First Reading 10.20.25

Second Reading 11.3.25

ORDINANCE 2025-26

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE V, ENTITLED BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS AND SIMILAR CONVEYANCES, OF CHAPTER 90, ENTITLED TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF OCEAN CITY THAT ARTICLE V, ENTITLED BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS AND SIMILAR CONVEYANCES OF CHAPTER 90, ENTITLED TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND, BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Chapter 90 – TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

. . .

ARTICLE V. BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS AND SIMILAR CONVEYANCES[1]

Sec. 90-191. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

~~Bicycle means a vehicle that is designed to be operated by human power, has two or three wheels, of which one is more than 14 inches in diameter, and has a wheel configuration as follows: If the bicycle has two wheels, with both wheels in tandem, or if the vehicle has three wheels, with one front wheel and with two rear wheels that are spaced equidistant from the center of the bicycle. The term "bicycle" includes surrey bikes.~~

Bicycle shall mean the following:

(1) a vehicle that:

(i) is designed to be operated by human power;

(ii) has at least two or three wheels; and

(iii) handlebars for steering.

(2) an electric bicycle, generally, subject to the specific definition below in this section;

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[1]State law reference(s)—Bicycles and play vehicles, Ann. Code of Md., Transportation article, § 21-1201 et seq.; authority to regulate bicycles, Ann. Code of Md., Transportation article, § 25-102(a)(8).

(3) a moped;

(4) an electric low speed scooter;

(5) a surrey bike; or

(6) a unicycle.

Bike lane means any portion of a roadway or shoulder designated for single-directional bicycle flow.

Electric bicycle means a vehicle that is designed to be operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor, is equipped with fully operable pedals, has two or three wheels, has a motor with a rating of 750 watts or less, and meets one of the following requirements:

(1) Class 1 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour;

(2) Class 2 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides assistance whether or not the rider is pedaling the bicycle and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour; or

(3) Class 3 electric bicycle is equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.

Electronic personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD) means a device that has two nontandem wheels, is self-balancing, is powered by an electronic propulsion system, has a maximum speed capability of 15 miles per hour, and is designed to transport one person. As used in this article, an EPAMD only includes those electronic propulsion devices often referred to as "Segways," but does not include those electronic propulsion devices often referred to as "hover boards."

Pushcarts means a wheeled cart or wagon or similar conveyance designed to be pushed on or pulled by hand and not designed or equipped for riding or propulsion by pedals or motor.

Roadway means any part of a highway, street, road, public way, avenue or alley that is improved, designed or ordinarily used for motor vehicle travel, other than the shoulder or designated bike path.

Roller Skates as used in this article shall include roller skates, in-line skates or rollerblades.

Sidewalk means for the purposes of this article, that part of a highway:

(1) That is intended for use by pedestrians; and

(2) That is between:

(i) The lateral curb lines or, in the absence of curbs, the lateral boundary lines of a roadway; and

(ii) The adjacent property lines.

Skateboards as used in this article shall include non-motorized skateboards and motorized one-wheels, hover boards, and electric skateboards.

(Code 1972, § 30-1.A; Code 1999, § 90-191; Ord. No. 2005-12, 5-16-2005; Ord. No. 2016-14, 6-6-2016; Ord. No. 2020-15, § 90-191, 10-19-2020)

Sec. 90-192. - Roadway - Operation of bicycles, electric bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, pushcarts and EPAMDs on Roadway. ~~Use of bike lane or shoulder by persons operating bicycles, electric bicycles or EPAMDs.; riding bicycle or EPAMD on roadway.~~

(a) *Roadways with bike lane or shoulder paved to smooth surface.* Where there is a bike lane paved to a smooth surface or a shoulder paved to a smooth surface, a person operating a bicycle ~~or~~ electric bicycle, roller skates or a skateboard shall use the bike lane or shoulder and may not ride on the roadway, except in the following situations:

(1) When overtaking and passing another bicycle, electric bicycle, roller skates, skateboard, pedestrian, or other vehicle within the bike lane or shoulder if the overtaking or passing cannot be done safely within the bike lane or shoulder;

(2) When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or onto an alley, private road, or driveway;

(3) When reasonably necessary to leave the bike lane or shoulder to avoid debris or other hazardous condition; or

(4) When reasonably necessary to leave the bike lane because the bike lane is overlaid with a right turn lane, merge lane, or other marking that breaks the continuity of the bike lane.

(b) *Leaving bike lane.* A person operating a bicycle, ~~or~~ electric bicycle, roller skates or a skateboard may not leave a bike lane or shoulder until the movement can be made with reasonable safety and then only after giving an appropriate signal.

(c) *Riding to right side of roadway.* Each person operating a bicycle, ~~or~~ electric bicycle, roller skates or a skateboard on a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable and safe, except when making or attempting to make a left turn, when operating on a one-way street, or when passing a stopped or slower-moving vehicle.

