



ORDINANCE NO. 2026-14

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 10.21 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO
ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS**

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVER FALLS DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. That Chapter 10.21 titled “Regulating Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters,” of the City of River Falls Municipal Code is hereby created to read as follows:

“10.21 Regulating Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters.

Sections

10.21.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

Bike Paths are defined as any impervious surface completely separated from the roadway that are eight feet wide or greater and constructed for pedestrian, bicycle, or other non-automotive means of transportation. Bike Paths may also be referred to as Multi-Use Paths or Shared Use Paths.

Electric Bicycle means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operative pedals for propulsion by human power and an electric motor of 750 watts or less and that meets the requirements of any of the following classifications:

- A. Class 1 Electric Bicycle means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- B. Class 2 Electric Bicycle means an electric bicycle that may be powered solely by the motor and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- C. Class 3 Electric Bicycle means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

Electric scooter means a device weighing less than 100 pounds that has handlebars and an electric motor, powered by an electric motor and optionally human power, and has a maximum speed of not more than 20 miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor. “Electric scooter” does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device, motorcycle, motor bicycle, electric bicycle, or moped.

Sidewalks are defined as any impervious portion of a roadway between the curb line or lateral lines of a roadway and adjacent property lines constructed for pedestrian use and are less than eight feet in width.

10.21.020 Permitted users of electric bicycles and electric scooters.

Operators of a Class 3 electric bicycle on City roadways, sidewalks, or bike paths must be 16 years of age or older.

No person less than 12 years of age shall operate an electric scooter on City roadways, sidewalks, or bike paths except that persons 8 through 11 years of age may do so during daylight hours if accompanied by an adult capable of remaining close enough to ensure the safe operation of the scooter by such child, such as by walking or running alongside, using their own electric scooter or bicycle, or engaging in a similar activity. This provision is intended to permit the usage of electric scooters by families.

10.21.030 Rules of the Road.

Subject to the provisions of this Chapter 10.21, the provisions of Chs. 346 and 347, Wis. Stats., and applicable City ordinances, shall govern the operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters, where appropriate.

10.21.040 Use of electric bicycles and electric scooters; Where prohibited.

Only Class 1 Electric Bicycles may be used on sidewalks that allow bicycle use on the same terms and conditions (e.g., age restrictions), provided they are being operated without motor assistance and using only human power.

Class 2 Electric Bicycles and Class 3 Electric Bicycles are prohibited from use on all sidewalks in the City.

Electric scooters may be used on sidewalks or bike paths that allow bicycle use on the same terms and conditions (e.g., age restrictions). Electric scooters are prohibited from use on any roadway having a speed limit of more than 25 miles per hour.

A map showing certain sidewalks and bike paths as of the date of adoption of this Chapter 10.21 is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

10.21.050 Equipment Regulations.

Every person using electric scooters between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise shall have the scooter equipped with a lamp firmly attached to the front of such electric scooter exhibiting a white light to the front, and with a reflector or a lamp mounted on the rear of the vehicle visible at a distance of 500 feet. The reflector shall not be less than one and a half to two inches for rectangular models or three inches in diameter for round models.

10.21.060 Riding electric bicycles and electric scooters on roadway.

Every person operating an electric bicycle or electric scooter upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a

standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. Persons riding electric bicycles or electric scooters upon a roadway shall ride single file.

10.21.070 Responsibility of parent or guardian for violation.

No parent or guardian of any child shall authorize or knowingly permit such child to violate any of the provisions of this chapter 10.21.

10.21.080 Penalty.

Any person violating the provisions of this chapter 10.21 shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 1.20 of this municipal code."

Section 2. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed severable and it is expressly declared that the City of River Falls would have passed the other provisions of this ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid. If any provision of this ordinance or the application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provisions to other person's circumstances shall not be deemed affected.

Section 3. Effective date. This Ordinance shall take effect from and after its date of publication as provided by law.

FOR THE CITY OF RIVER FALLS

Allison Page, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy White, City Clerk

Adopted: _____
Published: _____

EXHIBIT A

