

ARTICLE VI. BICYCLES, SKATES AND PLAY VEHICLES

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 44-197. Passengers on motor-driven cycles.

It shall be unlawful for the operator of any power-driven cycle or motor bicycle to allow any passengers to ride thereon and it shall be unlawful for any person to ride as a passenger thereon.

(Code 1980, § 9.14)

Sec. 44-198. Skateboards, roller skates, roller skis, play vehicles, in-line skates and motorized scooters, mini-bikes, skateboards and go-carts.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or ride a skateboard, roller skates, roller skis, or play vehicle as defined in Wis. Stats. § 340.01 in any of the following places:
- (1) On any City street.
 - (2) On any sidewalk in any business district as defined in Wis. Stats. § 340.01(6), except that this prohibition does not apply to children 12 years of age and under when such children are under adult supervision.
 - (3) In any public parking ramp or parking lot.
 - (4) On any public property where signs prohibit it.
 - (5) On private property, unless permission has been received from the owner, lessee or person in charge of that property.
- (b) In addition to the prohibitions under Wis. Stats. § 346.94(17), no person riding upon in-line skates as defined in Wis. Stats. § 340.01 may go upon any of the following places:
- (1) 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.
 - (2) On any sidewalk in the downtown La Crosse area bounded by 2nd Street, King Street, 6th Street and State Street.
 - (3) In any public parking ramp or public parking lot.
 - (4) On any public property where signs prohibit it.
 - (5) On private property, unless permission has been received from the owner, lessee or person in charge of that property.
- (c) In-line skate regulations.
- (1) *State laws applicable.* Every person using in-line skates 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.

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- (2) *Riding on roadway.*
- a. Every person using in-line skates on a two-way public street or alley shall keep as close to the right-hand curb as possible and shall proceed with traffic. Every person using in-line skates upon a one-way public street or alley shall proceed in the direction of one-way traffic.
 - b. Every person using in-line skates 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 and alleys not divided by painted or other marked centerlines or lane lines, in-line skaters may ride two abreast.
 - c. Persons using in-line skates upon a public roadway shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of motor vehicle traffic.
- (3) *Clinging to moving vehicles.* It shall be unlawful for any person using in-line skates to cling to or attach to any bicycle or other moving vehicle upon a public roadway.
- (4) *Observance of traffic regulations.* Every person using in-line skates upon a public roadway shall stop for all stop signs and traffic signals.
- (5) *Yielding to traffic.* The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a user of in-line skates in the same manner as for bicyclists and pedestrians under Wis. Stats. §§ 346.23, 346.24, 346.36 and 346.38. When using in-line skates, every person shall, upon entering a public roadway, yield the right-of-way to motor vehicles, except that a person using in-line skates shall be subject to the same regulations as bicyclists and pedestrians under Wis. Stats. §§ 346.23, 346.24, 346.37 and 346.38.
- (6) *Equipment regulations.* Every person using in-line skates during hours of darkness shall be equipped with a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a reflector to the rear. The reflector shall not be less than two inches in diameter. A lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light may also be used.
- (d) Operators or riders of skateboards, roller skates, roller skis, in-line skates or play vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to other pedestrians using City sidewalks, and shall not otherwise endanger or interfere with pedestrian traffic on those sidewalks.
- (e) No person shall operate any motorized scooter, motorized mini-bike, motorized skateboard or motorized go-cart on any street, sidewalk or public property in the City. A motorized scooter is a vehicle that is designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator and that has two wheels and is powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion. A motorized scooter shall not include a device defined as an electric personal assistive mobility device under Wis. Stats. § 340.01(15pm).
- (f) Violations of this section are a Class B offense as provided in section 1-7.

(Code 1980, §§ 7.04(U), 7.09(A))

State law reference(s)—Authority relative to in-line skates, Wis. Stats. § 349.235.

Sec. 44-199. Reserved.

Sec. 44-200. Electric personal assistive mobility devices (EPAMD).

- (a) An electric personal assistive mobile device (EPAMD) hereinafter referred to as EPAMD has the same meaning as Wis. Stats. § 340.01(15pm).

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- (b) It shall be unlawful for an owner of an EPAMD to allow another person to use the EPAMD in consideration of anything of value without procuring and maintaining insurance coverage as provided in section 2-2(24) of this Code.
- (c) Violations of this section are a class B offense as provided in section 1-7.
- (Ord. No. 4869, § II, 5-14-2015)

Secs. 44-201—44-219. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. BICYCLES¹

Sec. 44-220. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Bicycle lane means that portion of a roadway set aside for exclusive use of bicycles and so designated by appropriate signs and markings by the responsible governing body.

Bicycle way means any path or sidewalk, or portion thereof, designated for the use of bicycles by the responsible governing body.

Identification tag means a metal plate or sticker indicating that a bicycle is registered.

(Code 1980, § 9.15(A))

Cross reference(s)—Definitions and rules of construction, § 1-2.

Sec. 44-221. Enforcement.

