

CITY OF TORONTO, OHIO

Ordinance 2026- 12

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE REGISTRATION AND OPERATION OF POWERED SCOOTERS, MOTOR BICYCLES, BICYCLES, AND ELECTRIC BICYCLES (E-BICYCLES) WITHIN THE CITY OF TORONTO, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, City of Toronto Council has determined that for the safety of individuals operating motorized vehicles, riding bicycles, and pedestrians walking upon and along roadways, street, and alleys within the geographic corporation limits of the of the City of Toronto, municipal regulation of the operation of electric bicycles, powered scooters, and similar motorized vehicles is necessary; and

WHEREAS, Toronto City Council has determined that it is necessary to amend the codified ordinances to promote orderly and safe operation of these vehicles on city streets, sidewalks, and shared-use paths; and

WHEREAS, these amendments define "electric bicycle" and "e-bicycle" and refine the definition of "motor vehicle" to exclude powered scooters and motorized vehicles under 5 horsepower that do not require a license; and

WHEREAS, Toronto code section 301.24 mirrors Ohio Revised Code section 4511.522 which governs the labeling and legal usage of class 1, class 2, and class 3 electric bicycles; and

WHEREAS, these amendments do not restrict motorized wheelchairs and electric personal assistive mobility devices as defined in Ohio Revised Code section 4511.513; and

WHEREAS, these amendments clarify rules and regulations for electric vehicles, vehicle operators, and pedestrians to better support safe and aware road, sidewalk, and shared-use path usage; and

WHEREAS, the city's law director, chief of police, mayor, and additional city staff have reviewed and recommended these changes for the health, safety, and welfare of the city.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by Council for the City of Toronto, County of Jefferson, and State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. BICYCLE, MOTORIZED BICYCLE, ELECTRIC BICYCLE.

- A. "Bicycle" means every device, other than a device that is designed solely for use as a play vehicle by a child, that is propelled solely by human power, upon which a person may

ride, and that has two (2) or more wheels, any of which is more than fourteen (14) inches in diameter.

- B. "Motorized bicycle" or "moped" means any vehicle having either two (2) tandem wheels or one (1) wheel in the front and two (2) wheels in the rear, that may be pedaled, and that is equipped with a helper motor of not more than fifty (50) cubic centimeters piston displacement that produces not more than one (1) brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of not greater than twenty (20) miles per hour on a level surface. "Motorized bicycle" or "moped" does not include an electric bicycle. (ORC 4511.01(H))
- C. "Electric bicycle" or "e-bicycle" means a bicycle that is equipped with an electric or battery-operated motor that may be activated in order to assist with or replace pedaling. An "electric bicycle" or "e-bicycle" may be propelled solely by human power, or with the assistance of an electric, or battery-operated motor. An "electric bicycle" or "e-bicycle" must have pedals and cannot have a motor that exceeds seven hundred fifty (750) watts. "Electric bicycles" or "e-bicycles" may be Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 as defined in ORC 4511.522.

SECTION 2: SIDEWALK.

"Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines or easements of private property, which are generally concrete and intended for the use of pedestrians or other permitted users. Pedestrians and other authorized users shall adhere to all posted rules and applicable laws, as well as remain alert to audible signals and alerts.

SECTION 3: VEHICLE.

"Vehicle" means every device, including a motorized bicycle, an electric bicycle, and powered scooter in, upon, or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except that "vehicle" does not include any motorized wheelchair, any electric personal assistive mobility device, any personal delivery device as defined in ORC 4511.513, or any device other than a bicycle that is moved by human power.

SECTION 4: POWERED SCOOTER.

"Powered scooter" means any two-wheeled or three-wheeled device with handlebars and a floorboard for standing propelled by an electric motor or an internal combustion engine, designed for personal transportation, and without pedals. Powered scooters do not include mopeds, motorcycles, or motorized wheelchairs.

SECTION 5: PEDDLESS ELECTRIC (E-DIRT BIKES) DIRT BIKES

A. Operating electric dirt bikes which do not have peddles which enable propulsion by human power are prohibited within the geographical corporation limits of the City of Toronto.

B. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 6: CLASS 3 ELECTRIC BIKES-AGE AND HELMET RESTRICTION

- A. No individual under sixteen (16) years of age shall operate a Class 3 electric bicycle within the geographical corporation limits of the City of Toronto. ORC 4511.522(D)(1)
- B.. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4511.522(D)(2), all individuals operating a Class 3 electric bicycle within the geographical corporation limits of the City of Toronto shall wear a safety helmet.
- C. The offenses established under divisions (A) and (B) of this section are strict liability offenses and strict liability is a culpable mental state for purposes of section 2901.20 of the Revised Code. The designation of these offenses as strict liability offenses shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense.
- D. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 7: OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

- A. Every person operating a bicycle, including an electric bicycle, shall obey the instructions of official traffic control devices and signals applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.
- B. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 8: REGISTRATION OF ELECTRIC BIKES-TORONTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

- A. All Electric Bicycles (aka e-bicycles or e-bikes) operating within the territorial limits of the City of Toronto, shall be registered with the Toronto Police Department.
- B. All Electric Bicycles shall be registered by an adult owner, operator or an adult responsible for a juvenile who operates said vehicle.
- C. The registration shall include the identity, physical address, mailing address, phone number, and electronic mail address of the individual registering the vehicle.
- D. The Toronto Police Department shall prepare a written form for the purposes of this Section and shall retain the registration forms in conformity with the department's records custody and retention policies.
- E. A registration fee shall not be required.

SECTION 9: OPERATING AN UNREGISTERED VEHICLE

- A. No one shall operate an electric bicycle within the territorial limits of the City of Toronto without first registering the electric bicycle the Toronto Police Department as provided in Section 8 above.

- B. An initial violation of this Section shall result in a written or electronic mail communication to the operator of the electric bike explaining the registration requirements. The adult owner or operator of the electric bike shall register the electric bicycle within 10 calendar days from the date of the mailing or emailing of the notice explaining the registration requirements.
- C. If an individual operator or owner is cited for a second violation of paragraph A of this section more than 10 after the mailing or emailing of the notice explaining the registration requirements as provided in paragraph B of this section, then said individual is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 10: HAND AND ARM SIGNALS

- A. Except as provided in subsection (B) hereof, all signals required by this Traffic Code, when given by hand and arm shall be given from the left side of the vehicle in the following manner, and such signals shall indicate as follows:
 - (1) Left turn: Hand and arm extended horizontally;
 - (2) Right turn: Hand and arm extended upward;
 - (3) top or decrease speed: Hand and arm extended downward.
- B. As an alternative to subsection (A)(2) hereof, a person operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter may give a right turn signal by extending the right hand and arm horizontally and to the right side of the bicycle or electric bicycle.
- C. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 11. DRIVING UPON SIDEWALKS, STREET LAWNS, OR CURBS

- A. No person shall drive an electric bicycle with the motor engaged, or a powered scooter with the motor engaged upon a sidewalk or sidewalk area except upon a permanent or duly authorized temporary driveway.
- B. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 16 below.

SECTION 12. VEHICLE OPERATION ON SIDEWALKS PROHIBITED.

- A. No person shall operate a motorized bicycle, bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter with its motor engaged on any sidewalk.
- B. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 13. RIGHT-OF-WAY ON SIDEWALK.

- A. The driver of a bicycle, electric bicycle, or a powered scooter, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing.
- B. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 14. RIDING ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY; RIDING ABREAST.

- A. Every person operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
- B. Persons riding bicycles, electric bicycles, powered scooters, or motorcycles upon a roadway shall ride not more than two (2) abreast in a single lane, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, electric bicycles, or motorcycles.
- C. This section does not require a person operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter to ride at the edge of the roadway when it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so. Conditions that may require riding away from the edge of the roadway include when necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, surface hazards, or if it otherwise is unsafe or impracticable to do so, including if the lane is too narrow for the bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter, and when overtaking a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.
- D. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 15: LIGHTS, SIGNAL DEVICES, BRAKES ON BICYCLE (ORC 4511.56)

- A. Every bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter, when in use at the times specified in ORC 4513.03 (sunset to sunrise, or at any other time when because of insufficient natural light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons, vehicles, or substantial objects are not discernible at a distance of one thousand feet ahead) or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance shall be equipped with the following:
 - (1) A lamp mounted on the front of either the bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter the operator that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet to the front and three hundred (300) feet to the sides. A generator-powered lamp that emits light only when the bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter is moving may be used to meet this requirement.
 - (2) A red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred (100) feet to six hundred (600) feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle;
 - (3) A lamp emitting either flashing or steady red light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector. If the red lamp performs as a reflector in that it is visible as specified in division (a)(2) of this section, the red lamp may serve as the reflector, and a separate reflector is not required.
- B. Additional lamps and reflectors may be used in addition to those required under division (a) of this section, except that red lamps and red reflectors shall **not** be used on the front of the bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter, and white lamps and white reflectors shall **not** be used on the rear of the bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter.

