

Meeting Date: April 6, 2026

Memo Date: April 1, 2026
To: Village Board of Trustees, Administrator Matt Giese
From: Chief Mark W. Garry II
Subject: Review of Information related to Bicycles, Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes), and Electric Scooters (E-Scooters) for Creation of Ordinance

Background

The Village is currently reviewing regulations regarding the operation of bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters within Village limits. As these modes of transportation become more prevalent, it is necessary to establish clear definitions and rules of the road to ensure public safety and consistency with Wisconsin Statutes. The provided draft ordinance seeks to address these needs by outlining where such devices can be operated, safety equipment requirements, and the responsibilities of operators.

Overview

The draft ordinance establishes a comprehensive framework for micro-mobility within the Village, including the following key components:

- **Definitions:** Clear definitions are provided for "Highway," "Roadway," "Bicycle," "Electric Scooter," and "Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device".
- **Electric Bicycle Classifications:** In accordance with Wis. Stats. §340.01(15ph), the ordinance recognizes Class 1, 2, and 3 electric bicycles based on their motor assistance and top speeds.
- **Operational Rules:** Operators are subject to Village ordinances and State traffic laws.
 - Electric scooters are prohibited on roadways with speed limits exceeding 25 mph unless a designated bicycle lane exists.
 - Devices are permitted on sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and shared-use paths unless otherwise signed, provided they yield to pedestrians.
- **Safety Requirements:**
 - Nighttime operation requires a white headlamp and red rear reflector/lamp.
 - Helmets are required for all operators and passengers under the age of sixteen.
 - Headphones covering or inserted into both ears are prohibited while operating.
- **Commercial Restrictions:** Short-term commercial rentals or shared-scooter services are prohibited unless expressly authorized by the Village Board via a licensing agreement.

- Enforcement: Violations are subject to forfeitures as established in the Village's uniform schedule, with specific considerations for minors under fourteen.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Village Board review the provided draft and provide guidance on any necessary policy adjustments. Following this review, Staff seeks authorization to forward the draft to the Village legal team to formalize the language and craft a final ordinance for adoption.

Attachments

- Bicycle, e-bicycle, and e-scooter ordinance DRAFT