

ORDINANCE NO. 059, 2020
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING THE FORT COLLINS TRAFFIC CODE TO ALLOW AND REGULATE THE
USE OF ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES ON THE CITY'S PAVED TRAILS

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2019, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 045, 2019, implementing a pilot program to allow electrical assisted bicycles, as that term is defined in the Fort Collins Traffic Code, to operate on paved trails in natural areas and recreation areas within the City for a one-year trial period; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to extensive staff outreach, there is public support for allowing the ongoing use of certain electrical assisted bicycles on City trails; and

WHEREAS, the City needs to balance the use of electrical assisted bicycles on trails with current use of such trails by bicycles and pedestrians, as well as maintain the City's interest in conservation and stewardship of its natural areas and recreation spaces; and

WHEREAS, City staff will continue to conduct trail user education to promote safe and legal use of the trail by electrical assisted bicycle users; and

WHEREAS, in order to balance these interests, City staff is recommending the following changes to the Fort Collins Traffic Code be made to allow Class 1 and Class 2 electrical assisted bicycles on paved trails within the City:

- Allow for the prohibition of electrical assisted bicycles by the City Engineer or the Colorado Department of Transportation, where trails have been established on the right-of-way or parallel to and within one-fourth (1/4) mile of the right-of-way of heavily traveled streets and highways; and
- Permit Class 1 and Class 2 electrical assisted bicycles on all paved bike or pedestrian paths and paved recreational trails within the City, except where prohibited by the City Code or posted signs; and

WHEREAS, City staff will continue to monitor the use and impact of electrical assisted bicycles on trails within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that amending the Fort Collins Traffic Code as described herein is in the best interests of the City and its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That Section 2101(2) of the Fort Collins Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2101. - General provisions.

...

- (2) All persons are prohibited from riding Class 3 electrical assisted bicycles or an electric scooter, on a bike or pedestrian path or on a recreational trail unless otherwise authorized by the City Code.

Section 3. That Section 2106(3) of the Fort Collins Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2106. - Sidewalks and trails.

...

- (3) Riders of Class 1 and Class 2 electrical assisted bicycles may use paved bike or pedestrian paths and paved recreational trails except where prohibited by the City Code or posted signs. The rider of Class 3 electrical assisted bicycle shall not use the electrical motor on a bike or pedestrian path or on a recreational trail unless otherwise authorized by the City Code.

Section 4. That Part 20 Section 2110(3) of the Fort Collins Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

2110. - Regulatory.

...

- (3) Where suitable bike paths, horseback trails or other trails have been established on the right-of-way or parallel to and within one-fourth (¼) mile of the right-of-way of heavily traveled streets and highways, the Colorado Department of Transportation may, subject to the provisions of Section 43-2-135, C.R.S., by resolution or order, and the City Traffic Engineer may, where suitable bike paths, horseback trails or other trails have been established on the right-of-way or parallel to it within four hundred fifty (450) feet of the right-of-way of heavily traveled streets, by ordinance, determine and designate, upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, those heavily traveled streets and highways upon which shall be prohibited any bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, electric scooter, animal rider, animal-drawn conveyance or other class or kind of nonmotorized traffic which is found to be incompatible with the normal and safe movement of traffic, and, upon such a determination, the Colorado Department of Transportation or the City shall erect appropriate official signs giving notice thereof; except that with respect to controlled access highways, the provisions of Section 42-4-1010(3), C.R.S., shall apply. When such official signs are so erected, no person shall violate any of the instructions contained thereon.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 7th day of April, A.D. 2020, and to be presented for final passage on the 21st day of April, A.D. 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 21st day of April, A.D. 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk