

ORDINANCE NO. 017, 2026
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING SECTION 214 AND SECTION 224 OF THE FORT
COLLINS TRAFFIC CODE RELATING TO SNOWPLOWS

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 errors, but also to ensure that the Traffic Code remains consistent with Colorado traffic laws.

C. In 2019, the Colorado General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, House Bill 2019-1265, amending two provisions of the Colorado traffic laws making it illegal for drivers to pass snowplows operating in "echelon" formation, where snowplows are arranged diagonally on the road with each unit behind and to the left or right of the unit in front of it.

D. To help ensure the safety of City snowplow operators and the public, 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 a similar violation.

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 as follows:

Section 1. Section 214 of the Fort Collins Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

214. Visual signals on service vehicles.

...

- (4) No driver shall pass an authorized service vehicle snowplow that is operated by a state, county, or local government, displaying lights as authorized in Subsection (1) of this Section, and performing its service function in echelon formation with one or more other such snowplows. As used in this Subsection, "Echelon formation" means a formation in which snowplows are arranged diagonally, with each unit stationed behind and to the right, or behind and to the left, of the unit ahead.

- (5) Only authorized service vehicles shall be equipped with the warning lights as authorized in Subsection (1) of this Section.

Section 2. Section 224 of the Fort Collins Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

224. Horns or warning devices.

...

- (5) (a) When any snowplow or other snow-removal equipment displaying flashing yellow lights is engaged in snow and ice removal or control, drivers of all other vehicles shall exercise more than ordinary care and caution in approaching, overtaking or passing such snowplow.
- (b) No driver shall pass an authorized service vehicle snowplow that is operated by a state, county, or local government, displaying lights as authorized in Section 214, and performing its service function in echelon formation with one or more other such snowplows. As used in this Subsection, "Echelon formation" means a formation in which snowplows are arranged diagonally, with each unit stationed behind and to the right, or behind and to the left, of the unit ahead.
- (c) The driver of a snowplow, while engaged in the removal or control of snow and ice on any highway open to traffic and while displaying the required flashing yellow warning lights as provided by Section 214, shall not be charged with any violation of the provisions of this Traffic Code relating to parking or standing, turning, backing or yielding the right-of-way. These exemptions shall not relieve the driver of a snowplow from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall these exemptions protect the driver of a snowplow from the consequences of a reckless or careless disregard for the safety of others.

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