

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6855

AN ORDINANCE amending Section 11.48.210 of the Bellevue City Code, to revise the City's regulations related to the operation of motorized foot scooters for consistency with state law; and establishing an effective date.

WHEREAS, Section 11.48.210 of the Bellevue City Code (BCC) was last updated in 2007; and

WHEREAS, since that time there have been updates to state law and an increase in usage of motorized foot scooters in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend BCC 11.48.210 to align with state law and expand regulations for the operation of motorized foot scooters throughout the City; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 11.48.210 of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

11.48.210 Motorized foot scooters.

A. Definitions.

1. "Motorized foot scooter" means a device with two or three wheels that has handlebars, a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, and is powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor that has a maximum speed of no greater than twenty miles per hour on level ground, as defined in RCW 46.04.336, as adopted or hereinafter amended. For the purposes of this section, motor-driven cycle, a moped, an electric-assisted bicycle, or a motorcycle is not a motorized foot scooter.
2. "Dismount zone" means an area indicated by signage where motorized foot scooters may not be ridden and riders must dismount and walk their scooter.

B. Rules for Motorized Foot Scooters.

1. Areas of operation.

- a. Motorized foot scooters are allowed to operate on city roadways and bicycle lanes as defined in BCC 14.60.040, as adopted or hereinafter amended.
- b. Motorized foot scooters are allowed to operate on paved trails and shared use paths, including within city parks, except where signed as prohibited.
- c. Motorized foot scooters are not allowed to operate on sidewalks, unless there is no safe alternative, such as a bicycle lane or where the posted speed limit is 20 mph. Under no circumstances shall motorized foot scooters be ridden in a dismount zone.
- d. Motorized foot scooters are not allowed to operate on unpaved trails that have a natural surface tread that is made by clearing and grading the native soil with no added surfacing materials. For purposes of this section, surfacing material does not include mulch or gravel on natural surface tread.
- e. The City Traffic Engineer is authorized to establish and designate certain sidewalks, paved trails, and shared use paths as dismount zones that prohibit the riding of motorized foot scooters thereon by any person.
- f. The Parks and Community Services Director is authorized to establish and designate certain city parks and parks facilities as dismount zones that prohibit the riding of motorized foot scooters thereon by any person.

2. Rules of operation.

- a. Any person operating a motorized foot scooter shall obey all rules of the road applicable to vehicle traffic, as well as the instructions of official traffic control signals, signs and other control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.
- b. Whenever a person is operating a motorized foot scooter on sidewalks, shared use paths, or paved trails, such person shall operate the motorized foot scooter in a careful and prudent manner and at a rate of speed no greater than the posted speed limit or fifteen miles per hour, whichever is lower, and shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian.

c. Whenever a person is operating a motorized foot scooter on sidewalks, shared use paths, or paved trails, such person shall operate the motorized foot scooter in a manner that is reasonable and proper under the conditions existing at the point of operation, taking into account the amount and character of pedestrian traffic, grade and width of the facility, and condition of surface, and when because of the width of such facility or the amount of pedestrian traffic thereon, riding a motorized foot scooter on such facility would endanger or unreasonably inconvenience pedestrians, such person shall stop and dismount from such motorized foot scooter.

d. Motorized foot scooters may be operated during any time of day with a red reflector on the rear that is visible from a distance of five hundred feet when directly in front of lawful upper beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. It shall also be equipped with reflective material and of sufficient size and reflectivity to be visible from both sides at a distance of five hundred feet.

e. The operator of a motorized foot scooter must be at least 16 years old to use a motorized foot scooter upon allowed public rights-of-way.

f. Any person operating a motorized foot scooter upon any public area in the city of Bellevue is strongly encouraged to wear an approved helmet designed for safety while the motorized foot scooter is in motion.

g. Operation of a scooter shall be limited to one rider.

3. No motorized foot scooter shall be ridden in a negligent or unsafe manner but shall be operated with reasonable regard for the safety of the operator and other persons.

C. *Penalty for Violation.* A violation of any provision of this chapter is a traffic infraction punishable by the imposition of a monetary penalty of not more than \$250.00, exclusive of statutory assessments; provided, that conduct that constitutes a criminal traffic offense may be charged as such and is subject to the maximum penalties allowed for such offenses. Community service hours may be imposed in lieu of a monetary penalty.

D. If any one or more sections, subsections or sentences of this section are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this section and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after its passage and legal publication.

Passed by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2025 and signed in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2025.

(SEAL)

Lynne Robinson, Mayor

Approved as to form:
Trisna Tanus, City Attorney

Monica Buck, Deputy City Attorney

Attest:

Charmaine Arredondo, City Clerk

Published _____