

To: Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
RE: Electric Scooter – Discussion  
Date: February 11, 2025

**Sec. 44-199. Electric Scooters.**

- (a) *Definition.* Electric Scooter has the meaning given under Wis. Stat. Ch 340.
- (b) *State laws applicable.* Every person using an electric scooter upon a public roadway shall be subject to the provisions of all ordinances and State laws applicable to the operator of any vehicle, except those provisions which by their nature would have no application.
- (c) *Where prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or ride an electric scooter in any of the following places:
  - (1) On any sidewalk.
  - (2) On the roadway of any State or U.S. highway within the City of La Crosse, including State Highways 35, 16 and 33, as well as U.S. Highways 61, 14 and 53.
  - (3) In any City parking facility.
  - (4) On any public property where signs prohibit it.
  - (5) On any roadway with a speed limit in excess of 25 miles per hour except in designated bike lanes.
- (d) *Riding on roadway.*
  - (1) Every person using electric scooters on a public roadway shall keep as close to the right-hand curb as possible and shall proceed with traffic, except where bicycle lanes designate otherwise. Every person using electric scooters upon a one-way public roadway shall proceed in the direction of one-way traffic except where bicycle lanes designate otherwise.
  - (2) Every person using electric scooters upon a roadway shall ride single file on all public roadways which have centerlines or have lines indicated by painting or other markings. On public roadways not divided by painted or other marked centerlines or lane lines, electric scooters may ride two abreast.
  - (3) Persons using electric scooters upon a public roadway shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of motor vehicle traffic.
- (e) *Observance of traffic regulations.* Every person using electric scooters upon a public roadway shall obey all the instructions of official traffic-control devices, signs, and signals applicable to vehicles unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer.
- (f) *Speed.* No person shall operate an electric scooter at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions or in excess of any posted speed limit.
- (g) *Yielding to traffic.* The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a person using an electric scooter in the same manner as for bicyclists and pedestrians under Wis. Stats. §§ 346.23, 346.24, 346.36 and 346.38. When using an electric scooter, every person shall, upon entering a public roadway, yield the right-of-way to motor vehicles, except that a person using an electric scooter shall be subject to the same regulations as bicyclists and pedestrians under Wis. Stats. §§ 346.23, 346.24, 346.37 and 346.38.
- (h) *Clinging to moving vehicles.* It shall be unlawful for any person using electric scooters to cling to or attach to any bicycle or other moving vehicle upon a public roadway.

- (i) *Stunt or trick riding.* No person using an electric scooter shall participate in any trick or stunt riding or racing on any highway within the City unless such race or contest is held pursuant to permission granted by the authority having jurisdiction over the highway.
- (j) *Towing of persons, vehicles, trailers, prohibited.* The operator of an electric scooter shall not tow, drag, or caused to be drawn behind the electric scooter any coaster, sled, toy vehicle, trailer, person on in-line skates, or any other type of conveyance.
- (k) *Carrying of passengers.* No electric scooter shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- (l) *No parking on sidewalks.* No electric scooter shall be left or parked in the right-of-way unless the electric scooter is properly parked within or fastened or chained to a bicycle rack or other sign-designated area. No electric scooter shall be left in a manner to obstruct a sidewalk.
- (m) *Equipment regulations.*
  - (1) Each electric scooter shall have a lamp emitting white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front of the device. Each commercial electric scooter shall also have either a red reflector that has a diameter of at least two inches of surface area or a red reflector that is a strip of reflective tape that has at least two square inches of surface area on the rear so mounted and maintained as to be visible from all distances from 50 to 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in lieu of the red reflector.

Other possibilities:

- Age limits – example from Green Bay: No person less than eight years of age shall operate an electric scooter on City roadways, except that persons six or seven years of age may do so during daylight hours if accompanied by an adult capable of remaining close enough to ensure the safe operation of the scooter by the six- or seven-year-old, such as by walking or running alongside, using their own electric scooter or bicycle, or engaging in a similar activity. This subsection is intended to permit usage of electric scooters by families.
- Headphones prohibited – example from Green Bay: Operators of electric scooters shall not wear any headphones, earphones, or earbuds covering or inserted into both ears while operating an electric scooter.
- Sidewalk prohibition – limited area, e.g., downtown?

Additional ordinances to consider:

- **Sec. 44-198. - Skateboards, roller skates, roller skis, play vehicles, in-line skates and motorized scooters, mini-bikes, skateboards and go-carts.**
- **Ch 44, Art. VI, D2. – Bicycles.**
- **Sec. 34-68. - Use of off-the-road vehicles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, motorcycles, trail bikes or mountain bikes prohibited.**