



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: December 8, 2025

ITEM TITLE: An Ordinance Amending Chapters 76 (Bicycle Regulations) and 77 (Skateboards, Roller Skates, and In-Line Skates) of the City Code of Ordinances

BACKGROUND:

During the July 28, 2025, City Council Meeting, Staff was asked to add a discussion item to the next City Council Work Session regarding Electric Scooters and their operation on City Sidewalks. The item was tabled at the August 4, 2025, Work Session and subsequently discussed at the September 2, 2025, Work Session.

Following the discussion at the September 2nd meeting, Staff worked with the City Attorney to create an Ordinance updating this section of code. The item was discussed again at the November 3rd meeting, where the Council provided feedback, which was incorporated into the version reviewed at the December 1, 2025, meeting. After discussion with legal counsel, a few small modifications were suggested.

DISCUSSION:

Staff and the City Attorney have collaborated to develop the attached ordinance, incorporating the Council's previous instructions. This Ordinance amends Chapters 76 and 77 to regulate the use, operation, and penalties for bicycles, **electric micromobility devices**, skateboards, roller skates, and in-line skates.

Key updates in this draft include:

- **Definitions:** The definitions section has been moved to the beginning of the Ordinance (Section 2, creating new Section 76.02) to ensure terms such as "Micromobility Device" and "OPDMD" are defined prior to the regulations.
- **Yielding on Trails:** Sections 76.07, 76.09, and 76.10 have been updated to include "trails" alongside sidewalks. This ensures that operators of bicycles or micromobility devices must yield the right of way to pedestrians on trails as well as sidewalks.
- **Speed Limits:** A provision has been added ensuring no person operates these devices at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent, addressing the Council's desire for speed regulation.
- **Signage:** The ordinance supports the enforcement of signage prohibiting riding in specific locations.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of **supporting and enhancing City infrastructure** and **supporting high-quality City services**.

This item helps achieve that vision by establishing clear safety regulations for the use of modern micromobility devices on public infrastructure, ensuring the safety of both riders and pedestrians on City sidewalks and trails.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

The primary costs associated with this item are the standard legal publication fees for the ordinance. Additionally, there may be incidental costs associated with updating signage on trails to ensure compliance with the new definitions regarding motorized vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve the first reading of an ordinance that amends provisions pertaining to Chapters 76 and 77 of the City Code of Ordinances.

Staff recommends a motion to suspend the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed.

Staff recommends a motion to have this ordinance, which amends provisions pertaining to Chapters 76 and 77 of the City Code of Ordinances, be placed on its final passage for adoption pursuant to Iowa Code Section 380.3 and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Ordinance. The changes will be effective upon the ordinance summary being published in the newspaper.