

CITY OF CENTENNIAL, COLORADO

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-O-13

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COUNCIL OF THE CENTENNIAL,
COLORADO, AMENDING CHAPTER 8 OF THE CENTENNIAL
MUNICIPAL CODE BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE 6 TO
REGULATE THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES,
ELECTRIC BICYCLES, TOY VEHICLES, AND OFF-HIGHWAY
VEHICLES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND ADOPTING PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE SAME**

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule authority and Section 31-15-401, C.R.S., for purposes of promoting health, safety, morals, and the general welfare of the community, the City Council has the authority to create laws that prevent and suppress activities that could prove harmful to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, and pass and enforce all necessary police ordinances; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule authority and Section 31-15-702(1)(a)((VII), C.R.S., the City is authorized to regulate the use of vehicles; and

WHEREAS, as provided in Section 8-1-10 of the Centennial Municipal Code, the City adopted, by reference, the 2024 edition of the Model Traffic Code as promulgated by the Colorado Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, electric motorcycles, low-power electric motorcycles, electric scooters, electric toy-vehicles, off-highway electric vehicles, and other high-performance electric vehicles “high-performance electric vehicles” have become increasingly prevalent within the City of Centennial; and

WHEREAS, these vehicles are distinct from electric-assisted bicycles as defined by law and do not qualify for the exemptions from motor vehicle registration, licensure, and insurance requirements; and

WHEREAS, the operation of high-performance electric vehicles and off-highway vehicles on sidewalks, bicycle and pedestrian paths, multi-use trails, and park surfaces poses risks to public safety, including risks to pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, and other users; and

WHEREAS, manufacturers of certain electric vehicles have affixed non-functional pedal components to their products in an attempt to cause such vehicles to appear to qualify as electric-assisted bicycles, creating enforcement challenges and public safety risks; and

WHEREAS, Class 3 electric-assisted bicycles, while lawfully operated on public roadways and bike lanes under state law, present speed differentials and safety concerns when operated on shared-use pedestrian paths and trails within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Centennial is served by four park and recreation entities — South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, Trails Park and Recreation District, the Arapahoe County Recreation District, and the Smoky Hill Metropolitan District — that collectively own and manage parks, trails, and open space within to City boundaries; and

WHEREAS, South Suburban Parks and Recreation District and Trails Park and Recreation District have actively participated in the development of this Ordinance and have each indicated support for aligning their rules and regulations with its provisions; and

WHEREAS, consistent regulation of high-performance electric vehicles and off-highway vehicles across all park, trail, and open space surfaces within the City — whether city-managed or district-managed — serves the public interest by providing clear, uniform standards for residents, visitors, and enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that effective regulation of electric motorcycles and high-performance electric motor vehicles requires not only enforceable standards but also public education, clear communication to residents and visitors, and ongoing cooperation among the City, its recreation district partners, law enforcement, schools, and the community; and the City Council further recognizes that this Ordinance represents an initial regulatory step and that additional public safety measures, educational initiatives, and cooperative efforts may be developed through subsequent ordinances, administrative action, and community partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the adoption of this Ordinance is necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare of City residents and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CENTENNIAL, COLORADO, ORDAINS:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are affirmed and incorporated herein by this reference as findings of the City Council.

Section 2. **Amendment of Chapter 8 of the Centennial Municipal Code.** Chapter 8 of the Centennial Municipal Code is amended by the adoption of a new Article 6 entitled “Off-Highway and Small Electric Vehicle Code” to read as follows:

ARTICLE 6 – Off-highway and Small Electric Vehicle Code

Section 8-6-10. Title.

This Article shall be known and may be cited as the “Centennial Off-highway and Small Electric Vehicle Code.”

Section 8-6-20. Purpose.

The purpose of this Article is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of City residents and visitors by: (a) regulating the operation of off-highway vehicles, electric motorcycles, electric-assisted bicycles and high-performance electric vehicles on public property; (b) restricting Class 3 electric-assisted bicycles from certain bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails; and (c) establishing penalties for violations.

Section 8-6-30. Definitions.

As used in this Article, the following words shall have the definitions ascribed to them, unless otherwise provided:

- (a) "Bicycle" means a vehicle propelled by human power applied to pedals upon which a person may ride having two tandem wheels or two parallel wheels and one forward wheel all of which are twelve or more inches in diameter.
- (b) "City-managed property" means any sidewalk, multi-use path, trail, park, open space, recreation facility, athletic facility, parking lot, or other public property owned, managed, or maintained by the City of Centennial. "City-managed property" does not include streets or bicycle lanes on such streets.
- (c) "Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle" means a an electric-assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 28 miles per hour.
- (d) "District-managed property" means any sidewalk, multi-use path, trail, park, open space, recreation facility, athletic facility, or other public surface within the City owned, managed, or maintained by a park and recreation district or other public entity.
- (e) "Electrical assisted bicycle" means a vehicle having two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, and an electric motor not exceeding seven hundred fifty watts of power. The term does not include:
 - (1) A vehicle that is modified so that it no longer meets the requirements for any class of electrical assisted bicycle; or
 - (2) A vehicle that is designed, manufactured, or intended by the manufacturer or seller to be easily configured so as not to meet the requirements of an electrical assisted bicycle, whether by a mechanical switch or button, by changing a setting in software controlling the drive system, by use of an online application, or through other means intended by the manufacturer or seller.
- (f) "Electric motorcycle" means any motorized vehicle:
 - (1) powered primarily or exclusively by an electric motor;
 - (2) designed to be ridden astride or in a seated position;
 - (3) having two or three wheels in contact with the ground; and

(4) either (i) lacking functional operable pedals, or (ii) having an electric motor exceeding 750 watts, or (iii) capable of achieving a speed greater than 28 miles per hour when powered solely by the motor.

The term includes, without limitation, electric dirt bikes, and electric off-highway motorcycles.

The term does not include an electric scooter as defined herein.

(g) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" or "EPAMD" means a self-balancing, nontandem two-wheeled device, designed to transport only one person, that is powered solely by an electric propulsion system producing an average power output of no more than seven hundred fifty watts.

(h) "Electric scooter" means a device:

- (1) Weighing less than one hundred pounds, without accessories;
- (2) With handlebars;
- (3) That is powered by an electric motor; and
- (4) That has a maximum speed of twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor.

(i) "High-performance electric vehicle" includes electric-assisted bicycle, electric motorcycle, low-power electric motorcycle, low-power scooter, or other device designed for carrying only a single person, including a toy vehicle, that is capable of achieving speeds exceeding twenty miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by an electric motor.

(j) "Low-power electric motorcycle" means an electric motorcycle with an electric motor exceeding 750 watts but not exceeding 4,476 watts, consistent with Colorado law applicable to low-power scooters. The term does not include an electric scooter as defined herein.

(k) "Low-power scooter" means a self-propelled vehicle designed primarily for use on the roadways with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, no manual clutch, and either of the following:

- (1) A cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty cubic centimeters if powered by internal combustion; or
- (2) A wattage not exceeding four thousand four hundred seventy-six if powered by electricity.

(l) "Model Traffic Code" or "MTC" means the Model Traffic Code for Colorado adopted by the City in Article 1 of Chapter 8 of the Centennial Municipal Code

(m) "Motorcycle" means a motor vehicle that:

- (1) Uses handlebars connected to the front wheel or wheels to steer;
- (2) Has a seat the rider sits astride; and
- (3) Is designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.

“Motorcycle” does not include a farm tractor, low-speed electric vehicle, or low-power scooter.

(n) "Off-highway vehicle" or "OHV" means any self-propelled vehicle designed to travel on wheels or tracks in contact with the ground, designed primarily for use off of the public highways, and generally and commonly used to transport persons for recreational purposes, not including golf carts.

(o) "Operator" means any person who rides, drives, or otherwise controls any vehicle regulated under this Article, including an electric motorcycle, low-power electric motorcycle, off-highway vehicle, Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle, or electric-assisted bicycle subject to the restrictions of this Article.

(p) “Parent or legal guardian” means a parent, stepparent, adoptive parent, legal guardian, or any adult person having legal custody or control over a minor.

(q) “Street” means a public or private thoroughfare used, or intended to be used, for passage or travel by motor vehicles including any bicycle lanes thereon.

(r) “Toy vehicle” means a self-propelled vehicle with one or more wheels including, but not limited to, gas-powered or electric-powered vehicles commonly known as minibikes, “pocket” bikes, kamikaze boards, go-peds, and stand-up scooters. “Toy vehicle” does not include electric motorcycle, motorcycle, motor vehicle, low-power scooter, EPAMD, electric scooters, off-highway vehicles, or snowmobiles.

(s) “Vehicle” means a device that is capable of moving itself, or of being moved, from place to place upon wheels or endless tracks. “Vehicle” includes a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, or EPAMD, but does not include a wheelchair, snowmobile, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry designed primarily or exclusively for use and used in agricultural operations or any device moved exclusively over stationary rails or tracks or designed to move primarily through the air.

Section 8-6-40. Class 3 Electric-Assisted Bicycle Restrictions.

(a) Prohibition on paths and trails. No person shall operate a Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle upon any bicycle or pedestrian path, multi-use trail, sidewalk, or park trail within the City of Centennial, unless: (1) the path or trail is located within or directly adjacent to a public roadway or highway and functions as a designated bike lane; or (2) official signage posted at the trail or path entrance expressly designates the route as open to Class 3 electric-assisted bicycles.

(b) Roadway access preserved. Nothing in this Section restricts the operation of a Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle on any public roadway or in any designated on-street bicycle lane, consistent with state law.

Section 8-6-50. Electric Motorcycle, Low-Power Electric Motorcycle, Toy Vehicle, and Off-Highway Vehicle Prohibitions.

(a) General prohibition. No person shall operate a high-performance electric vehicle on any city-managed property.

(b) Roadway operation.

(1) Electric motorcycle or low-power electric motorcycle. It is unlawful to operate an electric motorcycle or low-power electric motorcycle on a public street within the City unless: (i) the vehicle is registered with the Colorado Department of Revenue; (ii) the operator holds a valid Colorado driver's license, and, if required, a motorcycle endorsement; (iii) the operator carries required liability insurance; and (iv) the vehicle meets all applicable equipment requirements under Colorado law.

(2) Off-highway vehicles. It is unlawful for any person to operate an off-highway vehicle on any public street or city-managed property within the City. The City of Centennial does not maintain any designated OHV area. No person may circumvent this prohibition by transporting an OHV on a public street or city-managed property under the guise of transit to an OHV area adjacent to the City.

(3) Toy vehicle. It is unlawful for any person to operate a toy vehicle on any public street, unless part of a parade or when solely for the purpose of crossing the street.

(d) Anti-circumvention. The installation of pedals or a pedal system on an electric motorcycle, low-power electric motorcycle, low-power scooter, or off-highway vehicle does not alter the vehicle's classification under this Article or under state law. Any vehicle that meets the definition of electric motorcycle or off-highway vehicle is subject to this Article regardless of whether pedals have been added after manufacture, and regardless of how the vehicle is marketed or labeled by its manufacturer or seller.

(e) Modified electric-assisted bicycles. No person shall operate an electric-assisted bicycle on any city-managed property if: (1) the bicycle has been modified by any means to alter its function of any class of electric assisted bicycle; and (2) a peace officer has reasonable grounds to believe the modification has caused the bicycle to exceed the assisted speed of its labeled class. A vehicle found to be operating in violation of this subsection is subject to impoundment under Section 8-6-80(c). Nothing in this subsection limits the authority of a peace officer to cite an operator for any other applicable provision of this Article or state law.

Section 8-6-60. Operator Requirements.

(a) Licensure. Any person who operates an electric motorcycle or low-power electric motorcycle on a public roadway within the City shall possess a valid Colorado driver's license. Any person who operates an electric motorcycle with a motor exceeding 4,476 watts on a public roadway shall also possess a motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license.

(b) Minimum age. No person under the age of sixteen (16) shall operate an electric motorcycle, or low-power electric motorcycle on any public roadway within the City.

(c) **Helmet.** Any person, under the age of eighteen (18) operating a Class 3 electric-assisted bicycle, an electric motorcycle or low-power electric motorcycle on a public roadway within the City shall wear a protective helmet approved by the United States Department of Transportation. Any passenger shall also wear a conforming helmet.