- C. A bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter may be equipped with a device capable of giving an audible signal, except that a bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter shall **not** be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter any siren or whistle.
- D. Every bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter shall be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street or highway.
- E. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 16. RECKLESS OPERATION; CONTROL, COURSE AND SPEED.

- A. No person shall operate a bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter:
 - (1) Without due regard for the safety and rights of pedestrians and drivers and occupants of all other vehicles, and so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person while in the lawful use of the streets or sidewalks or any other public or private property;
 - (2) Without exercising reasonable and ordinary control over such bicycle, electric bicycle, or powered scooter;
 - (3) In a weaving or zigzag course through vehicles or pedestrians unless such irregular course is necessary for safe operation in compliance with law;
 - (4) Engaging in stunt riding, trick riding, or acrobatic maneuvers.
 - (5) Without both hands upon the handle grips except when necessary to give the required hand and arm signals, or as provided in Section 7 above;
 - (6) At a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing, or ten (10) miles per hour on any sidewalk or shared-used path, unless a lesser speed is posted.
- B. Whoever violates any provision of this section is subject to sanctions and penalties as provided in Section 17 below.

SECTION 17: SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one (1) year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one (1) predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one (1) year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two (2) or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

In addition to the provisions of paragraph (A) above, if the individual is cited for a second offense within one (1) year then the vehicle shall be subject to immediate impounding for up to thirty (30) days. The individual shall be responsible to pay all impound fees. If the individual is cited for a third offense within one year then the operator shall be banned from operating an electric bike within the City of Toronto for one (1) year.

- B. In addition to the sanctions provided in paragraph (A) of this Section, the following sanctions apply to operators who are under 18 years of age.

A first offense violation shall result in a written warning issued to the juvenile by a Toronto Police Officer or other duly recognized Ohio Peace Officer or Law Enforcement Officer together with

in-person, email, phone, or written correspondence communication with the juvenile's parent, guardian, or responsible adult.

An impounded vehicle shall only be returned to the adult who has registered the vehicle with the Toronto Police Department. If the vehicle is not registered, then the vehicle shall only be returned to the juvenile's parent, guardian, or responsible adult after the juvenile's parent, guardian, or responsible adult registers the vehicle.

SECTION 18: SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of the ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances. The governing authority of the City of Toronto, Ohio hereby declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional and, to that end, the provisions hereof are hereby declared to be severable.

SECTION 19: FORMER INCONSISTENT LEGISLATION REPEALED

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.

SECTION 20: LEGISLATION ENACTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH ORC 121.22

It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this council concerning and relating to the adoption of this legislation were adopted in an open meeting of council, and that all deliberations of the council and or any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

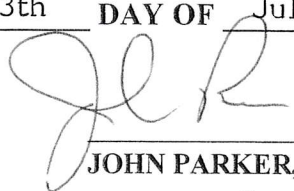
APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TORONTO CITY COUNCIL AT TORONTO, OHIO ON THIS 13th **DAY OF** July **2026.**

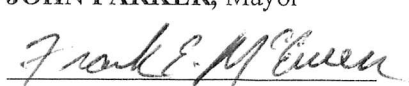
VOTES IN FAVOR: 6

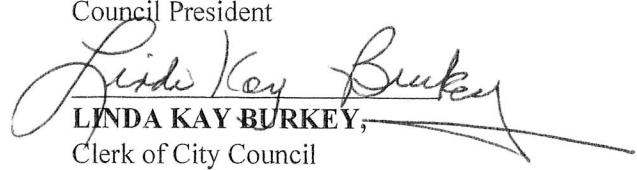
VOTES AGAINST: 1

ABSTENTIONS: 0

APPROVED: July 13, 2026


JOHN PARKER, Mayor


FRANK E. McEWEN,
Council President


LINDA KAY BURKEY,
Clerk of City Council