

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-ORD- 30

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 78 (“TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES”) OF THE
VILLAGE OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING
MICROMOBILITY DEVICES**

**ADOPTED BY THE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE
VILLAGE OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS
THIS 3rd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025**

Published in pamphlet form
by the authority of the President
and Board of Trustees of the
Village of South Chicago Heights,
Cook County, Illinois this 3rd Day
of November 2025

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VILLAGE OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING
MICROMOBILITY DEVICES**

WHEREAS, the Village of South Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois (the “*Village*”) is a home rule municipality pursuant to Section 6(a), Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, including the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare (the “*Home Rule Powers*”); and

WHEREAS, micromobility devices, including electric bicycles and scooters, are being operated within the Village of South Chicago Heights and pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the individuals operating those devices as well as other pedestrians, vehicles, and property within the Village; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its Home Rule Powers, 625 ILCS 5/11-208(a)(8), 625 ILCS 5/11-1517 (low-speed electric bicycles), and 625 ILCS 5/11-1518 (low-speed electric scooters), the Village can regulate low-speed electric bicycles and low-speed electric scooters; and

WHEREAS, certain vehicles not falling within the scope of the above-cited provisions due to their maximum speed or power are being operated within the Village and similarly pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of individuals operating those devices as well as other pedestrians, vehicles, and property within the Village; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of South Chicago Heights (the “*Corporate Authorities*”) that the regulations and prohibitions on

micromobility devices set forth herein are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Village of South Chicago Heights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of South Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois, by and through its Home Rule Powers, as follows:

Section 1. That the above recitals and legislative findings are found to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

Section 2. Chapter 78 ("Traffic and Vehicles") of the Village of South Chicago Heights Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the following underlined language to read, as follows:

CHAPTER 78 – TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

ARTICLE IX. - MICROMOBILITY DEVICES (LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES, LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, AND E-MOTOS)

Sec. 78-318. – Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Article, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Bike Lane: As defined in 605 ILCS 30/4.1(a), a restricted right-of-way designated for the exclusive or semi-exclusive use of bicycles, with through travel by motor vehicles or pedestrians prohibited, but with vehicle parking and crossflows by pedestrians and motorists permitted.

E-Moto: The term *E-Moto* means a device, built on a bicycle-style frame, equipped with one or more operating modes and a throttle, having an electric motor with a power output capable of exceeding 750 watts, and is capable of exceeding 20 mph using only the throttle.

While these types of devices are not specifically defined by the Illinois Vehicle Code, depending on their design and motor size, they would either be classified as

motor vehicles or motor-driven cycles, and in either case must comply with the registration, insurance, and licensing provisions of the Illinois Vehicle Code, as well as other generally applicable traffic regulations.

Human-Powered Bicycle: A human-powered device, with 2 or more wheels not less than 12 inches in diameter, operable pedals, and designated seats for the transportation of one or more persons. Human-powered bicycles may be operated on any street, sidewalk, or shared-use path within the Village.

Low-Speed Electric Bicycles (“E-Bike”): Is hereby defined in 625 ILCS 5/1-140.10, as may be amended from time to time, and is currently set forth as follows:

A bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that meets the requirements of one of the following classes:

- (a) “Class 1 low-speed electric bicycle” means a low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (b) “Class 2 low-speed electric bicycle” means a low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.
- (c) “Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle” means a low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.

A “low-speed electric bicycle” is not a moped or a motor driven cycle.

Low-Speed Electric Scooter (“E-Scooter”): Is hereby defined in 625 ILCS 5/1-140.11, as may be amended from time to time, and is currently set forth as follows:

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

Motorized Wheelchair: As set forth in 625 ILCS 5/1-148.3, any self-propelled vehicle, including a three-wheeled vehicle, designed for and used by a person with disabilities, that is incapable of a speed in excess of 8 mph on level ground.

Roadway: That portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Shared-Use Path: As defined in 605 ILCS 30/4.1(a)(1), a completely separated right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians with crossflows by motorists minimized.

Sidewalk: The portion of a street between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for the use of pedestrians.

Toy Vehicle: Any battery-powered device that is designed for children under the age of eight years, designed not to exceed 10 mph, and has wheels, handlebars, a steering wheel, seat, or platform.

Sec. 78-319. – Low-speed electric bicycles.

Any person who operates an E-Bike within the Village must comply with the following provisions in addition to those set forth in 625 ILCS 5/11-1517:

- (a) Any person who operates an E-Bike with a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of people or property shall be prosecuted in accordance with section 11-503 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.
- (b) Any person who operates an E-Bike while under the influence shall be prosecuted in accordance with section 11-501 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.
- (c) No person may operate an E-Bike while carrying a package, bundle, or article in a manner that prevents the operator from keeping both hands upon the handlebars.
- (d) No E-Bike shall be used to carry more than one person unless the E-Bike is specifically designed for more than one person.
- (e) Class 1 and Class 2 E-Bikes shall be permitted on Village-owned roadways, bike lanes, and shared-use paths.
- (f) Class 3 E-Bikes shall be permitted on Village-owned roadways and bike lanes only. Class 3 E-Bikes are not permitted on Village-owned shared-use paths.
- (g) All E-Bikes are prohibited on any sidewalk within the Village.

Sec. 78-320. - Low-speed electric scooters.

Any person who operates an E-Scooter within the Village must comply with the following provisions in addition to those set forth in 625 ILCS 5/11-1518:

- (a) Any person who operates an E-Scooter with a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of people or property shall be prosecuted in accordance with section 11-

503 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

- (b) Any person who operates an E-Scooter while under the influence shall be prosecuted in accordance with section 11-501 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.
- (c) E-Scooters are permitted on Village-owned roadways with a posted speed limit of 30 mph or less, bike lanes, shared-use paths, and sidewalks.
- (d) As set forth in 625 ILCS 5/11-1518(k), E-Scooters are prohibited on State-owned Highways. Operators shall walk their E-Scooter across State Highways using designated crosswalks.

Sec. 78-321. – E-motos

- (a) In order to operate an E-Moto on a Village-owned roadway, the following is required:
 - (1) Valid registration issued by the Illinois Secretary of State.
 - (2) Valid liability insurance.
 - (3) The operator must possess a valid driver's license with the required classification based on the type of vehicle being operated.
 - (4) The vehicle must comply with all applicable provisions of the Illinois Vehicle Code regarding safety equipment.
- (b) Any E-Moto that does not comply with this Section is prohibited from being operated within the Village.
- (c) E-Motos are prohibited on any shared-use path or sidewalk within the Village.

Sec. 78-322. – Parking.

- (a) E-Bikes and E-Scooters shall be parked in an upright position and in a manner that does not obstruct the passage of pedestrians, people with disabilities, or vehicular traffic.
- (b) The Village reserves the right to designate specific areas or racks for the parking

of E-Bikes and E-Scooters. Parking in a non-designated area, where such an area is provided, shall be a violation of this Section.

- (c) It shall be unlawful to park an E-Bike or E-Scooter in such a way that blocks an entrance to a building, a fire hydrant, or a crosswalk.
- (d) E-Motos shall be parked in designated parking spaces for motor vehicles. E-Motos shall not be parked on sidewalks, in pedestrian walkways, or in any other area not designated for motor vehicle parking.

Sec. 78-323. – Adult/Parental Responsibility.

It shall be unlawful for a person to permit or knowingly allow any person under the age of 18 to whom they are a parent or guardian to violate any provisions of this Article.

Sec. 78-324. – Penalties.

- (a) The South Chicago Heights Police Department shall enforce the provisions of this Article.
- (b) Any person who violates any provision of this Article shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$250.00 but not more than \$750.00 for each offense.
- (c) Any parent or guardian who allows a minor to violate any provision of this Article shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$250.00 but not more than \$750.00 for each offense.

Sec. 78-325. – Impoundment.

- (a) In addition to the general fines provided herein, the South Chicago Heights Police Department shall have the authority to immediately seize and impound any E-Bike, E-Scooter, or E-Moto that is operated in violation of this Article.
- (b) Any device impounded under this Section shall only be released to the owner, if over the age of 17, parent, or guardian after an administrative fee of \$150.00 is paid to the Police Department. In addition, the owner, parent, or guardian would also be responsible for any costs or fees associated with the device being towed, if applicable.

Sec. 78-326. – Exemptions.

The provisions of this Article do not apply to motorized wheelchairs or toy vehicles.

Section 3. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance.

Section 4. All ordinances, resolutions, motions, or orders in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. The Village President, Village Manager, Village Clerk, and Police Chief are authorized to take actions on behalf of the Village as necessary to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

(Intentionally Left Blank)

ADOPTED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of South Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois this 3rd day of November, 2025 pursuant to a roll call vote, as follows:

VOTE:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED by the President of the Village of South Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois on this this 3rd day of November, 2025.



VILLAGE PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



Barbara L. Luman

VILLAGE CLERK