

**Icebike:** [www.icebike.org](http://www.icebike.org)

**Bike Winter:**  
[www.bikewinter.org/main.php](http://www.bikewinter.org/main.php)

**Minneapolis Winter Biking:**  
[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/winter-biking.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/winter-biking.asp)



## WINTER BICYCLING IN EAU CLAIRE



### TIPS FOR SAFE AND COMFORTABLE COLD-WEATHER BICYCLE RIDING

In Eau Claire, many bicyclists embrace the winter months by continuing to ride. To help with winter commuting, the trail network in Eau Claire is plowed and salted, so don't let the winter weather keep you from riding. If you are already biking or are considering winter biking, here are some tips for navigating the snow, cold temperatures, and motorists.



City of Eau Claire -  
Bicycle/Pedestrian  
Advisory Commission

## Quick Guide to Winter Biking

- Any bike can be ridden in winter, but a mountain bike or bicycle with studded tires helps with traction. Some bikers add fenders to block flying winter sludge and snow buildup on tires.
- It gets dark earlier and visibility can be bad even in daytime, so lights on the front and back are a must. Most states require them year-round after dark anyway.
- Skip the heavy, padded clothing. Use lighter layers, but don't overdo it; a little chill when you start out is just right. You'll warm up.
- Avoid moisture-absorbing fabrics such as cotton, especially for the layer closest to the skin; try so-called "wicking" fabrics (eg. Gore-Tex) that move sweat away from the skin.
- The top layers should be a material that keeps out water and wind.
- Hands and feet are most likely to get cold. Several pairs of gloves and socks are a good idea; so are shoes or boots that are warm without being clumsy.
- In extreme cold, leave no skin exposed. That means a ski mask and goggles. A helmet is a must; wipeouts are even more likely on wintry streets.

## WISCONSIN BICYCLE LAWS APPLICABLE TO WINTER RIDING

*[numbers in brackets refer to Wisconsin State Statutes]*

**Vehicular Status** - The bicycle is defined as a vehicle. [340.01(5)] The operator of a vehicle is granted the same rights and subject to the same duties as a driver of any other vehicle. [346.02(4)(a)]

**Lane Positioning** - Always ride on the right, in the same direction as other traffic. [346.80(2)(a)] Ride as far to the right as is safe and reasonable (not as far right as possible). [346.80(2)(a)] A few situations when it is not practicable to ride far to the right include:

- When overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction;

- When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or driveway;

- When reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions, including fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or substandard width lanes [defined as a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle and motor vehicle to travel safely side-by-side within the lane].

**Use of Shoulders** - Bicycles may be ridden on the shoulder of a highway unless prohibited by local authorities. [386.04(1 m)]

**Use of Sidewalks** - [346.94(1)] When bicycles are allowed to be operated on sidewalks, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and give an audible warning when passing pedestrians traveling in the same direction. [346.804]



## Winter Snow Removal

If you know of an area that is not cleared of snow in a timely manner, you can do something about it. Most facilities can reasonably be expected to be cleared within 48 hours. If you know an area that needs attention, contact:

**852-3152** for property owned by the Eau Claire Area School District

**839-4963** for property maintained by the City of Eau Claire

**839-2952** for property maintained by Eau Claire County (which includes most bridge decks and approaches)

**Passing** - A motorist passing a bicyclist in the same lane is required to give the bicyclist at least 3 feet of clearance and to maintain that clearance until safely past. [346.075] A bicyclist passing a stopped or moving vehicle is also required to give at least 3 feet of clearance when passing. [346.80(2)]

**Bicycling at Night** - Bicycling at night requires at least a white front headlight and a red rear reflector. A red or amber steady or flashing rear light may be used in addition to the required reflector. These are required no matter where you ride - street, path or sidewalk. [347.489(1)]