

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TOWN OF MONCKS CORNER CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR THE SAFE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES (E-BIKES) AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS (E-SCOOTERS)

WHEREAS, the Town of Moncks Corner recognizes the growing use of electric bicycles ("E-Bikes") and electric scooters ("E-Scooters") as forms of transportation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to promote the safe and responsible operation of such devices on public roadways, pathways, and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds it necessary to adopt regulations to protect public safety, reduce conflicts with pedestrians and motorists, and preserve the general welfare of residents and visitors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MONCKS CORNER, SOUTH CAROLINA:

Section 1. – Purpose. - Adoption of E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety Ordinance

The following section is hereby added to the Town Code.

CHAPTER 34. Traffic and Vehicles

ARTICLE XI. - OPERATION OF BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES

Sec. 34-528 REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRIC BICYCLES (E-BIKES) AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS (E-SCOOTERS)

Definitions.

For purposes of this Ordinance:

1. **E-Bike (Electric Bicycle)** means a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts, as defined under South Carolina law.
2. **E-Scooter (Electric Scooter)** means a stand-up or seated electric-powered scooter designed for personal transportation.
3. **Operator** means any person who rides, controls, or is in actual physical control of an E-Bike or E-Scooter.
4. **Public Pathway** includes multi-use paths, trails, parks, and pedestrian rights-of-way maintained by the Town.

Rights and Duties of Persons Operating E-Bikes.

(A) Every person operating an E-Bike upon a roadway shall be granted all rights and shall be subject to all duties applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle under the laws of the State of South Carolina and the traffic regulations of the Town of Moncks Corner, unless otherwise provided in this subchapter.

(B) Operators must comply with all official traffic-control devices and signals.

Limitations as to Operation, Speed, Riding Position, and Number of Riders.

- 1) It shall be unlawful for any person on an e-scooter or other similar device to:
 - A) Go on any roadway designed for vehicular traffic with a posted speed of more than thirty (30) miles per hour except while crossing a street at a crosswalk.
 - B) Operate in a reckless manner on either public or private property. Persons operating these devices on a multi-use path shall exercise due care for the safety of others using the multi-use path and yield the right of way to pedestrians.

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- C) Operate these devices in a manner that causes damage to public or private property.
- D) Operate these devices carrying more than the number of persons it is designed and equipped to carry.
- E) Operate at a speed faster than twenty-five (25) miles per hour.
- F) Operate while holding or supporting a mobile electronic device with any part of the body, while reading, composing, or transmitting any text, included but not limited to a text message, email, application interaction, or website information, to include watching a video, movie, or video call, or while otherwise engaged in an activity that is not necessary to the operation of the device, and impairs or is reasonable expected to impair the ability of the person to safely operate the device.

Required Equipment for E-Bikes.

(A) **Helmet Requirement.** No person under the age of **sixteen (16)** shall operate or ride an E-Bike unless wearing a properly fitted and fastened protective bicycle helmet.

(B) **Brakes.** Every E-Bike must be equipped with a brake that enables the operator to cause the braked wheels to skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(C) Lighting Requirements at Night.

When in use during nighttime hours, an E-Bike must be equipped with:

1. A front lamp emitting a white light visible from at least **500 feet** to the front; and
2. A rear red light visible from **50 to 300 feet** to the rear when illuminated by the lawful upper beams of a motor vehicle.

Riding E-Bikes on Sidewalks.

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride or operate an E-Bike upon any sidewalk within the Town of Moncks Corner.

(B) This restriction does not apply to designated multi-use paths constructed to accommodate bicycles or E-Bikes (Hiker/Biker Trails).

Enforcement and Penalties.

(A) Penalty, see Sec. 1-9

(B) Law enforcement officers may seize E-Devices used in violation of this section until the court orders the device returned or forfeited to the Town. Repeat or egregious violations may result in confiscation of the device until a parent or legal guardian retrieves it (for operators under 18), or until fines are paid.

MODIFICATION OF E-BIKES EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE HORSEPOWER OR SPEED.

Any E-Bike that exceeds 750 watts or one horsepower and produces speeds in excess of 25 miles an hour shall be deemed a moped under this chapter and shall be subject to all regulations applicable to mopeds.

Section 2. – Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

Section 3. – Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final reading and approval by the Mayor and Town Council.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED and ordered by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, duly assembled and that the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, is hereby amended and that all ordinances and provisions that conflict herewith are repealed, and if any sentence, clause, phrase or word contained herein shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance.

This ordinance shall be effective on the date of final reading.

DONE IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED this 21st day of July, 2026.

FIRST READING: June 16, 2026

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING: July 21, 2026

Thomas J. Hamilton Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Marilyn M. Baker, Clerk to Council

Approved As To Form:

James E. Brogdon, Jr., Town Attorney