



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025
Author: John Walsh, City Administrator
Reviewed: Matthew Smith, Chief of Police
Ashley Wigod, City Attorney's Office
Department: City Administrator's Office
Subject: Class IV ATVs

Background. Based on interest from the community, at the November 18, 2025, City Council Work Session, the Mayor proposed an ordinance to authorize Class IV ATVs to be driven on City streets. Public comments were taken. At the January 21, 2026, City Council Work Session, a draft ordinance authorizing the option of Class IV ATVs was presented to City Council for further discussion.

Proposed Revisions. Based on the discussion at the January 21, 2026, City Council Work Session, public comment received, and further review by staff, the following revisions to the ordinance are proposed. A redline and clean copy are included in the Work Session Agenda Packet. A clean copy is included in the Regular Session Agenda.

1. **City of St. Helens ATV Permit.** After further consideration, the St. Helens ATV Permit is proposed to be removed. The ATV Permit does not modify or add safety requirements. Requiring an ATV permit involves additional staff time and administrative costs to manage. The majority of other cities that allow Class IV ATVs on the road do not require a separate local ATV permit. Removing the local City of St. Helens ATV Permit also creates an easier, less expensive, regulatory structure for people seeking to operate Class IV ATVs on City streets.

The Operation of Class IV ATVs would continue to be subject to all City code and Oregon traffic laws. Violations would be subject to citations issued by the City of St. Helens police officers, which would be heard in Municipal Court.

2. **Definitions.** This section has been amended to remove the definitions of Class I, Class II, and Class III ATVs because they are duplicative of state law and unnecessary. The definition of Streets was updated for clarification.
3. **Financial Responsibility Requirements:** This section has been amended to add the reference to state law to make it easier for users to identify the minimum limits of liability coverage required.
4. **Safety Equipment Requirements:** This section has been amended to consolidate the required safety equipment into one section. The requirement for a horn, safety roll bar system, and an express prohibition on non-standard lights (e.g. non-standard colors, flashing, non-standard locations) has also been added.

5. **Safety belt requirements:** This section has been amended to expressly state the text of the state law seat belt provisions that were referenced but not expressly stated. Drivers and passengers are required to comply with seat belts laws that are applicable under Oregon law. The exemption that does not require seat belts in older vehicles does not apply.
6. **Location of operation:** This section has been amended to limit crossing of Highway 30 to Gable Road. State law requires crossing at an angle approximately 90 degrees from the direction of traffic and Gable Road provides for 2-way traffic and complies with that requirement. No other streets are permitted to be used to cross Highway 30. Crossing at Gable Road complies with ORS 821.200(1).
7. **Enforcement:** The Schedule of Fines for Citation has been amended per the discussion at the last Council meeting.

City staff will create an FAQ with the details of the Class IV ATV Ordinance to be posted on the City's website.

Next Steps: The proposed Class IV ATV Ordinance is on the February 4, 2026, Regular City Council meeting for adoption.