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Overview

This bill addresses bicycles, modifying traffic regulations related to bicycles as well as MnDOT bicycle planning functions.

Article 1: Bicycle Traffic Regulations

Overview

This article contains various changes to traffic regulations relating to bicycles, including clarifications on passing bicycles and traffic law application to bicyclists operating on a shoulder.

Section

- 1 **Bikeway.** Centralizes bicycle-related definitions.
- 2 **Bicycle lane.** Establishes bicycle lanes as part of the roadway (that is, the main traveled portion of a road) and not a shoulder (the contiguous portion of the road that is not traveled upon).
- 3 **Bikeway.** Broadens a definition of “bikeway” for the chapter of statutes on traffic regulations.
- 4 **Passing.** Requires clearance when passing a bicycle of at least three feet or half of a vehicle’s width, whichever is greater, unless passing in a separate lane. (This has the effect of

Section

aligning the requirements with a 2017 provision on driving to the left side of a road when overtaking a bicyclist.) Makes technical changes, to modernize language.

- 5 **Traffic laws apply.** Clarifies that bicyclists operating in a shoulder have the same rights and duties as when operating on the road generally. Makes a technical change, to reproduce language on sidewalk and crosswalk operating authority that is being moved from another subdivision in the statute.
- 6 **Riding rules.** Permits bicyclists to proceed straight through an intersection from a right-hand turn lane, and allows the bicyclist to situate the bike anywhere in the lane (not only farthest to the right). Makes technical changes, including to remove language that is being moved to another subdivision in the statute.
- 7 **Revisor's instruction.** Makes a conforming change to centralize bicycle-related definitions.

Article 2: Bikeway Development

Overview

This article contains provisions on MnDOT's authority and requirements for bikeways, mainly relating to planning and coordination activities, as well as on broadening the use of funds under the active transportation program.

- 1 **Bikeways; powers and duties; design guidelines.** Provides specific authority to MnDOT to identify, plan, design, and assist in development of bikeways. Makes technical changes, to move language within the subdivision.
- 2 **Cooperation among agencies and governments.** Directs MnDOT to cooperate with road and trail authorities in bikeway identification, planning, design, and development.
- 3 **Connections with other bikeways.** Directs MnDOT to support developing links between the state bicycle route system and other bikeways.
- 4-5 Allows for funds from the active transportation program to go towards state bicycle routes as well as other state bicycle facilities (such as bicycle trails under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources).