

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village Council Meeting
10/7/2025

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
Micromobility – Draft Ordinance re: Electric Scooters	Enza Petrarca Village Attorney

SYNOPSIS

An ordinance has been prepared to regulate electric scooters.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Goals for 2023 to 2025 include *A Safe Community*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval on the October 14, 2025 Active Agenda.

BACKGROUND

The Village Council adopted an [ordinance regulating micromobility devices](#) at the September 9, 2025 Village Council Meeting. At that same meeting, the Village Council also requested that the regulations be amended to permit the use of electric scooters that travel in excess of 10mph. The proposed ordinance defines a “high speed electric scooter” as follows:

High-speed electric scooter: A device weighing less than one hundred (100) pounds, with two (2) or three (3) wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, that is powered by an electric motor and human power, and whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion, is no more than twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph). “High-speed electric scooter” does not include a moped or motor-driven cycle.

The proposed ordinance provides that high speed electric scooters be subject to the same rules and regulations as low speed electric scooters, including prohibiting the operation on streets where the speed limit is at or above 35 mph and requiring a minimum age of 18 years old to operate. The proposed ordinance further regulates high speed electric scooters to provide that they can only be operated on streets and shared-use paths, and that they are prohibited to be operated on sidewalks.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by redline/underline; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Section 1. That the title of Article 6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 BICYCLES, LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES, ~~LOW-SPEED~~-ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, AND PERSONAL MOBILITY DEVICES

Section 2. That Section 6.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec 6.1 Definitions

Bicycle. Any device propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, composed of two (2) or more wheels, propelled by pedals and steered with handlebars and designated seats for transportation of persons.

Low-speed electric bicycle: A bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty (750) watts, and that meets the requirements of one of the three (3) classifications set forth in Section 1-140.10 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/1-140.10, as amended.

Electric scooter: The term electric scooters includes both high-speed electric scooters and low-speed electric scooters.

High-speed electric scooter: A device weighing less than one hundred (100) pounds, with two (2) or three (3) wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, that is powered by an electric motor and human power, and whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion, is no more than twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph). “High-speed electric scooter” does not include a moped or motor-driven cycle.

Low-speed electric scooter: A device weighing less than one hundred (100) pounds, with two (2) or three (3) wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, that is powered by an electric motor and human power, and whose maximum speed, with or without human propulsion, is no more than ten miles per hour (10 mph). “Low-speed electric scooter” does not include a moped or motor-driven cycle.

Personal assistance mobility device: Manual wheelchairs, power wheelchairs, and electric scooters and manually powered mobility aids such as a walkers, crutches, cane, braces, and other similar devices used by a person with a disability.

Personal mobility device: Any electric-powered or electric assisted device other than a low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed electric scooter~~ or electric scooter, designed to transport one or more persons with an electric propulsion system, such as a motorized or motor-assisted skateboard, motorized unicycles, hover boards, electric personal assistive mobility devices, as defined by 625 ILCS 5/1-117.7, as amended, and any other similar devices, which are propelled by any type of motor or engine whatsoever and include a platform or other space on which an operator or passenger may ride. The following shall be exempt from this definition: (1) personal assistance mobility devices as defined herein; (2) personal mobility devices used by the United States Postal Services to deliver United States mail; (3) personal mobility devices used

by governmental entities for public safety purposes or by a Village employee in the performance of the employee's official duties; and, (4) toy vehicles as defined below.

Shared-use path: A pathway eight feet (8') or wider physically separated from motorized vehicle traffic and designed for use by the general public to support active transportation users.

Toy Vehicles: battery-powered devices designed for children under eight (8), with a maximum speed of ten miles per hour (10 mph).