(d) **Registration and insurance.** Any person operating an electric motorcycle or low-power electric motorcycle on a public roadway within the City shall carry proof of current Colorado registration and required liability insurance and shall produce such proof upon demand by any peace officer.

Section 8-6-70. City Manager Authority; Recreation District Coordination and Signage.

(a) **City Manager Authority.** The City Manager is authorized to adopt policies and procedures for implementation of this Article and coordinate enforcement or other activities for implementation with any park and recreation district or other public entity that manages parks, trails and open space property within the City.

(b) **Signage.** No prohibition established under this Article, nor any aligned district rule, shall be enforceable on district-managed property within the City unless and until official notice has been posted at public access points to the relevant property. Each governmental entity is responsible for posting conforming notice at access points to property under its own ownership or control.

(c) **Contiguous routes.** Any bicycle or pedestrian path, multi-use trail, or similar surface within the City that connects to, passes through, or is physically contiguous with a district-managed property shall be subject to the provisions of this Article for the full length of the connecting route within the City's jurisdiction, regardless of which governmental entity owns or manages the underlying surface.

Section 8-6-80. Penalties and Enforcement.

(a) **General fine authority; operator violations.** Any person who violates any provision of Section 8-6-40, Section 8-6-50, or Section 8-6-60 of this Article commits a traffic offense punishable through a penalty assessment or summons and complaint as provided under Part 17 of the Model Traffic Code. The Municipal Judge shall set fines for violations of this Article in accordance with Section 2-3-440 of the Centennial Municipal Code and C.M.C.R. § 210(b)(4). Fines may be paid at the office of the Municipal Court. Defendants shall pay any applicable court costs directly to the Municipal Court. All fines collected under this Article shall be paid to the City's General Fund. Penalties under this Article shall not exceed the maximum fine amount authorized by Section 1-4-10 of this Code and shall not be punishable by imprisonment.

(b) **Parental liability.** Notwithstanding the general fine authority in subsection (a), any parent or legal guardian who knowingly permits a minor under the age of eighteen (18) to operate an electric motorcycle, low-power electric motorcycle, or off-highway vehicle in violation of this Article, or to operate an electric-assisted bicycle in violation of Section 8-6-50(e), shall be subject to a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per violation, in addition to any fine

assessed against the minor operator. This fine is imposed by the Municipal Judge and shall be paid to the City's General Fund.

(c) Impoundment. In addition to any fine imposed under this Section, any peace officer authorized to enforce this Article may impound or cause the impoundment of: (1) any electric motorcycle, low-power electric motorcycle, toy-vehicle, high-performance electric vehicle, or off-highway vehicle operated in violation of this Article; or (2) any electric-assisted bicycle operated in violation of Section 8-6-50(e). Costs of impoundment and storage shall be borne by the owner of the vehicle.

(d) Enforcement authority. Law enforcement personnel of the City or any entity with whom the City contracts to provide law enforcement services, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, and the Colorado State Patrol are authorized to enforce the provisions of this Article.

(e) Post-impoundment hearing. As to any vehicle impounded under the provisions of the Article, the owner of record and any lienholder has a right to an administrative hearing to determine whether there was probable cause to impound the vehicle pursuant to this Article. Said person must file a written demand for a hearing with the Centennial Municipal Court within thirty (30) days after the date of the impoundment and storage of the vehicle or within ten days of the postmark date of any notice sent by certified mail in compliance with the terms of Section 1804(4) of the Model Traffic Code. This written demand must include the owner's or lienholder's current address and a telephone number where the owner or lienholder can be reached between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Notice of the impoundment must be provided to the owner of record, if ascertained, and any lienholder, if ascertained, in compliance with Section 1804 of the Model Traffic Code.

(f) Conduct of hearing.

(1) A hearing shall be conducted by the Municipal Court within three (3) days of receipt by the City Clerk's Office of a written demand from the person seeking the hearing, unless such person waives the right to a speedy hearing. The timeframe excludes dates during which the Municipal Court is closed, including weekends and holidays.

(2) The sole issue before the Municipal Court Judge shall be whether there was probable cause to impound the vehicle in question. The Municipal Court Judge shall determine whether there was probable cause to conclude that the vehicle was subject to impoundment under the provisions of this Article.

(3) The hearing shall be conducted in an informal manner and shall not be bound by technical rules of evidence. The Municipal Court Judge may receive all or part of the evidence in written form. The person demanding the hearing shall carry the burden of establishing that such person has the right to possession of the vehicle. The city shall carry the burden of establishing that there was probable cause to impound the vehicle in question. The burden of proof shall be by a preponderance of the evidence. Failure of the registered or legal owner, or the legal owner's

that there was probable cause to impound the vehicle in question. The burden of proof shall be by a preponderance of the evidence. Failure of the registered or legal owner, or the legal owner's agent, to attend a scheduled post-impoundment hearing shall be deemed a waiver of the right to such a hearing and probable cause, in such instance, shall be conclusively presumed.

(4) At the conclusion of the hearing, the Municipal Court Judge shall prepare a written decision. At that time, a copy of such decision shall be provided to the registered or legal owner or legal owner's agent. The Municipal Court Judge's decision shall in no way affect any other proceeding in connection with the impound in question and any charges involved in such proceeding may only be challenged in the appropriate court. The decision of the Court is final.

Section 8-6-90. Relationship to State Law and Existing Code.

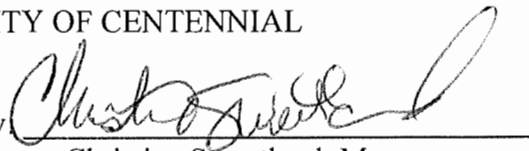
In the event of a conflict between this Article and state law or the Model Traffic Code, the provisions that imposes the most restrictive requirement controls within the City's jurisdiction.

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance should be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid portion, provided that such remaining portions or applications of this Ordinance are not determined by the court to be inoperable. The City Council declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof, despite the fact that any one or more section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion would be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

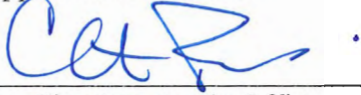
Section 4. Emergency Declaration and Effective Date. The City Council hereby legislatively declares that the passage of this Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety based on the materials in the Staff Report and as presented during the public hearing on August 18th. Upon passage by a supermajority of City Council members in office, this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CENTENNIAL, COLORADO, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED AT ITS MEETING HELD ON THE 11th DAY OF August, 2026.

CITY OF CENTENNIAL

By 
Christine Sweetland, Mayor

Approved as to Form:



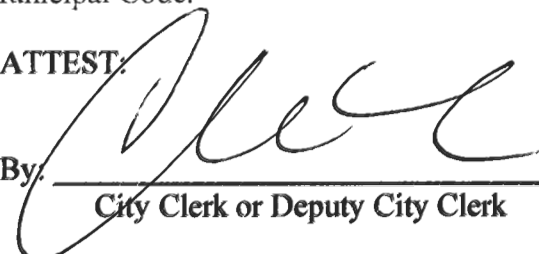
For City Attorney's Office

I hereby certify that the above Ordinance was introduced to the City Council of the City of Centennial at its meeting of Aug 18th, 2026 and ordered published in full on the City website in accordance with Section 2-1-110 of the Municipal Code.

SEAL

ATTEST:

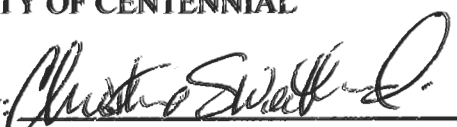
By:


City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk

FINALLY ADOPTED, PASSED, APPROVED WITH AMENDMENTS, IF ANY, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED IN FULL ON THE CITY WEBSITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-1-110 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CENTENNIAL, COLORADO, UPON A MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED AT ITS MEETING HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF August, 2026, BY A VOTE OF 8 IN FAVOR AND 6 AGAINST.

CITY OF CENTENNIAL

By:


Christine Sweetland, Mayor

I hereby certify that the above Ordinance was finally adopted by the City Council of the City of Centennial at its meeting of Aug 18, 2026, and ordered published in full on the City website on Aug 19, 2026 in accordance with Section 2-1-110 of the Municipal Code.

SEAL

ATTEST:

By:


City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk