

Micromobility
E-Bikes, Electric Motorcycles, Electric/Motorized Scooters, and Golf Carts

Presenters

Chief Damon Simmons, PhD-LLPD

Deputy Chief Darin Morgan-LLPD

Captain Joe Cushner-SVFD

Objectives

- **WHY ARE WE HERE?**
- **THE COST OF NEGLIGENCE AND RECKLESSNESS (PERSONAL INJURY AND DEATH)**
- **IS IT AN E-BIKE OR AN ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE?**
- **TYPES OF E-BIKES**
- **ELECTRIC/MOTORIZED SCOOTERS**
- **GOLF CARTS**
- **RULE VIOLATIONS AND LAWS**
- **THE LOCAL COST OF NEGLIGENCE (PERSONAL INJURY AND DEATH)**
- **ENFORCEMENT (PUBLIC SAFETY)**

The “Why”

1. Address micromobility and accountability because the rapid growth of e-scooters, e-bikes, and similar devices is outpacing policy, enforcement, and public awareness, creating real risks to public safety, liability exposure, and community trust.
2. Address micromobility and accountability because it represents the next evolution of urban transportation, and how we respond today will define safety standards, enforcement legitimacy, and community expectations moving forward.

What Do You Think?

How often do you personally use an e-bike or e-scooter in Liberty Lake?

1. Daily (commuting or errands)
2. Weekly (recreation)
3. Occasionally
4. Never

E-SCOOTER INJURY STATISTICS (2024)

- **Total Injuries:** E-scooter injuries in the U.S. reached 118,485, nearly twice the 2023 total of 64,329.
- **Surge:** Injuries increased 80% from 2023 to 2024.
- **Pediatric Risk:** Injuries among children under 15 more than doubled in 2024, with 42.2% of pediatric injuries occurring in 2024 alone.
- **Demographics:** People aged 15-24 suffered the most injuries.
- **Injury Type:** 18% of injuries involve head injuries, while 57% impact extremities. 87.6% of injuries are from falls, while 5.7% are collisions with vehicles

Source: The American College of Surgeons and Campus Safety Magazine

E-BIKE INJURY AND DEATH STATISTICS (2024)

- **Fatalities:** A 2024 study in Marin County found that nearly 1 in 8 (12.5%) e-bike trauma patients brought to the ER by ambulance died from their injuries.
- **Fatality Rate:** The death rate for e-bike accidents was 37 times higher than for traditional bicycles.
- **Head Trauma:** E-bike rider head trauma cases increased 49-fold in the last 5 years (up to Feb 2024).
- **Injury Severity:** Studies show a high prevalence of severe injury due to high speeds, prompting calls for mandatory helmets.

Source: The American College of Surgeons and Campus Safety Magazine

What Do You Think?

Based on your experience, current rules in Liberty Lake feel:

1. Too strict
2. About right
3. Too lenient
4. I’m not sure what the rules are

IS IT AN E-BIKE OR AN ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE?

Washington State law clearly defines the difference between regular bicycles, e-bikes, and electric motorcycles.



APPLICABLE LINKS

RCW 46.61.710 Mopeds, EPAMDs, motorized foot scooters, personal delivery devices, electric assisted bicycles, class 1 electric-assisted bicycles, class 2 electric-assisted bicycles, class 3 electric assisted bicycles - General requirements and operation.

RCW 46.20.500 Special endorsement - Penalties - Exceptions.

RCW 46.37.530 Motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, mopeds,

electric-assisted bicycles - Helmets, other equipment - Children

- Rules.

RCW 46.61.705 Off-road motorcycles.

E-Bikes

- E- bikes are bicycles that can be assisted by an electric motor.
- Some e-bikes only provide electric assistance when the rider is pedaling.
- Others can propel the e-bike using electric power alone.



E-Bikes

Class 1	These e-bikes assist up to 20 mph and only provide electric assistance when the rider is pedaling. They can be ridden anywhere traditional bikes are permitted – including mixed-use trails, bike lanes, and roads – unless otherwise noted. Such notification includes anywhere signs prohibiting motorized vehicles are posted.	

E-Bikes

Class 2	These e-bikes assist up to 20 mph but can propel the bike without pedaling. They can be ridden most places where traditional bikes are permitted – including mixed-use trails, bike lanes, and roads – unless otherwise noted. Such notification includes anywhere posted signs prohibit their use.	

E-Bikes

Class 3	These e-bikes assist up to 28 mph and have additional rules. The rider must be 16 or older. Class 3 e-bikes are also generally prohibited on sidewalks and shared-use paths.	 

E-Bikes

- New e-bikes are required to have a label that includes their class, top assisted speed, and motor wattage (RCW46.37.690).
- The labels are often located on the top tube or near the bottom bracket on the e-bike.

E-Motorcycles

- E-motorcycles' sole power source is an electric motor and often doesn't have moving pedals.
- They have foot pegs, other brackets, or supports.
- Without moving pedals capable of propelling it, this type of cycle is classified as a motorcycle.
- Make sure you know the difference between an e-bike and an e-motorcycle.
- Many e-motorcycle makes and models are marketed as e-bikes and can travel much faster than a traditional e-bike.

Any motor-driven cycle with a motor that exceeds 750 watts is classified as an electric motorcycle. All laws that apply to gas-powered motorcycles also apply to e-motorcycles.

E-Motorcycles

- **Electric motorcycles are motorcycles.**
- It's also illegal to ride an electric motorcycle if you are under the age of 16 or are over 16 but don't possess a driver's license with motorcycle endorsement.
- E-motorcycles are also considered illegal unless they are registered – just like all other motor vehicles.
- Electric motorcycles are required to be registered with the Washington State Department of Licensing, and per state law, the licensed operator must have insurance.
- This means for an electric motorcycle to be ridden on a road, it must have a license plate and meet the requirements of RCW46.61.705.
- E-motorcycle operators are required to hold a driver's license with motorcycle endorsement and a helmet.



E-BIKES AND ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLES

Discussion

- **RCW 46.55.113 Removal by police officer—Definition.**
- **RCW 46.55.360 Impoundment, when required—Law enforcement powers, duties, and liability immunity—Redemption, when, by whom—Operator liability immunity—Definition.**
- **Enforcement:**
  - **Consistency in municipal codes (e.g., juvenile referral v. citing parents)**
  - **Micromobility-transportation using lightweight vehicles such as bicycles or scooters, which people use for short-term use within a town or city.**
  - **One municipal code-Micromobility: e-bikes, electric motorcycles, electric/motorized scooters, golf carts, one-wheel scooters (e.g., Onewheel GT)**

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS
Chapter 3 LL Municipal Code

- “MOTORIZED FOOT SCOOTER: A device with no more than two (2) 10-inch or smaller diameter wheels that has handlebars, is designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator, and is powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion.”

- “For purposes of this section, a "pocket bike" and "minichopper" **are considered** "motorized foot scooters".

- A motor driven cycle, a moped, an electric assisted bicycle, or a motorcycle **is not a** "motorized foot scooter". ”

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS
Chapter 3 LL Municipal Code

OPERATION REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

A. Motorized foot scooters shall not be operated upon a public roadway by any person under the age of sixteen (16) years.

B. Motorized foot scooters shall not be operated on public roadways with a speed limit of greater than twenty five (25) miles per hour.

C. Operators of motorized foot scooters shall adhere to all rules of the road applicable to motorized vehicles.

D. Motorized foot scooters shall not be operated on city owned property, city parks, walkways, paths, trails, sidewalks, or any other place where other motorized vehicles are expressly prohibited.

E. Motorized foot scooters shall not be operated on publicly owned parking lots, and privately owned parking lots without the permission of the owner.

F. No person shall transport or tow another person on, in or with a motorized foot scooter within the city of Liberty Lake.

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS
Chapter 3 LL Municipal Code

- It is unlawful for any parent, guardian or other person having control or custody of a minor child to allow said minor to operate a motorized foot scooter in violation of this chapter.

- Upon a determination that a violation of this chapter has occurred, law enforcement officers may, at their discretion, issue a civil infraction not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00) to any included person, including the parent or guardian, in violating any provisions of this chapter.

OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS
Chapter 4 LL Municipal Code

- GOLF CART: A gas powered or electric powered four (4) wheeled vehicle originally designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting purposes and has a speed attainable in one mile of not more than twenty (20) miles per hour. A golf cart is not a nonhighway vehicle or off-road vehicle as defined in Revised Code Of Washington 46.09.310. A golf cart is not considered a motor vehicle, except for the purposes of chapter 46.61 Revised Code Of Washington.

- GOLF CART REGISTRATION PERMIT: A privilege granted, upon compliance with the terms of this chapter, to legally operate a golf cart upon a public street or roadway within the corporate boundaries of the city of Liberty Lake during the two (2) year period that the permit is valid.

- GOLF CART ZONE: Any public roadway within the city of Liberty Lake having a speed limit of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less.

OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS Chapter 4 LL Municipal Code

7-4-2: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

The following use, operational requirements and restrictions are adopted by the city of Liberty Lake for golf carts:

A. Every person operating a golf cart as authorized under this section is granted all rights and is subject to all duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle under Revised Code Of Washington 46.61.

B. A golf cart may be operated on a street, including a public right of way, by a person as follows:

1. Every person operating a golf cart as authorized under this section must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and have a valid driver's license.

2. A person who has a revoked or suspended driver's license under Revised Code Of Washington 46.20.285 may not operate a golf cart as authorized under this section.

3. Any person operating a golf cart, as authorized under this section, shall not transport more passengers than the manufacturer's designed seating capacity. All occupants shall be seated during operation and the use of seat belts shall be mandatory while the golf cart is being operated.

OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS
Chapter 4 LL Municipal Code

7-4-2: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

4. No golf cart may be operated at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent for the existing conditions, and in no instance at a speed greater than twenty (20) miles per hour.

5. Golf carts must be operated to the extreme right of the roadway and must yield to all vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic.

6. The authorized driver of a golf cart operating the cart on a street can cross an excluded street but otherwise may not operate a golf cart on any excluded street.

7. Golf carts are prohibited from pulling trailers, boats, jet skis, other objects or people on streets.

8. Drivers shall maintain and have proof of insurance coverage for the golf cart at the time of permit issuance.

9. Golf carts must be operated in accordance with all applicable state and local laws and ordinances, including all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the possession and use of drugs and alcoholic beverages.

OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS Chapter 4 LL Municipal Code

7-4-2: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

C. Golf carts shall not be operated on a street during one-half ($^1/_2$) hour after sunset to one-half ($^1/_2$) hour before sunrise unless in compliance with Revised Code Of Washington 46.37 regarding vehicle lighting and other equipment, including equipping the golf cart 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 of a type approved by the Washington state patrol which shall be visible from all distances up to six hundred feet (600') to the rear when directly in front of lawful low beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector. A light emitting diode flashing taillight visible from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the rear may also be used in addition to the red reflector.

D. Golf carts shall not be operated in a negligent manner. For the purpose of this subsection, "to operate in a negligent manner" is defined as the operation of a golf cart in such a manner as to endanger any person or property, or to obstruct, hinder, or impede the lawful course of travel of any motor vehicle or the lawful use by any pedestrian of public streets, sidewalks, paths, trails, walkways, or parks.

E. Golf carts must be equipped with reflectors, seat belts, and rearview mirrors when operated upon streets and highways as authorized under this section.

F. Golf carts are exempt from motor vehicle licensing requirements, and child restraint system use. (Ord. 227, 4-19-2016)

What Do You Think?

Before today, were you aware of Liberty Lake's current rules for e-bikes and scooters?

1. Yes
2. No



THE LOCAL COST OF NEGLIGENCE (PERSONAL INJURY AND DEATH)

Spokane Valley Fire Department

Captain Joe Cushner

What Do You Think?

Where should e-bikes and e-scooters be allowed in Liberty Lake (select all that apply)?

1. Streets (e.g., Appleway Ave, Mission Ave)
2. Bike lanes and shoulders
3. Sidewalks along major roads
4. Neighborhood streets
5. Parks and park pathways
6. None of the above



Enforcement of Local and State Laws

Deputy Chief Darin Morgan

What Do You Think?

Overall, the increase in e-bikes and scooters in Liberty Lake is:

1. Mostly positive
2. A mix of positives and concerns
3. Mostly negative

REPORTING ILLEGAL OR UNSAFE BIKE BEHAVIOR

The Liberty Lake Police Department Phone: (509) 755-1140

Emergency Phone: 911

The Liberty Lake Police Department is located at:

23127 E Mission Ave

Liberty Lake, WA 99019

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, COMMENTS




The End