Section 3. That Section 6.2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec 6.2 Operation of bicycles, low-speed electric bicycles, low-speed electric scooters and personal mobility devices

- (a) *Riding on bicycles, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooters and personal mobility devices:* A person operating a bicycle or low-speed electric bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor carry any other person or persons upon such bicycle or low-speed electric bicycle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat designed and intended for such purpose. No bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device shall be used to carry more than one (1) person unless specifically designed and equipped for more than one (1) person. A bicycle rider or low-speed electric bicycle rider eighteen (18) years of age or older may carry a child securely attached to their person in a sling, or in a device specifically designed to securely attach to the bicycle or a low-speed electric bicycle, as the case may be, and designed to transport a passenger, such as a bike trailer, child seat, or other similar device.
- (b) *Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle age restriction:* A person who is under the age of sixteen (16) may not operate a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle as set forth in Section 11-1517 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/11-1517, as amended.
- (c) *~~Low-speed e~~Electric scooter age restriction:* A person who is under the age of eighteen (18) may not operate an ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter. ~~(See, as set forth in~~ Section 11-1518 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/11-1518, as amended.)
- (d) *Speed:* No person shall operate a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, or personal mobility device at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the then existing conditions. No person shall operate a low-speed electric scooter at a speed greater than ten miles per hour (10) mph regardless of conditions.
- (e) *~~Low-speed e~~Electric scooters on certain highways:* A person may not operate an ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter on any State public highway in the Village and on any highways with a posted speed limit in excess of thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph). ~~(See, as set forth in~~ Section 11-1518 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/11-1518, as amended.)
- (f) *Operating Under the Influence:* A person may not operate a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device while under the influence of any drug or alcohol.
- (g) *Riding on right:* Every person operating a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device upon a public street or roadway shall ride as near to the right side thereof as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
- (h) *Emerging from alley or driveway:* The operator of a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device emerging from an alley, driveway or building shall, upon approaching a sidewalk or sidewalk area extending across any alleyway, yield the right of way to all pedestrians and other persons operating a bicycle, low-speed electric scooter or personal assistance mobility device approaching on said sidewalk area and upon entering the public street or roadway, shall yield the right of way to all vehicles and other persons operating a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter, personal mobility device, or personal assistance mobility device approaching on said street or roadway.

- (i) *Emerging from shared-use paths:* Any person operating a bicycle, a Class 1 or Class 2 low-speed electric bicycle or an ~~an low-speed~~ electric scooter upon a shared-use path shall yield the right of way to all vehicles, pedestrians, and other persons operating a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter personal mobility device or personal assistance mobility device prior to riding into a roadway.
- (j) *Duty to yield:* Whenever a person rides a bicycle or low-speed electric scooter upon a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian or person operating a personal assistance mobility device and shall give an appropriate signal clearly audible to such pedestrian or operator of a personal assistance mobility device.
- (k) *Clinging to vehicles:* No person riding upon any bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device shall attach said bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device, or themselves, by clinging or otherwise, to any other vehicle.
- (l) *Riding in a group:* Persons operating bicycles, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooters or personal mobility devices shall ride in a single file.
- (m) *Carrying articles:* The use of handheld cell phones, or similar devices, while operating a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter and/or personal mobility device is prohibited. A person may not operate a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device while carrying any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.

Section 4. That Section 6.3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.3 Location restrictions.

- (a) *Bicycles and low-speed electric scooters:* Bicycles and low-speed electric scooters may be operated on any street, shared-use path or sidewalk in the Village except as follows: no bicycles, low-speed electric scooters, skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates or similar devices may be operated on sidewalks in the Downtown Business District and Downtown Core District or where signs or markings so prohibiting such use are present.
- (b) Class 1 and Class 2 low-speed electric bicycles and high-speed electric scooters may be operated on any street or shared-use path in the Village. They are prohibited on sidewalks in the Village.
- (c) Class 3 low-speed electric bicycles and personal mobility devices may only be operated on streets in the Village. They are prohibited on sidewalks and shared-use paths in the Village.
- (d) No person shall ride bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooters and personal mobility devices upon any private property for which the Village has entered into an agreement with the property owners, lessees or managers of property for enforcement of these restrictions on the property, and upon which signs or markings prohibiting such use are present. The Village Manager is authorized on behalf of the Village Council to execute agreements with property owners, lessees or managers of property for the enforcement of restrictions of use of bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, inline-skates, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooters and personal mobility devices on any private property upon which signs or markings so prohibiting such use are present.
- (e) *Other vehicles prohibited:* Any personal mobility device that do not meet the definition of personal mobility devices as defined in Section 6.1 above, including but not limited to: pocket bikes, dirt bikes, mini bikes or other non-highway vehicles shall not be permitted to be operated on any public street, sidewalk, shared-use path, public right-of-way or on any other public property within the Village.

