



BEACHWOOD CITY COUNCIL - CANCELED
SAFETY & PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026, 8:00 AM
at **BEACHWOOD CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM A,**
25325 Fairmount Boulevard, Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Pete Smith
Danielle Shoykhet
Alec Isaacson
Alex Jacobs

Agenda Items

1. Roll Call
2. Review and Discussion of Proposed E-Bike and E-Scooter Ordinance Amendments
 - Review proposed amendments to regulations governing e-bikes and e-scooters.
 - Discuss safety measures, including restrictions on sidewalk operation.
 - Consider updates to City traffic regulations to reflect current practices and enhance public safety.
3. Any other matters coming before the Safety and Public Health Committee
4. Adjourn

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CITY OF BEACHWOOD

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Danielle Shoykhet, Council President
Jillian Delong, Council Vice President
Alec Isaacson, Member of Council
Alex Jacobs, Member of Council
Pete Smith, Member of Council
Ali Stern, Member of Council
June Taylor, Member of Council

FROM: Daniel Grispino, Police Chief

DATE: June 2, 2026

**SUBJECT: Recommended Changes to BCO Chapter 474 and 402.05
Proposed E-Scooter and E-Bike Ordinance Amendments**

As Chief of Police, my primary concern is the safety of our residents, pedestrians, motorists, and those operating e-scooters, e-bikes, and other motorized mobility devices. While these devices provide convenient and increasingly popular transportation options, many are capable of speeds exceeding 25 miles per hour, creating safety concerns when operated in areas intended primarily for pedestrian use. As their use continues to grow throughout our community, Mayor Berns and I believe it is important for the City to take reasonable steps to promote safe operation and reduce the risk of accidents and injuries.

To address these concerns, the Police Department and Law Department reviewed ordinances from other communities as well as Beachwood's bicycle and traffic regulations, many of which were adopted in 1974. Transportation methods and roadway use have changed significantly over the past fifty years, and the City's existing ordinances do not adequately address modern e-scooters, e-bikes, and similar motorized devices.

Based on that review and applicable state guidelines, we recommend updating the City's Code to specifically address e-scooters and other motorized mobility devices, prohibit their operation on sidewalks, and establish safety regulations designed to reduce conflicts between pedestrians and operators. These amendments are intended to promote the safe and responsible use of these devices while providing clear regulations that reflect today's transportation environment.

Following adoption of this ordinance, the administration intends to undertake a public education effort to inform residents about the new regulations, applicable state laws, and safe operating practices for e-scooters and e-bikes.

The safety of our community remains our highest priority, and these proposed amendments will help ensure that our ordinances adequately protect all users of our streets, sidewalks, and public spaces.

We respectfully ask that you consider this legislation at your June 15 Council meeting. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me before the meeting so they can be adequately addressed.

Cc: Justin Berns, Mayor
Todd Hunt, Law Director
Tina Turick, City Administrator
Matt Kurz, Assistant Law Director
Ben Lombardi, Communications Manager
Whitney Crook, Clerk of Council

402.05 Bicycle; motorized bicycle; moped; electric bicycle; **electric scooter.**

- (a) "Bicycle" means every device, other than a device that is designed solely for use as a play vehicle by a child, that is propelled solely by human power upon which a person may ride, and that has two (2) or more wheels, any of which is more than fourteen (14) inches in diameter.
- (b) "Motorized bicycle" or "moped" means any vehicle having either two (2) tandem wheels or one (1) wheel in the front and two (2) wheels in the rear, that may be pedaled, and that is equipped with a helper motor of not more than fifty (50) cubic centimeters piston displacement that produces not more than one (1) brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of no greater than twenty miles per hour on a level surface.
- "Motorized bicycle" or "moped" does not include an electric bicycle.
- (c) "Electric bicycle" means a "class 1 electric bicycle", a "class 2 electric bicycle", or a "class 3 electric bicycle" as defined in this section.
- (1) "Class 1 electric bicycle" means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty (750) watts that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty (20) miles per hour.
- (2) "Class 2 electric bicycle" means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty (750) watts that may provide assistance regardless of whether the rider is pedaling and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty (20) miles per hour.
- (3) "Class 3 electric bicycle" means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty (750) watts that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight (28) miles per hour.
- (d) **"Electric Scooter" means a device consisting of a long steering handle connected to a footboard that is mounted on two (or more) wheels and is propelled by an electric motor or another type of motor, designed such that the ride is able to keep both feet on the footboard while traveling either while standing or seated, and has an attainable speed on a paved level surface of not more than twenty miles per hour when propelled by the motor.**

State law reference(s)—ORC 4511.01(G); ORC 4511.01(H); ORC 4511.01(RRR); ORC 4511.01(SSS); ORC 4511.01(TTT); ORC 4511.01(UUU)

CHAPTER 474. Bicycles, Electric Bicycles, Electric Scooters, and Motorcycles¹

474.01 Application of chapter.

- (a) The provisions of this Traffic Code that are applicable to bicycles ~~and~~, electric bicycles, **and electric scooters**, apply whenever a bicycle ~~or~~, electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** is operated upon any sidewalk, street, or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a bicycle operator ~~or~~, electric bicycle operator, **or electric scooter operator** who violates any section of this Traffic Code described in subsection (a) of this section that is applicable to bicycles ~~or~~, electric bicycles, **or electric scooters** may be issued a ticket, citation or summons by a law enforcement officer for the violation in the same manner as the operator of a motor vehicle would be cited for the same violation. A person who commits any such violation while operating a bicycle ~~or~~, electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** shall not have any points assessed against the person's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or probationary license under Ohio R.C. 4510.036.
- (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in the case of a violation of any section of this Traffic Code described in subsection (a) of this section by a bicycle operator, electric bicycle operator, **electric scooter operator**, or motor vehicle operator when the trier of fact finds that the violation by the motor vehicle operator endangered the lives of bicycle riders ~~or~~, electric bicycle riders, **or electric scooter riders** at the time of the violation, the court, notwithstanding any provision of this Traffic Code to the contrary, may require the bicycle operator, electric bicycle operator, **electric scooter operator**, or motor vehicle operator to take and successfully complete an **bicycling applicable** skills course approved by the court in addition to or in lieu of any penalty otherwise prescribed by the Traffic Code for that violation.
- (d) Subsections (b) and (c) of this section do not apply to violations of Section 434.01 of this Traffic Code.
- (e) The provisions of this Traffic Code shall apply to bicycles ~~and~~, electric bicycles, **and electric scooters** except those which by their nature are not applicable.

State law reference(s)—ORC 4511.52

474.02 Riding upon seats; carrying packages; motorcycle handle bars; helmets and glasses.

- (a) For purposes of this section, "snowmobile" has the same meaning as given that term in Section 476.01.
- (b) No person operating a bicycle ~~or~~, electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, or carry any other person upon such bicycle ~~or~~, electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon, and no person shall

¹Cross reference(s)—Bicycle defined - see TRAF. 402.05 Motorcycle defined - see TRAF. 402.20; Bicycles prohibited on freeways - see TRAF. 412.05; Operation of vehicles on bicycle paths - see TRAF. 432.36; Motorcycle operator's license required - see TRAF. 436.01(a); Motorcycle headlight - see TRAF. 438.03; Motorcycle reflectors - see TRAF. 438.05(b); Motorcycle brakes - see TRAF. 438.19(b); Motorcycle mufflers - see TRAF. 438.21

State law reference(s)—See section histories for similar State law

ride upon a bicycle ~~or~~, electric bicycle, or electric scooter other than upon such a firmly attached and regular seat.

- (c) A person shall ride upon a motorcycle only while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one (1) leg on each side of the motorcycle.
- (d) No person operating a bicycle ~~or~~, electric bicycle, or electric scooter shall carry any package, bundle or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one (1) hand upon the handle bars.
- (e) No bicycle, electric bicycle, electric scooter, or motorcycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, nor shall any motorcycle be operated on a highway when the handle bars or grips are more than fifteen (15) inches higher than the seat or saddle for the operator.
- (f) No person shall operate or be a passenger on a snowmobile or motorcycle without using safety glasses or other protective eye device. No person who is under the age of eighteen (18) years, or who holds a motorcycle operator's endorsement or license bearing a "novice" designation that is currently in effect as provided in Ohio R.C. 4507.13, shall operate a motorcycle on a highway, or be a passenger on a motorcycle, unless wearing a protective helmet on his head, and no other person shall be a passenger on a motorcycle operated by such a person unless similarly wearing a protective helmet. The helmet, safety glasses or other protective eye device shall conform with regulations prescribed and promulgated by the Ohio Director of Public Safety. The provisions of this subsection or a violation thereof shall not be used in the trial of any civil action.
- (g) (1) No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall operate a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter, or ride as a passenger on a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter equipped with a passenger seat, within the City unless such person is wearing a protective helmet on his or her head, with the chin strap fastened under the chin. Such helmet shall be fitted to the size of the operator and shall meet or exceed the standards set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Snell Memorial Foundation (SNELL). This subsection shall not apply to any person riding a bicycle or who is a passenger on a bicycle on property zoned Class U-1 where such person resides.
 - (2) No parent, guardian or person acting for a parent shall permit a person under sixteen (16) years of age to violate this subsection.
 - (3) Any person under the age of sixteen (16) years found in violation of this subsection shall be informed by the police of the violation and of the severe injuries which may result when an accident occurs to a child not wearing a helmet. The police may take possession of the bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter and hold it until the parent, guardian or person acting on behalf of the child claims the bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter and is informed by the police of the violation and the severe injuries which may result.
 - (4) It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this section that the parent, guardian or person acting on behalf of a parent or guardian made a good faith effort to purchase a helmet for the minor but was unable to do so as the result of the unavailability of a helmet meeting the requirements in this subsection.
 - (5) Any parent, guardian or person acting on behalf of a parent or guardian of a person under the age of sixteen (16) years, who permits such person under age of sixteen (16) years to operate or be a passenger on a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter in the City, on public or private property, in violation of this subsection, shall be fined not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

(Ord. 1990-123. Passed 12-3-90)

State law reference(s)—ORC 4511.53; Adopting Ordinance

474.03 Attaching bicycles, electric bicycles, electric scooters, motorcycles to other vehicles.

- (a) No person riding upon any motorcycle, bicycle, electric bicycle, **electric scooter**, coaster, roller skates, sled, skateboard, or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle upon a roadway.

No operator shall knowingly permit any person riding upon any motorcycle, bicycle, electric bicycle, **electric scooter**, coaster, roller skates, sled, skateboard, or toy vehicle to attach the same or himself to any vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway. This section does not apply to the towing of a disabled vehicle.
- (b) If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 404.991 of the Traffic Code.

State law reference(s)—ORC 4511.54

474.04 Riding on right side of road way; riding abreast.

- (a) Every person operating a bicycle **or electric bicycle** upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
- (b) This section does not require a person operating a bicycle **or electric bicycle** to ride at the edge of the roadway when it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so. Conditions that may require riding away from the edge of the roadway include when necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, surface hazards, or if it otherwise is unsafe or impracticable to do so, including if the lane is too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.
- (c) Persons riding bicycles, electric bicycles or motorcycles upon a roadway shall ride not more than two (2) abreast in a single lane, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, electric bicycles or motorcycles.
- (d) If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 404.991 of the Traffic Code.

State law reference(s)—ORC 4511.55

474.05 Lights, signal devices, brakes on bicycles.

- (a) Every bicycle ~~or~~, electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** when in use at the times specified in Section 438.02, shall be equipped with the following:
 - (1) A lamp mounted on the front of either the bicycle, ~~or~~ electric bicycle, **or electric scooter**, or the operator that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet to the front; and three hundred (300) feet to the sides. A generator-powered lamp that emits light only when the bicycle ~~or~~, electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** is moving may be used to meet this requirement.
 - (2) A red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred (100) feet to six hundred (600) feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.
 - (3) A lamp emitting either flashing or steady red light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector;

If the red lamp performs as a reflector in that it is visible as specified in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the red lamp may serve as the reflector and a separate reflector is not required.

