

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWN CODE SECTIONS 21-107, 21-115, 21-116, AND 21-117, RE-NUMBERING CURRENT TOWN CODE SECTION 21-118 AS SECTION 21-121, AND ADDING NEW CODE SECTIONS 21-116.5, 21-118, 21-119 AND 21-120 TO PROVIDE REGULATIONS FOR USE AND RENTAL OF MOTORIZED SKATEBOARDS AND SCOOTERS, ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES, AND BICYCLES OR ELECTRIC POWER-ASSISTED BICYCLES

WHEREAS, technological advances have created new transportation options, such as electric power assisted bicycles and motorized skateboards and scooters, that offer multiple modes of transportation while potentially reducing automobile dependency and carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, these new transportation options are frequently offered to the public by shared mobility system operators, such as Bird or Lime; and

WHEREAS, the Town must ensure that the use of these devices does not obstruct public rights of way and that their operation throughout the Town is not at the expense of public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the Town of Blacksburg, that Town Code sections 21-107, 21-115, 21-116, 21-117 are hereby amended, current Town Code section 21-21-118 is re-numbered as 21-121, and new sections 21-116.5, 21-118, 21-119 and 21-120 are hereby added as follows:

Article I. General street regulations; wheeled vehicle and device regulations.

Division I. General street regulations

Section 21-100. - Certain ordinances relating to streets not affected by Code.

Nothing in this Code or the ordinance adopting this Code shall affect any ordinance opening, relocating, closing, altering or naming any streets or alleys, and all such ordinances are hereby recognized as continuing in full force and effect to the same extent as if set out at length in this Code.

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Section 12-107. - Bicycle trails and operation of other vehicles thereon.

(a) The use of off-street bicycle trails by any person operating a vehicle other than (i) a bicycle or an electric power assisted bicycle, (ii) a motorized skateboard or scooter or (iii) an electric personal assistive mobility device is prohibited. The prohibition of this subsection shall not apply to public vehicles entering off-street bicycle trails for maintenance, rescue, fire or police patrol purposes.

(b) *As provided by the ADA, wheelchairs (manually or power driven) and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices ("OPDMDs") are permitted on off-road trails. The use of OPDMDs is specifically addressed and regulated by the Town's Mobility Device Use Policy.*

(bc) *The use of off-street bicycle trails by persons guiding, accompanying or riding animals of any kind is prohibited; provided, however, that any person may guide or accompany a dog or cat on a leash. Any person who brings a dog or cat on an off-street bicycle trail must immediately remove any deposit made by the animal.*

(ed) *Whenever a person rides a bicycle on a bicycle route, he or she shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian or bicycle.*

(d) *The speed limit on of-street bicycle trails is fifteen (15) miles per hour. Any person violating this section shall be liable to the town for a civil penalty of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).*

Division II. Operation of wheeled vehicles or devices on town streets, sidewalks, and parking areas

Section 21-115. - Skating, skateboards, ~~and~~ bicycles, and *electric power assisted bicycles* on downtown streets, sidewalks, and parking areas.

(a) *The purpose of this section is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all visitors to the Central Downtown District of Blacksburg. The combination of roller skate, in-line skate, and skateboard traffic with automobile and pedestrian traffic poses an unreasonable risk of harm in this heavily traveled district. Likewise, the combination of bicycle traffic with pedestrians using downtown sidewalks poses an unreasonable risk of harm.*

(b) *For the purposes of this section, the term "downtown street" shall be defined to include the following streets:*

Church Street between Clay and Jackson Streets

Clay Street between Draper Road and Church Street

College Avenue between Otey and Main Streets

College Avenue Extension between Main and Wilson Streets

Draper Road between College Avenue and Miller Streets

Faculty Street between Main and Progress Streets