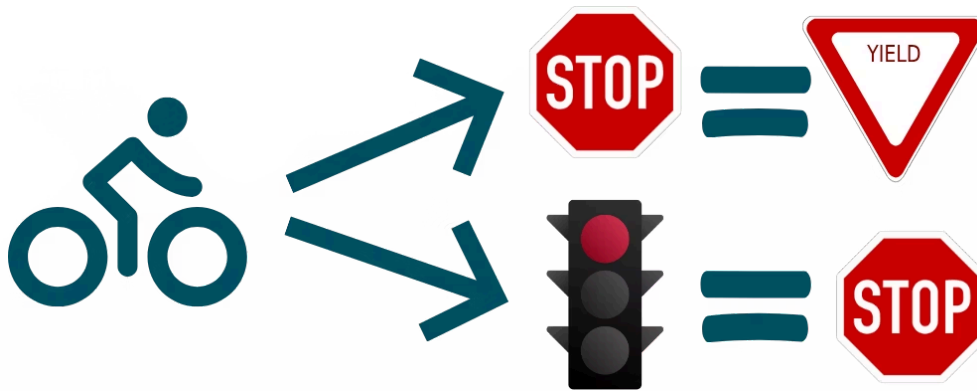


The Palmetto Stop

Understanding South Carolina's new Stop As Yield Bicycle Law



Signed into law in May 2026, South Carolina's new **Stop as Yield law**, otherwise known as the **Palmetto Stop**, updates South Carolina traffic law to better reflect how people on bicycles **already** safely move through intersections. **This policy is also commonly known as an "Idaho Stop" or the "Bicycle Safety Stop" as well.**



At Stop Signs

Allows a person riding a bicycle to **treat a stop sign as a yield sign**, slowing down *and yielding to any traffic* before continuing when safe to do so.

At Red Lights

Requires a person riding a bicycle to **come to a full stop at a red light**, but allows them to proceed when the intersection is clear and it is safe to do so.

14.5%

Decline in bicycle injuries

After Idaho **originally** adopted this policy in **1982**.

23%

Reduction in crashes & injuries

At stop sign intersections when **Delaware** became the second state to adopt a similar law in **2017**.

Since 2017, **13 States** have now adopted versions of Stop as Yield law.

Why Does This Improve Safety?



Intersections Are Most Dangerous for Bikes

Most crashes involving bicycles occur at intersections. Allowing people on bikes to move through intersections when safe to do so reduces the time they spend in the most dangerous part of the roadway.



Federal Research Supports The Palmetto Stop

USDOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has looked at Stop as Yield laws and recently documented proven safety benefits. NHTSA released a fact sheet in 2023 and a more detailed analysis in 2025 confirming these laws work to improve safety outcomes.



Signals Can't Detect Bicycles

Many traffic signals across SC rely on underground sensors that do not detect bicycles. Previous "dead red" law already allowed bicycles to proceed through a signal that fails to change after 120 seconds. The Palmetto Stop provides a clearer and safer approach for bicycles rather than waiting two minutes.



Momentum & Predictability

Bicycles operate differently than motor vehicles and rely on **momentum** as you pedal. Keeping a slow, safe momentum through a clear intersection is known to reduce exposure to traffic and makes movements more predictable for drivers!

Safety Comes First! A Palmetto Stop is only appropriate when it can be made safely. If you're unsure, always come to a complete stop.



Palmetto Walk Bike is South Carolina's statewide active transportation nonprofit, working with communities, transportation agencies, and policymakers to create safer streets and stronger communities for all.

Visit PalmettoWalkBike.com to learn more about the Palmetto Stop and our work.