

ORDINANCE NO. 019, 2026
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING SECTION 1503 OF THE FORT COLLINS TRAFFIC
CODE RELATING TO LANE FILTERING AND PASSING

A. On February 18, 2003, by Ordinance No. 016, 2003, the City Council adopted the Fort Collins Traffic Code (the “Traffic Code”).

B. When City Council adopted the Traffic Code, it was with the understanding that the Traffic Code would most likely be subject to future amendments, not only to clarify and correct of errors, but also to ensure that the Traffic Code remains consistent with Colorado traffic laws.

C. In 2024, the Colorado General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, Senate Bill 2024-079, amending the Colorado traffic laws to temporarily allow for drivers of motorcycles to overtake motor vehicles in the same lane, when stopped, if certain conditions are met. This provision of state law may become permanent should the General Assembly enact legislation before automatic repeal on September 1, 2027.

D. To help ensure the safety of motorcycle operators and other motorists, and to maintain consistency between the Traffic Code and state traffic laws, Fort Collins Police Services recommends that the Traffic Code be amended to add identical authorization for lane filtering and passing, when certain conditions are present, with an automatic repeal if the General Assembly does not make the provision permanent.

E. The City Council has determined that these Traffic Code amendments are in the best interests of the City and its residents.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that Section 1503 of the Fort Collins Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

1503. Operating motorcycles or low-power scooters on roadways laned for traffic.

...

- (3) (a) The operator of a motorcycle shall not overtake or pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.
- (b) (l) Notwithstanding Subsection (2) and (3)(a) of this Section, the operator of a two-wheeled motorcycle may overtake or pass another motor vehicle in the same lane as the motorcycle if:
 - (A) The overtaken or passed motor vehicle is stopped;

- (B) The motor vehicles in the adjacent lanes, if the lanes are for the same direction of travel as the lane occupied by the two-wheeled motorcycle, are stopped;
 - (C) The operator of the two-wheeled motorcycle is on a road with lanes wide enough to pass safely;
 - (D) The passing motorcycle is driving at fifteen miles per hour or less; and
 - (E) Conditions permit prudent operation of the motorcycle while overtaking or passing.
- (II) When the motor vehicles that are being overtaken or passed by the two-wheeled motorcycle begin moving, the driver of the motorcycle shall cease overtaking or passing a motor vehicle pursuant to Subsection (3)(b)(I) of this Section.
- (III) A person overtaking or passing pursuant to this Subsection (3)(b) shall not overtake or pass:
- (A) on the right shoulder;
 - (B) to the right of a vehicle in the farthest right-hand lane if the highway is not limited access; or
 - (C) in a lane of traffic moving in the opposite direction.
- (IV) Should the Colorado General Assembly fail to make permanent the mirroring state equivalent of this section (3)(b) found at C.R.S. Section 42-4-1503(3)(b), this section (3)(b) will automatically be repealed, effective September 1, 2027. However, should the Colorado General Assembly make permanent the mirroring state equivalent of this section (3)(b) found at C.R.S. Section 42-4-1503(3)(b), this section shall remain effective unless repealed by action of the City Council.

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Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on March 3, 2026, and approved on second reading for final passage on April 7, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: April 17, 2026
Approving Attorney: Andrew Treviño

Exhibit: None