(d) *Unlawful riding.*

(1) EPAMD and Pushcarts. It is unlawful for a person to ride an EPAMD or operate a pushcart on a bike lane, shoulder of road or a roadway, except to cross a roadway at an intersection

(2) Skateboards. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a skateboard on any public lots or any other public property except for:

(i) public skateboard facilities:

(ii) at public sponsored or authorized skateboard events within the corporate limits of Ocean City; or

(iii) as provided for in this section or section 90-193.

(3) Roller Skates. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate roller skates on any public lots and other public property, except for:

(i) in public roller skate facilities;

(ii) at publicly sponsored or authorized roller skate events within the corporate limits of Ocean City; or

(iii) as provided for in this section or section 90-193.

(Code 1972, § 30-1.B(1)—(3); Code 1999, § 90-192; Ord. No. 2005-12, 5-16-2005; Ord. No. 2020-15, § 90-192, 10-19-2020)

Sec. 90-193. - Boardwalk - Operation of bicycles, electric bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, pushcarts and EPAMDs on boardwalk.

(a) ~~Operation of b~~Bicycles, as defined in subsections (1), (5) and (6) of the Bicycle definition in this article, class 1 electric bicycles, non-motorized skateboards, roller skates, pushcarts and EPAMDs may be operated on the boardwalk ~~is only permitted~~, during the periods and times established by resolution of the M~~m~~ayor and C~~e~~ity C~~e~~ouncil.

(b) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary stated in this section, it shall be unlawful for more than six persons to ride on any bicycle or tricycle or on any self-propelled vehicle with more than two wheels or for any bicycle or tricycle or any self-propelled vehicle capable of containing more than six persons to be operated on the boardwalk at any time.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any nongovernmental motor vehicle or motor-assisted vehicle, to be operated on the boardwalk at any time without permission of the M~~m~~ayor and C~~e~~ity C~~e~~ouncil or its designated agent.

(d) It shall be unlawful to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate a class 2 or class 3 electric bicycle, motorized skateboards, a moped, or an electric low speed scooter on the boardwalk at any time.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate any electronically propelled, gas propelled, or human propelled device, for transportation use, recreational use, or any other use on the boardwalk at any time unless otherwise expressly permitted in this article, in other articles or chapters of this Code, or in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and policy of the M~~m~~ayor and C~~e~~ity C~~e~~ouncil.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate the otherwise permitted bicycles, electric bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, pushcarts and EPAMDs in a careless or imprudent manner that endangers any property or the life or person of any individual on the boardwalk.

(g) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate any conveyance defined by this article, as well as any other electronically propelled, gas propelled, or human propelled device, for transportation use, recreational use, or any other use, on the sea wall, railings or benches on or adjacent to the boardwalk at any time.

(h) For the purposes of this section, the Boardwalk shall include Somerset Street from Baltimore Avenue east to the boardwalk, and South First Street from Baltimore Avenue east to the boardwalk are hereby designated as pedestrian ways/parks.

(Code 1972, § 30-1.B(4); Code 1999, § 90-193; Ord. No. 1994-21, 7-18-1994; Ord. No. 2005-12, 5-16-2005; Ord. No. 2005-24, 8-15-2005; Ord. No. 2009-10, 5-4-2009; Ord. No. 2010-2, 3-1-2010; Ord. No. 2010-3, 3-15-2010; Ord. No. 2016-14, 6-6-2016; Ord. No. 2020-15, § 90-193, 10-19-2020; Ord. No. 2021-03, 5-3-2021; Ord. No. 2022-25, 11-7-2022)

~~**Sec. 90-194. Lamps and reflectors on bicycles.**~~

~~(a) If a bicycle or electric bicycle is used on a highway at any time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet, the bicycle shall be equipped:~~

~~(1) On the front, with a lamp that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front; and~~

~~(2) On the rear, with a red reflector of a type approved by the administration and visible from all distances from 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle.~~

~~(b) A bicycle, electric bicycle or bicyclist may be equipped with a lamp that emits a red light or a flashing amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear in addition to the red reflector required by subsection (a) of this section.~~

~~(Code 1972, § 30-2; Code 1999, § 90-194; Ord. No. 2020-15, § 90-194, 10-19-2020)~~

~~State law reference(s) Similar provisions, Ann. Code of Md., Transportation article, § 21-1207.~~

Sec. 90-194. - Sidewalks - Operation of bicycles, electric bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, pushcarts, EPAMDs or similar devices on sidewalks.

(a) Except as stated in subsection (b) and (c) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate any the following devices for transportation use, recreational use, or any other use on any sidewalk within the corporate limits of Ocean City at any time:

(1) bicycles;

(2) electric bicycles;

(3) skateboards;

(4) roller skates; and

(5) an electronically propelled, or gas propelled device of any kind.

(b) A person may operate the following devices on any sidewalk within the corporate limits of Ocean City:

(1) an EPAMD;

(2) a Pushcart;

(3) a device that is operating in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); or

(4) a device that is permitted on sidewalks as so designated by resolution of the Mayor and City Council.

(c) A person under the age of 16 years may operate a Bicycle as defined in subsection (1) of the bicycle definition in this article provided that said operation does not interfere with pedestrian use of the sidewalk.

State law reference: Ann. Code of Md., Transportation Article, §21-1103.

~~**Sec. 90-195. Operation of skateboards.**~~

~~(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate a skateboard on Atlantic Avenue (the Boardwalk) except during the time periods established by resolution of the Mayor and City Council.~~

~~(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate a skateboard on the sea wall, railings or benches on or adjacent to Atlantic Avenue (the boardwalk) at any time.~~

~~(c) Subject to subsection (a) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate a skateboard on any other public street, public way, ramp, public alley, public sidewalk, public lots or any other public property (except for public skateboard facilities, and public sponsored or authorized skateboard events) within the corporate limits of Ocean City between April 1 and October 1 of each year.~~

~~(Code 1972, § 30-3; Code 1999, § 90-195; Ord. No. 2012-28, 10-15-2012; Ord. No. 2021-13, 5-17-2021)~~

~~**Sec. 90-196. Operation of roller skates.**~~

~~It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push, or otherwise operate roller skates on any public street, public way, public alley, public sidewalk, public boardwalk, public lots and other public property, except as follows:~~

~~(1) In public roller skate facilities and publicly sponsored or authorized roller skate events within the corporate limits of Ocean City.~~

~~(2) In the designated bike lanes north of 17th Street.~~

~~(3) On Atlantic Avenue (the Boardwalk) during the time periods established by resolution of the Mayor and City Council.~~

~~(Code 1972, § 30-4; Code 1999, § 90-196; Ord. No. 2021-13, 5-17-2021)~~

~~Sec. 90-197. Pedestrian ways/parks.~~

~~(a) Somerset Street from Baltimore Avenue east to the boardwalk, South Division Street from Philadelphia Avenue west to the Bay and South First Street from Baltimore Avenue east to the boardwalk are hereby designated as pedestrian ways/parks.~~

~~(b) Except as provided by subsection (c) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to ride, propel, push or otherwise operate a bicycle, EPAMD, pushcart, scooter, skateboard, roller skate or similar self-propelled vehicle or device on a pedestrian way/park. Carrying or walking such vehicles or devices while walking through a pedestrian way/park shall not be considered a violation hereof.~~

~~(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section to the contrary, it shall be lawful for a person to ride or operate a bicycle or EPAMD on the Somerset Street pedestrian way/park during the same hours as permitted on Atlantic Avenue (the boardwalk).~~

~~(Code 1999, § 90-197; Ord. No. 2002-11, 5-20-2002; Ord. No. 2006-17, 5-15-2006; Ord. No. 2007-6, 4-2-2007)~~

~~Sec. 90-198. Operation of EPAMDs.~~

~~It shall be unlawful for any individual to operate an EPAMD at a speed greater than six miles per hour, except on private property.~~

~~(Code 1999, § 90-198; Ord. No. 2005-12, 5-16-2005)~~

Sec. 90-195. - Lamps and reflectors on bicycles.

(a) If a bicycle is used on a highway at any time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet, the bicycle shall be equipped:

(1) On the front, with a lamp that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front; and

(2) On the rear, with a red reflector of a type approved by the administration and visible from all distances from 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle.

(b) A bicycle, electric bicycle or bicyclist may be equipped with a lamp that emits a red light or a flashing amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear in addition to the red reflector required by subsection (a) of this section.

(Code 1972, § 30-2; Code 1999, § 90-194; Ord. No. 2020-15, § 90-194, 10-19-2020)

State law reference(s)—Similar provisions, Ann. Code of Md., Transportation article, § 21-1207.

Sec. 90-196. – Violations.

Any person violating any provision of this article shall be deemed to have committed a municipal infraction.

Secs. 90-~~199~~197—90-210. Reserved.

INTRODUCED at a meeting of the City Council of Ocean City, Maryland held on October 20, 2025.

ADOPTED AND PASSED by the required vote of the elected membership of the City Council and approved by the Mayor at its meeting held on November 3, 2025.

ATTEST:

DIANA L. CHAVIS, Clerk

RICHARD W. MEEHAN, Mayor

Approved as to form:

MATTHEW M. JAMES, President

Heather Stansbury
Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand, P.A.
Office of City Solicitor

ANTHONY J. DELUCA, Secretary

	Bicycle	E-Bikes	Skateboards	Roller skates	EPMAD	Pushcarts	Additional Comments
ROADWAY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
BOARDWALK*	Yes**	Class 1 only	Yes (non-motorized only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	*Operation of non-ADA devices on the Boardwalk is restricted by dates and times as set in a Resolution. **Class 2 or class 3 electric bicycles, mopeds, electric low speed scooters and motorized skateboards are never permitted on the boardwalk.
SIDEWALK	No*	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	*Children under the age of 16 may ride non-motorized bicycles on the sidewalks provided they do not interfere with pedestrians.

Summary: Product of City Solicitor