



E-Bikes, Electric Scooters & Micromobility Devices FAQ

Quick Reference: Where Each Device May Be Used

Device	Sidewalk	Shared-use path	Roadway	Helmet
Traditional bicycle	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed under Ohio traffic law	Not required
Class 1 or 2 e-bike	Allowed only with motor disengaged	Allowed only with motor disengaged	Allowed; traffic laws apply	Required under age 18
Class 3 e-bike	Allowed only with motor disengaged	Allowed only with motor disengaged	Allowed; traffic laws apply	Required for all riders under Ohio law
Low-speed micromobility device (e-scooter)	Allowed	Allowed	Prohibited by the draft	Required under age 18
Electric personal assistive mobility device (Segway-type)	Allowed	Allowed	Prohibited by the draft	Required under age 18
Motorized bicycle / moped	Not allowed	Not allowed	Allowed only with required license and equipment	Required under age 18
E-moto, electric dirt bike, or other high-powered device	Not authorized	Not authorized	Only if legally classified, licensed, registered, and equipped	Depends on legal vehicle classification

“Allowed” remains subject to pedestrian priority, safe operation, posted restrictions, and other applicable laws.FA

1. Understanding the Proposal

- What is the purpose of the proposed ordinance?**

The proposal is intended to clarify where traditional bicycles, e-bikes, electric scooters, Segway-type devices, and mopeds may be operated; protect pedestrians; establish a helmet requirement for minors; and give police a clearer standard for addressing unsafe riding.

- What is considered an e-bike?**

A qualifying e-bike has fully operable pedals, an electric motor of less than 750 watts, and falls within the definition of a Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 device. Class 1 provides assistance only while pedaling and stops assisting at 20 mph. Class 2 may provide assistance without pedaling but stops assisting at 20 mph. Class 3 assists only while pedaling and stops assisting at 28 mph.

- What is a low-speed micromobility device?**

It is generally an electric scooter or similar device that weighs less than 100 pounds, has handlebars, and cannot exceed 20 mph under electric power.

- **What is an electric personal assistive mobility device?**

This term refers to a self-balancing, two-wheeled, single-person device such as a Segway. It does not mean a wheelchair or another disability-related mobility device.

- **Are electric dirt bikes, e-motos, or high-powered crossover bikes treated as e-bikes?**

A device that lacks operable pedals, has a motor of 750 watts or more, exceeds the applicable assisted-speed limit, or otherwise fails the statutory e-bike definition may be a motor vehicle or motorcycle. Such a device is not allowed on sidewalks and may require a license, registration, insurance, and roadway equipment.

2. Where Devices May Be Operated

- **May traditional bicycles be used on sidewalks and shared-use paths?**

Yes. The ordinance allows traditional bicycles on sidewalks, street lawns, shared-use paths, and curbs. Riders must yield to pedestrians and operate safely.

- **May e-bikes be used on sidewalks or shared-use paths?**

Yes, but only when the electric motor is not engaged. This applies to Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 e-bikes. The rider may pedal the e-bike as a conventional bicycle.

- **Does the battery have to be removed from an e-bike on a sidewalk or path?**

No. The ordinance requires the motor to be disengaged; it does not require removal of the battery. The motor must not be providing propulsion or pedal assistance.

- **May electric scooters and Segway-type devices use sidewalks and shared-use paths?**

Yes. Qualifying low-speed micromobility devices and electric personal assistive mobility devices may use sidewalks, street lawns, shared-use paths, and curbs, subject to pedestrian priority and the safe-operation rules.

- **May electric scooters or Segway-type devices be operated in the roadway?**

No. The ordinance prohibits both types of devices on streets and highways and on public or private property used by the public for vehicular travel or parking, including parking areas.

- **May e-bikes be operated in the roadway?**

Yes. Qualifying e-bikes may be operated on roadways under Ohio law, but riders must obey traffic signals, stop signs, lane rules, lighting requirements, and other traffic laws applicable to bicycles and e-bikes.

- **Where may a moped or motorized bicycle be operated?**

A moped may be operated on a roadway only when the operator has the required license and the moped meets applicable equipment and registration requirements. The ordinance does not allow mopeds on sidewalks or shared-use paths.

- **Does the ordinance create a separate rule for the downtown area or shopping centers?**

No separate downtown or business-district sidewalk restriction applies. Posted restrictions, private-property rules, and other applicable laws would still apply. Electric scooters and Segway-type devices would remain prohibited in parking and vehicular travel areas.

- **What is a shared-use path?**

A shared-use path is a bikeway physically separated from motor-vehicle traffic that may also be used by pedestrians and other authorized users.

- **May a scooter or Segway rider remain mounted while crossing a street in a crosswalk?**

The ordinance prohibits operating these devices on a street or highway and does not expressly create a crosswalk exception. As written, a rider should dismount and walk the device across the roadway. The City will confirm this interpretation in the public education materials.

- **Does the ordinance really allow riding on a street lawn or curb?**

Yes. A street lawn is generally the public-right-of-way area between the roadway and sidewalk, or the comparable area where a curb or sidewalk is absent. All pedestrian-priority and safe-operation requirements would apply.

3. Speed, Pedestrians, and Safe Operation

- **Do pedestrians have the right-of-way?**

Yes. Pedestrians have priority on sidewalks, street lawns, shared-use paths, and curbs. Riders must yield and may not force a pedestrian or other lawful user to take evasive action.

- **Does the ordinance establish a specific speed limit for sidewalks or shared-use paths?**

No. The draft uses a reasonable-and-prudent standard based on pedestrian traffic, visibility, weather, surface conditions, and other circumstances. A device's maximum capability is not permission to travel at that speed in every location.

- **What conduct may be considered careless, reckless, or unsafe?**

Examples include failing to yield, weaving through pedestrians, passing without sufficient clearance, causing another user to take evasive action, riding while distracted, traveling too fast for existing conditions, carrying more passengers than device is designed for, or failing to maintain reasonable control.

- **How should a rider pass a pedestrian?**

Slow down, provide ample clearance, and announce the pass early enough for the pedestrian to react. Ohio law specifically requires operators of low-speed micromobility devices and electric personal assistive mobility devices to give an audible signal before overtaking a pedestrian.

- **Do the safe-operation rules apply to conventional bicycles?**

Yes.

4. Helmets, Ages, and Passengers

- **Who must wear a helmet?**

Anyone under age 18 who operates or rides as an approved passenger on an e-bike, electric scooter, or Segway-type device must wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet. Ohio law

separately requires every Class 3 e-bike operator and passenger, regardless of age, to wear a qualifying helmet.

- **Does the proposed helmet requirement apply to conventional bicycles?**

No.

- **What helmet standards apply?**

The helmet must meet standards established by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, ASTM International, or the Snell Memorial Foundation, or a recognized successor standard, and must be worn according to the manufacturer's fitting and fastening instructions.

- **Why does the proposal require helmets for minors?**

E-bikes and powered micromobility devices can be faster and heavier than traditional bicycles. Columbus Nationwide Children's Hospital reports that e-bike injuries increased substantially from 2017 through 2022, including a sharp increase in head injuries, and emphasizes properly fitted helmets and rider readiness.

- **Is there a minimum age to operate an e-bike or scooter?**

The ordinance does not establish a minimum age for a Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike or for a privately owned low-speed micromobility device. Ohio law prohibits anyone under 16 from operating a Class 3 e-bike. Ohio law also prohibits anyone under 14 from operating a Segway-type electric personal assistive mobility device and requires direct adult supervision for an operator under 16.

- **May a child operate a Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike in the roadway?**

The ordinance does not establish a minimum age for Class 1 or Class 2 e-bikes. A rider in the roadway must nevertheless obey traffic laws and have the maturity and skill to operate safely. Parents should carefully evaluate whether a child understands traffic signals, stop signs, yielding, lane position, and intersection hazards.