- (b) Additional lamps and reflectors may be used in addition to those required under subsection (a) of this section, except that red lamps and red reflectors shall not be used on the front ~~of the bicycle~~ and white lamps and white reflectors shall not be used on the rear ~~of the bicycle~~.
- (c) Every bicycle, ~~electric bicycle, and electric scooter~~ shall be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street or highway.
- (d) A bicycle ~~or, electric bicycle, or electric scooter~~ may be equipped with a device capable of giving an audible signal, except that a bicycle ~~or, electric bicycle, or electric scooter~~ shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle or electric bicycle any siren or whistle.

State law reference(s)—ORC 4511.56

474.06 Riding on sidewalks, public ways, paths, or trails.

- (a) No person shall operate an electric bicycle **or electric scooter** with the motor engaged on a sidewalk, public way, path, or trail.
- (b) No person under the age of **fourteen (14)** years, unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, shall operate a bicycle, ~~electric bicycle, or electric scooter~~ on the roadways within the City, provided sidewalks are available.
- (c) Persons **fourteen (14)** years of age and older may operate a bicycle, ~~electric bicycle, or electric scooter~~ upon the roadways, but shall be governed by the same provisions of this Traffic Code relative to right-of-way as other vehicles.
- (d) Every person operating a bicycle, ~~electric bicycle, or electric scooter~~ upon a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians and vehicles lawfully using the sidewalk **and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any such pedestrian. This audible signal may be given by the voice or by a bell or other warning device capable of giving an audible signal and shall be given at a distance and in such a manner as not to startle a person being overtaken and passed.**
- (e) A person operating a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter upon a sidewalk, before overtaking and passing a blind person carrying a white cane or guided by a dog, shall dismount and overtake or pass on foot, if necessary for safety.
- (f) A person shall not operate a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter from a sidewalk so as to suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and move into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.
- (g) No person shall operate a bicycle, electric bicycle, or electric scooter on a sidewalk at a speed greater than an ordinary walk when approaching or entering a crosswalk or approaching or crossing a driveway if a vehicle is approaching the crosswalk or driveway, or if pedestrians are present.
- (h) No person shall operate a Class 3 electric bike on a sidewalk, public way, path, or trail.
- (e) No person shall ride a bicycle, ~~electric bicycle, or electric scooter~~ on a sidewalk in a business district where restrictions have been placed by the Chief of Police due to congestion of the area, and where such restrictions are indicated by clearly visible signs.

(Ord. 1974-27. Passed 4-15-74)

474.07 Parking; locks; theft.

- (a) No operator of a bicycle or motorcycle shall park the same on any public property within the City unless such vehicle is securely locked.
- (b) No person shall steal any bicycle or motorcycle, or purposely take, ride or operate any such vehicle without the consent of the owner thereof, or buy or conceal any such vehicle, or a part therefor, that has been stolen, knowing it to have been stolen, of a value of less than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

(Ord. 1974-27. Passed 4-15-74)

474.08 Parent's responsibility.

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

(Ord. 1974-27. Passed 4-15-74)

474.09 Impounding.

Whenever any bicycle ~~or~~, **electric bicycle, electric scooter, or motorcycle** is operated by any person in violation of any of the provisions of this Traffic Code or is found on any public property not securely locked, such vehicle may be seized by any member of the Police Department and impounded in the Property Room of the Police Department or the Motor Vehicle Pound. Such impounded vehicles shall not be released except upon written order signed by the Chief of Police or some other officer designated by him. Any charges for towing or storing any impounded vehicle shall be paid by the owner of the vehicle or his agent directly to the garage acting as Motor Vehicle Pound. All parking citation charges, delinquent or otherwise, shall be paid before such vehicle is released.

Bicycles, **electric bicycles, electric scooters**, and motorcycles impounded from persons under the age of eighteen (18) years shall be released only to the parent or guardian of such person who shall be apprised of the reason for impounding the vehicle.