- (a) *Juvenile offenders under age 16 years.* Any offender under the age of 16 years who shall disregard the rules and regulations governing the operation of bicycles in this section may be directed to appear before the Juvenile Court or Juvenile Court Officer who shall dispose of such person's case in the manner prescribed by the Court. Bicycle riders under the age of 16 years shall be issued a special bicycle violation ticket for violations of any of the provisions of this section.
- (b) *Offenders age 16 years and older.* Any person having attained the age of 16 years may in the discretion of the Police Department be dealt with by the Municipal Court.
- (c) *Bicycle Court/Violations School.* Violations of this division may be formally processed through constitutional and statutory courts or, in the discretion of the Police Department, and in such cases where consent of the violator or parent or guardian of a violator who is a minor is obtained, may be processed by a special City Children's Bicycle Court and Violators School. Rules of Procedure of such Court and School shall be subject to review by the Common Council. Procedures for appeal from the decisions of the bicycle court shall be provided in the rules established hereunder.

(Code 1980, § 9.15(E))

¹State law reference(s)—Authority relative to bicycles, Wis. Stats. §§ 349.18, 349.23.

Sec. 44-222. Registration required.

- (a) *Required.* No person shall ride a bicycle upon any highway unless it is registered and tagged as herein provided.
- (b) *Description.* Registration shall be made by filing with the Police Department the name and address of the owner together with a complete description of the bicycle on forms provided by said Department and paying a registration fee as hereinafter provided.
- (c) *Fee.* The registration fee shall be set by the Chief of Police and shall not exceed the amount established by resolution and shall be effective and valid as long as the owner keeps possession of the bicycle. The Police Department shall issue a registration tag upon payment of the fee (if applicable). Replacement of lost or damaged tags shall be charged at the rate established by resolution.
- (d) *Transfer.* It shall be the duty of every person who sells or transfers ownership of any bicycle previously registered to deliver the owner's registration card, issued to such person as owner thereof, to the purchaser. It shall be the duty of the purchaser or transferee to apply for a transfer of registration therefor, within five days of said sale or transfer.
- (e) *Surrender of registration card.* It shall be the duty of every person who shall junk or destroy, cause to be junked or destroyed, or who shall transfer the title of any registered bicycle to a nonresident of the City, to deliver the owner's registration card to the Police Department together with a written report showing the disposition made thereof within five days thereafter.
- (f) *Bill of sale required.* A person making original application for registration or an application for transfer of registration after sale or transfer shall exhibit to the Police Department a written bill of sale or transfer of title before said person shall be entitled to original registration or transfer of registration.
- (g) *Unsafe vehicles.* No bicycle shall be registered which is in unsafe mechanical condition.
- (h) *Unlawful to remove identification.* No person shall willfully remove, deface or destroy any such identification tag nor the serial number of the bicycle itself.
- (i) *Suspension of registration.* The Chief of Police and the Municipal Judge, or either one of them, shall have authority to suspend the registration of and remove the identification tag from any bicycle operated contrary to any State law or City ordinance or operated while in an unsafe mechanical condition. Such suspension and removal shall be in addition to other penalties provided hereunder.

(Code 1980, § 9.15(D))

Sec. 44-223. Operating rules.

No person operating a bicycle upon any highway, bicycle path or bicycle way within the City shall fail to observe all applicable traffic regulations of the municipality and State or to comply with the following regulations:

- (1) *Carrying extra passengers.* Bicycle operators shall not use a bicycle, except a tandem, to carry another person; provided, a bicycle operator may carry a child securely attached to the operator's person in a back pack or sling and may carry another person on a bicycle if it is equipped with a child's seat securely attached to and properly designed for use on a bicycle.
- (2) *Stunt or trick riding.* No person operating or pedaling a bicycle 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.

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- (3) *Towing with bicycle.* No person riding or operating a bicycle shall tow, drag or cause to be drawn behind the bicycle, any person on roller skates, coaster sled, or any other type of conveyance not designed to be towed by a bicycle.
 - (4) *Obedience to traffic control devices.* Any person operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of official traffic control devices applicable to vehicles unless otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer.
 - (5) *Speed.* No person shall operate a bicycle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under existing conditions or in excess of any posted speed limit.
 - (6) *Riding on sidewalks.* No person shall ride a bicycle on any public sidewalk in the "downtown area" as defined in section 10-393, or past any building which has any entrance or exit abutting on the sidewalk. Except as herein specified, it shall be lawful to ride on any public sidewalk provided that a reasonable rate of speed is maintained and every person operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall exercise due care and give an audible signal when passing a bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device or a pedestrian proceeding in the same direction. If unable to pass in a safe manner, the operator shall dismount from the bicycle and push it past the pedestrian.

(Code 1980, § 9.15(B); Ord. No. 4872, § 1, 6-11-2015)

Sec. 44-224. Use of bicycle lanes and ways.

It shall be unlawful for any motor vehicle driver or bicycle rider to fail to comply with the right-of-way of any and all bicycle facilities which are designated by pavement markings and/or applicable signage.

(Code 1980, § 9.17)

Sec. 44-225. Bicycle parking.

No person shall park any bicycle against windows or in the main traveled portion of any sidewalk or highway nor in such manner as to constitute a hazard to pedestrians, traffic or property. If there is no bicycle rack or other facility intended to be used for the parking of bicycles in the vicinity, the operator may park a bicycle on the sidewalk in an upright position parallel to and within 24 inches of the curb.

(Code 1980, § 9.15(C))