

**CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 25C-24**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING MERCER ISLAND CITY CODE RELATED TO ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES; ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 10.53 MICC RELATED TO ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES; AMENDING MERCER ISLAND SECTION 9.30.150, VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Mercer Island has seen an increase in popularity in e-motorcycle ridership within the City; and

WHEREAS, e-motorcycles can pose public safety issues if not operated appropriately, including traveling at high speeds on streets and sidewalks, or when demonstrating tricks; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2025, the City Council amended the 2025-2026 Workplan to include the development of an ordinance regulating the operation of e-bikes and e-motorcycles on the Island; and

WHEREAS, City Staff, including the Mercer Island Police Department, have drafted potential regulations for e-motorcycles to address the public safety issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1.** **Amended.** Chapter 10.04, Definitions, MICC shall be amended as set forth in Exhibit A of this ordinance.
- Section 2.** **Adopted.** New Chapter 10.53, Electric Motorcycles, MICC shall be adopted as set forth in Exhibit B of this ordinance.
- Section 3.** **Amended.** MICC 9.30.150, Vehicles, shall be amended as set forth in Exhibit C of this ordinance.
- Section 4.** **Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, or its application held inapplicable to any person, property, or circumstance, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance or its application to any other person, property, or circumstance.
- Section 5.** **Effective date.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force on January 1, 2026, provided thirty days have passed since the date of publication.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON AT ITS MEETING ON THE 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Salim Nice, Mayor

Approved as to Form:

ATTEST:

Bio Park, City Attorney

Andrea Larson, City Clerk

Date of Publication: _____

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 10.04 – DEFINITIONS

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10.04.170 – Electric motorcycle,

Electric motorcycle means a motorcycle, as defined by RCW 46.04.330, which is powered by an electric motor and:

1. Is not equipped with fully operable pedals capable of propelling it. Foot pegs are not considered pedals; or
2. Has a motor with a power output that exceeds 750 watts; or
3. Has a motor that continues to provide assistance when the vehicle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour.

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EXHIBIT B

Chapter 10.53 – ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES

10.53.010 Restrictions on the operation of electric motorcycles.

The following regulations apply to the operation of electric motorcycles on Mercer Island streets, right-of-way, easements, and publicly accessible parking lots.

1. No person may operate an electric motorcycle that is not displaying a valid license plate issued by a state or comparable government agency.
2. No person without a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement may operate an electric motorcycle.
3. To be operated on a public street or road, an electric motorcycle must meet the requirements of RCW 46.61.705.
4. No person may operate an electric motorcycle on any sidewalk, pedestrian path, park trail, or within City-owned or controlled parks (except areas open to vehicle traffic).
5. Any person operating or riding an electric motorcycle must wear a motorcycle helmet. The motorcycle helmet neck or chin strap must be fastened securely while the electric motorcycle is in motion. For purposes of this section, "motorcycle helmet" means a protective covering for the head consisting of a hard outer shell, padding adjacent to and inside the outer shell, and a neck or chin strap type retention system, with the manufacturer's certification applied in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Sec. 571.218 indicating that the motorcycle helmet meets standards established by the United States department of transportation.

10.53.020 Impoundment and penalties for operation of an electric motorcycle.

1. A law enforcement officer may impound, as defined in MICC 10.04.180, any electric motorcycle operated in violation of this chapter.
2. The impounded vehicle may be redeemed in accordance with MICC 10.22.060.
3. Violations of MICC 10.53.010 are deemed civil infractions and are subject to the following penalties:
 - a. First offense: \$250
 - b. Second offense: \$500
 - c. Third and subsequent offenses: \$750 and possible referral for criminal citation under RCW 46.20.005.
4. In addition to the penalties set out in this section, violators must pay the costs of impound, storage, and court fees in accordance with MICC 10.22.070.

10.53.030 Enforcement authority.

The Mercer Island Police Department is authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter and may issue civil infractions, impound vehicles, and take other lawful action necessary to protect public safety and ensure compliance.

EXHIBIT C

9.30.150 - Vehicles.

It is unlawful to ride or drive any bicycle, motor vehicle, motorcycle, [electric motorcycle as defined in MICC Ch. 10.04](#), or motor-driven cycle over or through any park except along and upon the public roads, streets or other designated areas therein or to operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of the posted speed limit. Both the operator or driver of such motor vehicle, motorcycle, [electric motorcycle as defined in MICC Ch. 10.04](#), or motor-driven cycle and such vehicle shall be properly licensed if required by state law [or City of Mercer Island ordinance](#).