

Traffic Rules for Operating Personal Motorized Vehicles in the City of Boulder

Where you may operate an electric assisted bicycle, motorized scooter, pocket bike, moped, segway or any other personal motorized vehicle within the City of Boulder is determined by local and state law, which describes how each vehicle is defined and regulated.

The Boulder Revised Code (B.R.C.) regulates the operation of vehicles within the City of Boulder. Chapter 7-4: Operation of Vehicles designates exactly where personal motorized vehicles can and cannot be operated.

The Colorado Revised Statutes regulates the operations of vehicles within the State of Colorado. For more information, go to Title 42: Vehicles and Traffic, Article 4: Regulation of Vehicles and Traffic. The State of Colorado has approved Boulder's municipal traffic code for use within the city (including on state highways).

Which personal motorized vehicles are permitted to operate on city streets, multi-use paths and/or sidewalks?

Only an **electric assisted bicycle** (e-bike) which is defined as "a vehicle having two tandem wheels or two parallel wheels and one forward wheel, fully operable pedals, an electric motor not exceeding 750 watts of power rating, and a top motor-powered speed of twenty miles per hour" may also operate within a designated on-street bicycle lane. E-bikes use also is permitted on certain multi-use paths within the City of Boulder. A Map of Multi-Use Paths that Allow E-Bike Use was created to help raise awareness of which paths permit use of e-bikes. No other electric-powered or any fuel-powered motorized vehicle may be operated upon multi-use paths or sidewalks in the City of Boulder, except for ADA-approved wheelchairs.

Segway scooters may be operated on city streets. They may not be operated in bicycle lanes, on sidewalks or on multi-use paths. When operated on a street, they must drive in the lane farthest to the right *available to that class of vehicle* and as close as practicable to the right-hand curb (but not in the bicycle lane) except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection.

All other personal motorized vehicles may be operated on city streets unless they are defined as a toy vehicle.

No **toy vehicle** may be operated on a city street or roadway. Toy vehicles include, among other things, vehicles with wheels not more than fourteen inches in diameter that are not designed, approved or intended for use on public streets, and include, without limitation, fuel-powered or electric-powered vehicles commonly known as mini bikes, "pocket" bikes, kamikaze boards, go-peds, and stand-up scooters.

Are personal motorized vehicles allowed to be parked at public bicycle racks or on sidewalks?

A bicycle or electric-assisted bicycle may be parked at a bicycle rack. No other electric-powered or fuel-powered motorized vehicle may be parked at a public bicycle rack or on a sidewalk in the City of Boulder. These vehicles may be parked in a city-designated parking space on-street or in a public parking lot.

Definitions

- Chapter 7-1: Definitions

Relevant Ordinances

- Chapter 7-4: Operation of Vehicles
- 7-4-49 Driving in Restricted Lane Prohibited
- 7-4-50 Driving on Sidewalk Prohibited
- 7-4-51 Vehicle on Mall Prohibited
- 7-6-28 Bicycle Parking