(Ord. 1974-27. Passed 4-15-74)

474.10 Operation of motorized bicycles.

- (a) No person shall operate a motorized bicycle upon any street or highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, unless all of the following conditions are met:
 - (1) The person is fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) years of age and holds a valid probationary motorized bicycle license issued after the person has passed the test provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521, or the person is sixteen years of age or older and holds either a valid commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506, or a driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507, or a valid motorized bicycle license issued after the person has passed the test provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521, except that if a person is sixteen (16) years of age, has a valid probationary motorized bicycle license and desires a motorized bicycle license, the person is not required to comply with the testing requirements provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521;
 - (2) The motorized bicycle is equipped in accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety and is in proper working order;

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- (3) The person, if under eighteen (18) years of age, is wearing a protective helmet on the person's head with the chin strap properly fastened, and the motorized bicycle is equipped with a rear-view mirror;
 - (4) The person operates the motorized bicycle when practicable within three (3) feet of the right edge of the roadway obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles; and
 - (5) The motorized bicycle displays on the rear of such bicycle the current license plate or validation sticker furnished by the Ohio Director of Public Safety under Ohio R.C. 4503.191.
- (b) No person operating a motorized bicycle shall carry another person upon the motorized bicycle.
 - (c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
 - (d) Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Punishment shall be as provided in Section 408.01.

(Ord. 1978-55. Passed 4-17-78)

State law reference(s)—ORC 4511.521

474.11 Electric bicycles, electric scooters.

- (a) (1) The operation of a class 1 electric bicycle ~~and~~, a class 2 electric bicycle, **and an electric scooter** is permitted on a path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or on a shared-use path, unless the Municipality by resolution, ordinance, or rule prohibits the use of a class 1 electric bicycle ~~or~~, class 2 electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** on such a path.
 - (2) No person shall operate a class 3 electric bicycle on a path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or a shared-use path unless that path is within or adjacent to a highway or the Municipality by resolution, ordinance, or rule authorizes the use of a class 3 electric bicycle on such a path.
 - (3) No person shall operate a class 1 electric bicycle, a class 2 electric bicycle ~~or~~, a class 3 electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** on a path that is intended to be used primarily for mountain biking, hiking, equestrian use, or other similar uses, or any other single track or natural surface trail that has historically been reserved for nonmotorized use, unless the Municipality by resolution, ordinance or rule authorizes the use of a class 1 electric bicycle, a class 2 electric bicycle ~~or~~, a class 3 electric bicycle, **or electric scooter** on such a path.
- (b) (1) No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall operate a class 3 electric bicycle; however, a person under sixteen (16) years of age may ride as a passenger on a class 3 electric bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.
 - (2) No person shall operate or be a passenger on a class 3 electric bicycle unless the person is wearing a protective helmet that meets the standards established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission or the American Society for Testing and Materials.
- (c) **No person shall operate an electric bicycle or electric scooter:**
 - (1) **Without due regard for the safety and rights of pedestrians, drivers and occupants of all other vehicles, and so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person while in the lawful use of the streets or sidewalks or any other public or private property;**
 - (2) **Without exercising reasonable and ordinary control over such electric bicycle, electric scooter, or personal assistive mobility device;**
 - (3) **In a weaving or zigzag course unless such irregular course is necessary for the safe operation in compliance with law;**

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- (4) While wearing more than one earphone attached to a cell phone or other audio device; and
 - (5) While using a handheld electronic communications device to write, send or read text-based communications.

~~(e)~~ (d)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever operates an electric bicycle, or electric scooter in a manner that is prohibited under subsection (a) of this section and whoever violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one (1) year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one (1) predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one (1) year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two (2) or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

- (2) The offenses established under subsection (d)(1) of this section are strict liability offenses and strict liability is a culpable mental state for purposes of Ohio R.C. 2901.20. The designation of these offenses as strict liability offenses shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense.

State law reference(s)—ORC 4511.522

474.12 – Exceptions

This Code section shall not apply to:

- (a) Mobility assistive devices required by individuals with disabilities.
- (b) Electric personal assistive mobility devices as used in Section 416.13.
- (c) Operation and use by City of Beachwood Police, persons sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the city or state, and other emergency service providers.
- (d) Events authorized by the City of Beachwood.
- (e) Events or pilot programs authorized by Beachwood City Council.

474.99 Penalty.

Editor's note(s)—See Section 408.02 for general Code penalty if no specific penalty is provided.