

CHAPTER 10.21 VEHICLES ON TRAILS

10.21.010 Purpose

Truckee residents, visitors, and workers recreate and travel year round on a complete and connected network of bikeways, walkways, and dirt trails. By establishing laws governing access and use, the safety of those utilizing the trail network will be better served.

The purpose of this municipal code is to establish regulations and guidelines for the use of alternative transportation devices on trails within the Town of Truckee. This code aims to promote safe and responsible usage of such devices while ensuring the well-being and enjoyment of all trail users and continuing the promotion of alternative transportation devices as a viable option to the private automobile.

10.21.020 Definitions

For the purpose of this Chapter unless it is plainly evident from the context that a different meaning is intended, A “motorized vehicle” means a vehicle that is self-propelled (415(a) CVC); but excludes a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle, if operated by a person who, by reason of physical disability, is otherwise unable to move about as a pedestrian. “Motorized vehicle” shall also exclude motorized bicycles.

An alternative transportation device refers to any non-motorized or electric-powered device used for personal transportation on paved trails, sidewalks, or designated areas, as an alternative to conventional modes of transportation such as automobiles. These devices are typically smaller, more lightweight, and environmentally friendly compared to traditional vehicles. Alternative transportation devices encompass a wide range of options, including but not limited to:

Bicycles: Human-powered devices with one or more wheels propelled solely by pedaling.

Electric Bicycles (e-bikes): Bicycles equipped with “fully operable” pedals and an electric motor that assists the rider's pedaling effort with a power output of not more than 750 watts, or 1 horsepower, and is unmodified.

Scooters: A self-propelled two-wheeled device that has handlebars, and a floorboard that is designed to be stood upon when riding.

Electric Scooters: Electric motorized devices with two or three wheels, typically standing or seated, powered by an electric motor with a power output of not more than 750 watts and is unmodified.

Skateboards: A narrow board with wheels, typically used by riders for propulsion by foot pushing or electric-powered motors.

Rollerblades/Roller Skates: Boots or shoes fitted with small wheels, enabling users to glide over paved surfaces by propelling themselves with leg movements.

Segways: Self-balancing, non-tandem, two wheeled device that is not greater than 20 inches deep, 25 inches wide, and 60 inches high; can turn in place; is designed to transport only one person; and has a power output of not more than 750 watts and is unmodified, whether sold under the Segway brand name or another name.

Electrically Motorized Boards: Any wheeled device that has a floorboard designed to be stood upon when riding that is not greater than 60 inches deep and 18 inches wide, is designed to transport only one person, and has a power output of not more than 750 watts and is unmodified.

Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters: Electric or manually propelled devices used by individuals with mobility challenges for transportation purposes.

Other Emerging Devices: Any new or innovative personal transportation devices that become available and fall within the scope of alternative transportation with a power output of not more than 750 watts and is unmodified.

This chapter is not intended to apply to or otherwise restrict “motorized quadricycle,” “motorized tricycle” and “electric wheelchairs,” as defined in California Vehicle Code Section 407 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), utilized by persons who by reason of physical disability are otherwise unable to move about as a pedestrian.

10.21.030 Prohibitions

It is unlawful for any person or persons to operate a motorized vehicle, including motorcycles, cars, trucks, motorbikes or any other motorized vehicle, on a Town-owned or operated/maintained: (i) bicycle multi-use path, sidewalk, or trail; (ii) equestrian trail; or (iii) hiking or recreational trail, unless such operation is within a roadway, parking area or other specifically designated area for motorized vehicle use. It is prohibited to operate any device with an internal combustible engine on Town-owned or operated trails: multi-use trail/path, unless specifically designated for motor vehicle use.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, personnel, vehicles, equipment, and materials may be brought onto a trail by any of the following: (i) owners of the property over which the trail is maintained pursuant to an easement granted to the Town; or (ii) holders of easements for access or other purposes over the land occupied by the trail. Any such use of a trail shall be made in such a way as to minimize disruption to the use of the trail by others.

10.21.040 Allowed Uses

Notwithstanding section 10.21.030 of this code, or any other provision of law, motorized vehicles may be operated by the Town of Truckee, or its employees, contractors, and designees, upon the trails for the purpose of maintenance/snow removal or other public safety purposes at the sole discretion of the Town.

First responders, including but not limited to law enforcement, fire, emergency medical personnel and other authorized individuals responsible for maintaining public safety and enforcing the law are granted an exemption to patrol paved trails within the Town of Truckee using motorized vehicles as necessary for their official duties.

All Alternative transportation devices, as defined in Section 10.21.020, are allowed on Class I trails.

10.21.050 Reckless Operation of Bicycles, Skateboards, Skates and Other Similar Vehicles on Trails Alternative Transportation Devices on Trails

No person shall operate any bicycle, skateboard, skates, or other similar human-powered vehicles, or self-propelled vehicles alternative transportation device excluded from the “motorized vehicle” definition set forth above, on Town-owned or operated trails in a reckless manner. For purposes of this section, “reckless” shall mean operation of a vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property, the natural environment, and specifically includes, but is not limited to, the following specific conduct:

- (a) Operation at a speed greater than reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, pedestrian and vehicular traffic on or crossing the trail, and condition of the vehicle.

The recommended language is as follows:

“The speed limit for any device shall not exceed 15 miles per hour, but in no instance shall the speed allowed be greater than is reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions having due regard for terrain, weather, visibility, including time of day, pedestrian and vehicular traffic on or crossing the trail, and conditions of the device.”

Alternative language options that exist:

Keep the language in our current municipal code: *“Operation at a speed greater than reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, pedestrian and vehicular traffic on or crossing the trail, and condition of the vehicle.”*

OR

“Trail users shall travel at a speed at which the trail user is safe and in control at all times, and does not pose any danger to others or degrade or harm the natural environment.”

OR

“The speed limit for any trail shall not exceed 15 miles per hours, or 5 miles per hour on blind turns and when passing pedestrians, but in no instance shall the speed allowed be greater than is reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions.”

- (b) Operation on the trail in such a **reckless** manner as to result in loss of control of the ~~vehicle~~ **device**.
- (c) Operation in such a manner as to result in a collision or accident involving any vehicle, property, or pedestrian.
- (d) Operation when the operator is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug as those terms are defined in CA Vehicle Code Section [23152](#).
- (e) Operation in such a manner as to endanger **wildlife, domestic animals**, life, limb, or property of any person.
- (f) **Carrying passengers on any alternative transportation device not designed or equipped for such transport is prohibited, except in cases where the device is specifically designed and/or modified and labeled for passenger use.**
- (g) **A person operating an alternative transportation device may not wear a headset covering, earplugs in, or earphones covering, resting on, or inserted in, both ears.**
- (h) **A person shall not drive an alternative transportation device on any trail while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking and is used in that manner while driving or riding.**

10.21.060 Violation

A violation of this Chapter shall constitute an infraction and shall be punishable by a fine as provided in Section 1.02.040(b) of this code.

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