- **May these devices carry passengers?**

A passenger should ride only on a device specifically designed and equipped to carry one. Any passenger under 18 on an e-bike, scooter, or Segway-type device must wear a qualifying helmet. Mopeds may not carry passengers.

- **Can a parent or guardian be cited?**

Yes. A parent, guardian, or legal custodian who knowingly permits a minor in their care to violate the proposed helmet requirement may be cited.

- **Does the helmet rule apply on private residential property?**

No. The ordinance expressly exempts operation on private residential property from the proposed City helmet section. Other safety rules, owner restrictions, and state laws may still apply.

5. Equipment, Licensing, and Enforcement

- **Do e-bikes and electric scooters require a driver's license or registration?**

A qualifying e-bike, low-speed micromobility device, or electric personal assistive mobility device generally does not require a driver's license or motor-vehicle registration. Mopeds and devices that

legally qualify as motorcycles or other motor vehicles are subject to different licensing, registration, and equipment requirements.

- **Do all devices need a speedometer?**

No. Ohio law requires a Class 3 e-bike to have a speedometer. The ordinance does not create a universal speedometer requirement for traditional bicycles, Class 1 or Class 2 e-bikes, electric scooters, or Segway-type devices.

- **What lighting is required at night?**

Ohio law requires bicycles and e-bikes used at night to have a visible white front light and red rear reflector and light. Low-speed micromobility devices and Segway-type devices must have, or the operator must wear, a qualifying white front light and red rear reflector. Riders should also wear bright or reflective clothing.

- **Can police stop a minor solely for not wearing a helmet?**

Yes. The ordinance makes the helmet requirement a primary offense, meaning an officer may stop an operator for the helmet violation even when no other traffic violation is observed.

- **What are the penalties?**

Most violations created or amended are classified as minor misdemeanors. Existing repeat-offense provisions associated with unauthorized sidewalk operation may increase the offense level in certain circumstances.

- **How can a minor without identification be cited?**

The ordinance does not require minors riding qualifying e-bikes or scooters to carry a driver's license and does not create a special identification system. Identification, parent notification, and juvenile enforcement would follow ordinary police procedures and departmental policy.

- **Does the proposal authorize police to seize or impound a bike or scooter?**

The ordinance does not establish a general local seizure or impoundment program for these devices. Existing state law or other lawful authority may apply in particular circumstances.

- **How should unsafe riding be reported?**

For an immediate emergency, collision, or dangerous conduct creating an imminent threat, call 911. For non-emergency unsafe riding, contact Sunbury Police Dispatch at 740-965-1411. Provide the location, direction of travel, device description, number of riders, and a description of the conduct when it is safe to do so. Do not pursue or confront a rider.

6. Special Situations and Additional Questions

- **Does the ordinance restrict wheelchairs or disability-related mobility devices?**

No. A motorized wheelchair or equivalent disability-related mobility device is legally distinct from an electric personal assistive mobility device. Under Ohio law, a person using a motorized or non-motorized wheelchair or equivalent device is treated as a pedestrian. The proposal does not change those protections.

- **Does the ordinance authorize golf carts on City streets, sidewalks, or paths?**

No. Golf carts are not e-bikes, low-speed micromobility devices, or Segway-type devices, and this proposal does not authorize their operation. Separate state and local rules govern under-speed vehicles and golf carts.

- **Does the ordinance control e-bikes or scooters on school property?**

The proposal does not establish school-property rules. The school district may adopt additional policies for parking, charging, storage, arrival and dismissal, and use on school grounds.

- **Will the City install signs or publish a map?**

The City is exploring education and outreach to include signage, route information, device-classification examples, and education for parents and young riders.

- **When will the final rules take effect?**

The rules takes effect 30 days from the final reading and Council approval of the ordinance.