



Office of the Town Manager
Judson Rex

STAFF REPORT

Warrenton Town Council

Carter Nevill, Mayor
Roy Francis, Ward 1
William Semple, Ward 2
Larry Kovalik, Ward 3
Michele O'Halloran, Ward 4
Eric Gagnon, Ward 5
Paul Mooney, At Large
David McGuire, At Large

Council Meeting Date:	September 8, 2026
Agenda Title:	Electric Mobility Device Ordinance
Requested Action:	Review the Draft Ordinance and Provide Feedback
Department / Agency Lead:	Police
Staff Lead:	Timothy M. Carter, Chief of Police

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Given the prevalence of electric mobility devices observed as alternative means of transportation on Town streets and the high likelihood of conflicts with pedestrians and other users when ridden on streets, sidewalks, and shared use locations, the Town Council initiated the creation of an ordinance focused on electric mobility device usage within the Town of Warrenton.

BACKGROUND

Electric mobility device usage has grown rapidly and has outpaced understanding of their lawful usage on public streets, sidewalks, and shared use paths. As such, there is an increased likelihood of collisions between the operators of these devices and pedestrians or vehicles, leading to possible serious injury or death. As such, the Town Council initiated the creation of an ordinance focused on regulating electric mobility device usage within the Town of Warrenton.

The draft ordinance relies on certain Virginia Code sections that allow the Town to prohibit riding or operating the covered devices on all Town sidewalks and would make enforcement dependent on posting the required signs or official traffic control devices in the applicable general area. Section 10-126 would prohibit parking an electric power-assisted bicycle or motorized skateboard or scooter where it impedes normal pedestrian or other traffic, including obstruction of curb ramps, accessible routes, crosswalks, fire hydrants, entrances or exits, driveways, transit boarding areas, or lawful use of bicycle racks. Section 10-127 would require a qualifying protective helmet for persons 14 or younger and establish a \$25 fine, with suspension for a first-time violator and for a violator who purchases a qualifying helmet before imposition of the fine. The ordinance states that state-law operating requirements remain applicable and that state law controls if a conflict exists.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Town Council review Ordinance 2026-12 and provide any feedback to staff. Prior to any final adoption², it is recommended that a public hearing be held. Adoption would establish clear local rules for the operation and parking of the covered electric mobility devices while remaining within the authority identified in the Code of Virginia. Following adoption, the Town should implement the required signage or official traffic control devices before enforcing the sidewalk prohibition in any particular general area.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

The ordinance would establish a local regulatory framework administered and enforced by the Town. The Town Manager or designee would be responsible for installing and maintaining signs in the general areas where operation is prohibited. The Chief of Police and other appropriate Town officials are authorized to enforce and administer the ordinance according to its express terms. The ordinance does not create or regulate a commercial shared mobility, dockless device, or rental program.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

CF-2: Public safety services and policies are viewed as amongst the best in similar Virginia towns for responsiveness, community trust, and effectiveness.

CF-2.2: Incorporate security measures designed to be unobtrusive but affording protection for citizens and users alike at community built and electronic facilities.

T-2: Enhance the Traveling Experience by Creating Great Streets

T-2.2: Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity to neighborhoods and destinations by implementing the recommendations of the Town of Warrenton Walkability Audit and the Town of Warrenton Complete Streets Recommendations Report.

Fiscal Impact

The draft ordinance does not provide a specific fiscal estimate. Implementation will require the Town to install and maintain signs in the general areas where operation is prohibited. Any associated signage, installation, maintenance, or enforcement costs are not quantified and will be based on the amount of signage necessary.

Legal Impact

The ordinance is expressly adopted pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 46.2-904 and 46.2-906.1 and states that it is intended to exercise only authority granted by the Commonwealth. It incorporates applicable definitions from Virginia Code § 46.2-100 and preserves statewide operating requirements under Virginia Code § 46.2-908.1 and other applicable provisions. The ordinance provides that state law controls if a conflict exists and that it does not create a separate local offense for conduct prohibited solely by state law.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Ordinance 2026-12 Electric Mobility Devices
2. 2026.8.9 Electric Mobility Devices Resolution
- 3.