



BOARD REPORT

TO: VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: PAT ROLLINS, CHIEF OF POLICE
Choose an item.

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION: ELECTRONIC BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, AND MOTORCYCLES, AS THEY RELATE TO STATE STATUTES, AND HAVING MUNICIPALITY REGULATION OPPORTUNITIES TO ENACT NEW ORDINANCES

AGENDA: 12/2/2025

DATE: 11/24/2025

ISSUE

Should the Village Board discuss the regulation of e-bikes, e-scooters, and devices classified as “off-highway electric motorcycles” permitted under State Statute.

DISCUSSION

The Sugar Grove Police Department has received multiple complaints from residents about the use of e-bicycles, e-scooters, and off-highway motorcycles on sidewalks and streets throughout the village. Many of their concerns highlight the need to better educate the community about this newer mode of transportation and how to navigate the complex legislation enacted to keep everyone in the community safe.

Municipalities by State Statute have been granted the authority to enact regulations for the operation of low-speed electric bicycles, low-speed electric scooters, and off-highway electric motorcycles within their areas. It's important to note that the State of Illinois already has laws governing the use of low-speed electric bicycles and low-speed electric scooters. However, each municipality, creating local rules, has created confusion, pitfalls, and an additional burden on those riding in an adjacent jurisdiction, as regulations may vary from town to town.

The Metro West Council of Governments (MWCOC) has been enlisted to help municipalities address concerns raised by riders in one jurisdiction crossing into another or visiting farther away and not knowing the local rules enacted in the neighboring community. A legislative bill would need to be introduced in Springfield and become law to provide relief for those riding in another jurisdiction and getting cited.

With raised concerns about e-bicycles, e-scooters, and off-highway motorcycles, emphasizing the need for community education and clearer regulations. The differing local laws create confusion for riders. By collaborating with the Metro West Council of Government and pushing for legislative changes in Springfield, we can establish a more uniform framework that enhances safety and simplifies navigation for all. This comprehensive approach will allow our community to embrace modern mobility while ensuring safety for everyone on the roads and sidewalks.

Options to consider:

1. Take no ACTION with enacting local regulations, let the current State Law prevail.
2. Work with Metro-West to get legislation introduced to address the pitfalls created by having each local municipality enact individual municipal legislation.
3. Enact Village of Sugar Grove local ordinances to address electronic transportation
4. Other options that the board may find better suited

COST

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- Electronic Means of Transportation (not all inclusive)
- Pictures of different types of electronic transportation devices with labels
- State Statute granting municipalities authority
- IML article from December 17, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That the Village Board discuss the E-Bike, E-Scooter, and E-Moto devices and provide staff with direction on how they would like to proceed with one of the options outlined above.

ATTACHMENT "A"

ELECTRONIC MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)

Low-Speed Electric Bicycles

Except as otherwise provided in this section [low-speed electric bicycles], the provisions of this Chapter [rules of the road] that apply to bicycles also apply to low-speed electric bicycles (625 ILCS 5/11-1517(a). (Source: P.A. 100-209, eff. 1-1-18.)

Low-Speed Electric Bicycle Definition: A Bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an **electric motor less than 750** watts that meets the requirements of the following classes:

1. "Class 1 low-speed electric bicycle" means a Low-Speed 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.**
2. "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.**
3. "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.**

No E-Bikes on Sidewalks. A person may not operate a low-speed electric bicycle on a sidewalk (625 ILCS 5/11-1517(g)).

Permitted Riding Locations. A person may operate a low-speed electric bicycle upon any highway, street, or roadway authorized for use by bicycles, including, but not limited to, bicycle lanes.

ILCS 5/11-1517(f) A person may operate a low-speed electric bicycle upon any bicycle path unless the municipality, county, or local authority with jurisdiction prohibits the use of low-speed bicycles or a specific class of low-speed electric bicycles on that path (625 ILCS 5/11-1517).

Per State Law, all low-speed electric bicycles must be equipped with a white front headlight and rear red taillight during night use.

Age Restriction for Faster E-Bikes. A person may operate a **Class 3** low-speed electric bicycle **only if he or she is 16** years of age or older. A person who is less than 16 years of age may ride as a passenger on a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.

Low-Speed Gas Bicycles

Except as otherwise provided in this section [low-speed gas bicycles], the provisions of this Article XV [bicycles] that apply to bicycles also apply to low-speed gas bicycles (625 ILCS 5/1-140.15(d)).

Low-Speed Gas Bicycles Defined. A 2-wheeled or 3-wheeled device with fully operable pedals and a gasoline motor of less than one horsepower or 15 cubic centimeter displacement that is operated at speeds of less than 20 miles per hour (625 ILCS 5/1-140.15).

Gas Bicycles Age Requirement. A person may operate a low-speed gas bicycle only if the person is **at least 16** years of age (625 ILCS 5/11-1516(a)).

Maximum Speed Limitation. A person may not operate a low-speed gas bicycle at a speed greater than **20 miles per hour** upon any highway, street, or roadway (625 ILCS 5/11-1516(b)).

Same Sidewalk Prohibition as E-Bikes. A person may not operate a low-speed gas bicycle on a sidewalk (625 ILCS 5/11-1516(c)).

E-Motos

E-Motos Definition: A 2- or 3-wheeled motor vehicle that is powered by an electric motor greater than 750 watts and is capable of achieving a speed greater than 20 miles per hour without pedaling.

The State of Illinois does not currently classify E-Motos in the Illinois Vehicle Code.

Low-Speed Electric Scooters

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**.

No Title, Registration, or Driver's License Required.

Local Rule-Making Authority. Subject to the restrictions of this section, a municipality, park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district may authorize and regulate the operation of low-speed electric scooters within the unit of local government on any or all highways under their respective jurisdiction, sidewalks, trails, or other public right-of-way where the operation of bicycles is permitted (625 ILCS 5/11-1518(a)).

Local E-Scooter Use Must be Affirmatively Authorized.

The use of low-speed electric scooters within *any* municipality, park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district is allowed **only if authorized** by the municipality, park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district under this section. Any authorization or regulation by a park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district applies only on property owned, managed, or leased by the park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district (625 ILCS 5/11-1518(a)).

Statewide Regulations.

A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter on a highway with a posted speed limit in excess of 35 miles per hour.

A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter unless he or she is **18 years of age** or older.

Every low-speed electric scooter must be equipped with a white front headlight and rear red taillight during night use.

Low-speed electric scooters shall be equipped with a brake that will adequately control movement of and stop and hold the low-speed electric scooter.

A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter while carrying any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.

A person may not use a low-speed electric scooter to carry more than one person at a time.

A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter upon any public highway in the State while under the influence of alcohol or any drug.

The use of low-speed electric scooters is **not permitted on State highways**.

Mobility Devices and Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (EPAMDs)

Mobility device means a support cane, walker, crutches, **wheelchair, scooter, or other device**, which may be necessary for use by a pedestrian with a disability when traveling (625 ILCS 60/5).

Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices. A self-balancing 2 non-tandem wheeled device designed to transport only one person with an electric propulsion system that limits the maximum speed of the device to 15 miles per hour or less (625 ILCS 5/1-117.7).

Motor Vehicle Regulations Do Not Apply. Every person operating an electric personal assistive device **upon a sidewalk or roadway has all the rights and is subject to all the duties applicable to a pedestrian** (625 ILCS 5/11-1005.1). (Source: P.A. 103-899, eff.8-9-24.)

Mopeds

Twice called “motorized pedal cycles” in Illinois Vehicle Code, mopeds are frequently grouped with motorcycles, as evidenced by the legal definition of “cycle”: Cycle means a motorcycle, motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or moped, as defined in The Illinois Vehicle Code” (625 ILCS 35/2.01).

Definitions: A moped is a motor-driven cycle, with or without optional power derived from manually operated pedals, whose speed attainable in one mile is at least 20 miles per hour but not greater than 30 miles per hour and is equipped with a motor that produces 2 brake horsepower or less. If an internal combustion engine is used, the displacement shall not exceed 50 cubic centimeter displacement, and the power drive system shall not require the operator to shift gears (625 ILCS 5/1-148.2).

Driver's License required. A person may operate a moped if such person has a valid current Illinois driver's license, regardless of the classification.

Every moped must be equipped with a white front headlight and rear red taillight during night use.

Mandatory eye protection.






Prohibitions on Wheelies.



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VEHICLE TYPE

(HELMETS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR ALL)

		BICYCLE	LOW SPEED E-SCOOTER	CLASS 1 E-BIKE	CLASS 2 E-BIKE	CLASS 3 E-BIKE
						
VEHICLE	Pedal Operated	YES	N/A	MOTOR ASSISTS ONLY WHILE PEDALING	MOTOR CAN ASSIST WITHOUT PEDALING (THROTTLE)	MOTOR ASSISTS ONLY WHILE PEDALING
	Maximum Motor Assisted Speed (MPH)	N/A	10	20	20	28
	Minimum Age (Years)	N/A	18+	N/A	N/A	16+
USER	Sidewalk Riding Allowed	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
	DUI Laws Apply	N/A	YES	YES	YES	YES
	What Else to Know	N/A	NOT ALLOWED ON ROADS W/SPEED LIMIT OF 35+ MPH ONLY ONE RIDER PER SCOOTER	MUST ride on roadways or bike lanes. NIGHT RIDING: Front lights & rear reflector required.		

Illinois E-Bike Requirements by Class

Electric bicycle requirements see (625 ILCS 5/11-1517)

Requirement	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Driver's License/ Registration/Insurance	Not Required (state)	Not Required (state)	Not Required (state)
Helmet	Recommended (No Statewide Mandate)	Recommended (No Statewide Mandate)	Recommended (No Statewide Mandate)
Minimum Age	None	None	16 Years
Speedometer	Not Required	Not Required	Required
Roads & Bike Lanes	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Bike Paths/Multi-use Trails	Allowed Unless Locally Restricted	Allowed Unless Locally Restricted	Allowed Unless Locally Restricted
Sidewalks	Prohibited Statewide	Prohibited Statewide	Prohibited Statewide
Permanent Class Label	Manufacturer/Distributor label required with class, top assisted speed and Wattage.		

(625 ILCS 5/11-1518)

Sec. 11-1518. Low-speed electric scooters.

(a) Subject to the restrictions of this Section, a municipality, park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district may authorize and regulate the operation of low-speed electric scooters within the unit of local government on any or all highways under their respective jurisdiction, sidewalks, trails, or other public right-of-way where the operation of bicycles is permitted. The use of low-speed electric scooters within any municipality, park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district is allowed only if authorized by the municipality, park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district under this Section. Any authorization or regulation by a park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district applies only on property owned, managed, or leased by the park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district.

(a-5) Subject to the restrictions of this Section, the Department of Natural Resources may authorize and regulate the operation of low-speed electric scooters on any or all properties owned, managed, or leased by the Department of Natural Resources including, but not limited to, sidewalks, trails, or other public rights-of-way where the operation of bicycles is permitted. The use of low-speed electric scooters within any property that is owned, managed, or leased by the Department of Natural Resources is allowed only if authorized by the Department of Natural Resources. The Department of Natural Resources is authorized to adopt administrative rules for the regulation of low-speed electric scooters on any and all properties owned, managed, or leased by the Department of Natural Resources.

(b) A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter on a highway with a posted speed limit in excess of 35 mph.

(c) A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter unless he or she is 18 years of age or older.

(d) A low-speed electric scooter may be parked in the same manner and at the same locations as a bicycle may be parked.

(e) Every low-speed electric scooter when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear that is visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle, except that a lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to or instead of the red reflector.

(f) A low-speed electric scooter shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a low-speed electric scooter any siren. This subsection does not apply to a low-speed electric scooter that is a police vehicle or fire department vehicle.

(g) Every low-speed electric scooter shall be equipped with a brake that will adequately control movement of and stop and hold the low-speed electric scooter.

(h) A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter while carrying any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.

(i) A person may not use a low-speed electric scooter to carry more than one person at a time. A person operating a low-speed electric scooter may not attach himself or herself or the scooter to any other vehicle being operated on the public right-of-way.

(j) A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter upon any public highway in the State while under the influence of alcohol or any drug.

(k) The use of low-speed electric scooters is not permitted on State highways.

(l) Every low-speed electric scooter shall be well-maintained and in good operating condition.

(Source: P.A. 103-899, eff. 8-9-24.)

(625 ILCS 5/11-1517)

Sec. 11-1517. Low-speed electric bicycles.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the provisions of this Chapter that apply to bicycles also apply to low-speed electric bicycles.

(b) Each low-speed electric bicycle operating in this State shall comply with equipment and manufacturing requirements adopted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission under 16 CFR 1512. Each Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle shall be equipped with a speedometer that displays the speed the bicycle is traveling in miles per hour.

(c) Beginning on or after January 1, 2018, every manufacturer and distributor of low-speed electric bicycles shall apply a label that is permanently affixed to the bicycle in a prominent location. The label shall contain, in Arial font in at least 9-point type:

(1) a classification number for the bicycle that corresponds with a class under Section 1-140.10 of this Code;

(2) the bicycle's top assisted speed; and

(3) the bicycle's motor wattage.