Section 5. That Section 6.4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.4 Parking.

Parking: No person shall park a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device upon a public street or public right-of-way. Bicycles, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooters and personal mobility devices shall be parked on or adjacent to a sidewalk in a

rack or charging station designed and installed for that purpose when available, or otherwise in a manner so as to avoid the obstruction of sidewalk access for pedestrian traffic.

Section 6. That Section 6.5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.5 Equipment.

- (a) *Lamps and reflectors:* Every bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter and personal mobility device operated at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet (500') to the front and with a red reflector on the rear which shall be visible from all distances from fifty feet (50') to three hundred feet (300') to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from five hundred feet (500') to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.
- (b) *Brakes:* Every bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter and personal mobility device shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheel skid on a dry, level, clean pavement.
- (c) *Electric Motor and Battery:* No person shall operate any low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device with a battery or motor that has been altered or modified from the manufacturer's specifications, or where the battery or motor specifications are removed, disguised, or omitted to conceal performance specifications.
- (d) *Labels for Low-Speed Electric Bicycles:* Every low-speed electric bicycle is required to have a label that is permanently affixed to the bicycle in a prominent location. The label shall contain: (1) the low-speed electric bicycle classification number; (2) the bicycle's top assisted speed; and (3) the bicycle's motor wattage as set forth in Section 11-1517 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 11-1517, as amended.
- (e) *Operating Condition:* Every bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter and personal mobility device operated within the Village shall be in good operating condition.

Section 7. That Section 6.6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.6 Duty of parent or legal guardian.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any parent or any legal guardian to permit, authorize, allow or acquiesce to any minor child seventeen (17) years of age or younger of which they are a parent or legal guardian to violate any provisions of this Chapter. Any parent or legal guardian of any minor child seventeen (17) years of age or younger shall be liable for any and all fines or penalties imposed for violations of this Chapter and for any and all damages and injuries to persons or property resulting therefrom.

Section 8. That Section 6.7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.7 Exemption.

- (a) The provisions of this Chapter shall not be applicable to special events approved by the Village pursuant to the Downers Grove Municipal Code involving the use of bicycles, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility devices.
- (b) The provisions of this Chapter shall not be applicable to personal assistance mobility devices or toy vehicles.

Section 9. That Section 6.8 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.8 Village Immunity.

- (a) Nothing in this Chapter designates the operation of bicycles, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooters, personal mobility devices or toys as an intended or permitted use of

property with respect to Section 3-102 of the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, 745 ILCS 10/3-102, as amended.

Section 10. That Section 6.9 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.9 Impoundment.

(a) Any and all bicycles, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooters and personal mobility devices operated in violation of this Chapter may be impounded by the Village and held as evidence of such violation pending the final disposition of any proceedings commenced in relation to such violation. In the event a bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter or personal mobility device is found on public property, or found in the possession of a person not the owner or other person entitled to possession thereof, such device may be impounded by the Village. If the device is not claimed after impoundment, such device may be sold as properly possessed by a law enforcement agency pursuant to applicable law.

Section 11. That Section 6.10 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.10 Penalty.

(a) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to the penalties set forth in DGMC Section 1.15 and DGMC Section 1.16. A separate offense shall be deemed committed for each day on which a violation occurs or continues.

Section 12. That Section 1.16 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1.16 Citation And Settlement In Lieu Of Prosecution For Certain Offenses

- (a) Whenever a person is observed violating certain provisions of this Code as specified in this Section, or there is reasonable suspicion to believe that such a violation has occurred and that a particular person is responsible, the Village may, in lieu of filing a complaint in court, issue to the alleged violator a citation which shall:
 - (1) Advise said person that the same has violated a specified ordinance;
 - (2) Direct said person to make payment in an amount applicable to said alleged violation as set forth in this section as settlement of said claim;
 - (3) Advise said person, where applicable, to cease and/or abate said violation forthwith and to refrain from like violations in the future;
 - (4) Inform said person that, upon failure to so settle the claim and to cease and/or abate said violations, a complaint will be filed in the Circuit Court of DuPage County.
- (b) Except as provided below, citations as provided herein shall be personally served upon the person responsible for the violation, his agent, representative, independent contractor or employee. In the event the owner, occupant, contractor or other person responsible for the violation cannot be located the citation may be served by posting a copy at the property, structure or vehicle where the violation has occurred and sending a copy by United States mail to the last known address of such person.
- (c) Any person served with a citation for violations of the following provisions of the Downers Grove Municipal Code and the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Downers Grove may settle and compromise the matter in respect of such ordinance violation by ceasing and/or abating said violation and paying the sum of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) if paid within ten (10) days of service of the citation, or one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) if paid after such ten (10) day period but before filing of a complaint in the Circuit Court of DuPage County.
 - (1) DOWNERS GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE
 - a. DGMC Section 5.501; Animals; Running at Large.
 - b. DGMC Section 5.202; Removal of Dog Excrement.
 - c. DGMC Section 5.203; Removal of Cat Excrement.

- d. Any provision of Chapter 6, Bicycles, Low-speed Electric Bicycles, ~~Low-speed~~ Electric Scooters and Personal Mobility Devices.
- e. DGMC Section 8.2014(d); Requirements for Display of Massage Establishment License.
- f. DGMC Section 13.43; Storage of Refuse.
- g. DGMC Section 13.49.1; Placing Garbage on the Parkway for Scavenger Removal.
- h. DGMC Section 13.49.2; Discarding Refuse and Compostable Materials in Streets, etc., prohibited.
- i. DGMC Section 15.205; Noise Regulations.
- j. DGMC Section 15.208 Drinking on Public property and in parking areas of residential developments.
- k. DGMC Section 15.302; Possession of Cannabis, Tobacco Products, Alternative Nicotine Products, Smoking Materials or Drug Paraphernalia by any person under the age of twenty-one prohibited.
- l. DGMC Section 15.303; Purchase of Cannabis, Tobacco Products, Alternative Nicotine Products, Smoking Materials or Drug Paraphernalia by any person under the age of twenty-one prohibited.
- m. DGMC Section 19.15.1; Skateboarding, Roller Skating or In-Line Skating in a Business District.
- n. DGMC Section 19.21.1; Depositing Snow on Paved Streets.
- o. DGMC Section 25.11; Use of Public Hydrants.

* * *

Section 13. That Section 4.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec 4.210 Public Conduct During Parades Or Open Air Meetings

- (a) Interference. No person shall unreasonably hamper, obstruct, impede, or interfere with any parade, open air meeting or similar activity, or with any person, vehicle or animal participating or used in such activity.
- (b) Driving through parades or open air meetings in a motor vehicle or by bicycle, low-speed electric bicycle, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooter and personal mobility device is prohibited.
- (c) The Village Manager shall have the authority to prohibit or restrict the parking of vehicles along a highway or part thereof constituting a part of the route of a parade or location of an open air meeting. The Village Manager shall order the posting of signs to such effect, and it shall be unlawful for any person to park or leave unattended any vehicle in violation thereof.

Section 14. That Section 15.218 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec 15.218 Attachment To Street Light Poles Of Any Device Or Material Prohibited

No person shall attach any device or material to any street light pole located within the DB Downtown Business District, DC Downtown Core District or the DT Downtown Transition District of the Village as defined in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the Village, passed and approved April 19, 1965, as amended. Such device or material shall include, but not be limited to, boxes, vending machines and any other type of dispensers for newspapers and other publications, bicycles, low-speed electric bicycles, ~~low-speed~~ electric scooters or other personal mobility devices, garbage receptacles, benches, signs and advertisements. This restriction shall not apply to the American flag, seasonal decorations, banners related to Village sponsored events, or signs regulating parking or traffic, when attachment of such items is authorized by the Village Council.

Section 15. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 16. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

Passed:

Published:

Attest:_____
Village Clerk