No person shall knowingly tamper or modify the speed capability or engagement of a low-speed electric bicycle without replacing the label required under this subsection (c).

(d) A Class 2 low-speed electric bicycle shall operate in a manner so that the electric motor is disengaged or ceases to function when the brakes are applied. A Class 1 low-speed electric bicycle and a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle shall operate in a manner so that the electric motor is disengaged or ceases to function when the rider stops pedaling.

(e) A person may operate a low-speed electric bicycle upon any highway, street, or roadway authorized for use by bicycles, including, but not limited to, bicycle lanes.

(f) A person may operate a low-speed electric bicycle upon any bicycle path unless the municipality, county, or local authority with jurisdiction prohibits the use of low-speed electric bicycles or a specific class of low-speed electric bicycles on that path.

(g) A person may not operate a low-speed electric bicycle on a sidewalk.

(h) A person may operate a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle only if he or she is 16 years of age or older. A person who is less than 16 years of age may ride as a passenger on a Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.

(Source: P.A. 100-209, eff. 1-1-18.)

LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC SCOOTER REGULATION



[Public Act \(P.A.\) 103-0899](#) was enacted on August 9, 2024. It allows municipalities, park districts, forest preserve districts, conservation districts and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to authorize and regulate the operation of low-speed electric scooters within their jurisdictions, if they choose to do so.

WHAT IS A LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC SCOOTER?

A low-speed electric scooter is a device weighing less than 100 pounds, with two or three wheels, handlebars and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding that is powered by an electric motor and human power with a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour (mph). It is not a moped or motor-driven cycle.

AUTHORIZATION AND POTENTIAL LIABILITY

The use of low-speed electric scooters within any municipality is allowed only if authorized by the municipality. If authorized, their use may be regulated on highways under their jurisdiction, sidewalks, trails or any other public right-of-way where the use of bicycles would normally occur. IML has developed a model ordinance that can be adopted locally, which is available on our website.¹

If a municipality opts into the regulatory framework provided by P.A. 103-0899 and authorizes the use of low-speed electric scooters in specific areas within its jurisdiction according to the Act, it may then be subject to liability for injuries to low-speed electric scooter users operating a device in unauthorized areas within its jurisdiction.

A provision providing protection from this type of liability was removed from the enabling legislation ([SB 1960](#)) prior to its passage. The provision would have clarified that a low-speed electric scooter is not an intended use of a public right-of-way under Section 3-102 of the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.

RESTRICTIONS FOR LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC SCOOTER USE IF AUTHORIZED

If a municipality chooses to authorize the use of low-speed electric scooters, they must act in accordance with all restrictions for use provided by P.A. 103-0899 as listed below.

- A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter on a highway where the posted speed limit exceeds 35 mph.
- A person must be 18 years of age or older to operate a low-speed electric scooter.
- A low-speed electric scooter may be parked in the same manner and at the same locations as a bicycle.

¹ <https://legal.iml.org/page.cfm?key=31903>



- Every low-speed electric scooter used at night must be equipped with a front lamp that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear that is visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet. A lamp visible from a distance of 500 feet emitting a steady or flashing red light may also be used either in addition to or instead of a reflector.
- A low-speed electric scooter shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a low-speed electric scooter any siren, unless it is a police or fire department vehicle.
- Every low-speed electric scooter shall be equipped with a brake that will adequately control the movement of and stop the low-speed electric scooter.
- A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter while carrying any package, bundle or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.
- A person may not use a low-speed electric scooter to carry more than one person at a time. A person operating a low-speed electric scooter may not attach themselves or the scooter to any other vehicle being operated on the public right-of-way.
- A person may not operate a low-speed electric scooter upon any public highway in the state while under the influence of alcohol or any drug.
- The use of low-speed electric scooters is not permitted on state highways.
- Every low-speed electric scooter shall be well-maintained and in good operating condition.

IML ADVOCACY

SB 1960 was first introduced during the 2023 Spring Legislative Session. At that time, IML secured the ability for local governments to regulate scooter use only if authorized by the municipality. IML supported the legislation as it passed the Senate. The House of Representatives amended the legislation removing an important provision that protected local governments from liability against unauthorized scooter use or use in unauthorized areas. Because of the amendment, IML opposed the legislation and the bill failed to advance at that time.

During the 2024 Spring Legislative Session, the bill was revived in the House. IML maintained its opposition to the amended legislation. As the bill advanced, IML's advocacy ensured that any regulatory scheme enabled by the bill is optional and not mandatory. Ultimately, the bill passed the House with the Senate concurring.

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