



# CITY OF SHAKOPEE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

475 Gorman St.  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
(952)233-9400

## SCOOTER INFORMATION

Minnesota law enforcement and the general public currently have many questions related to the increased use of motorized bicycles, scooters, and electric-assisted bicycles. The following information is a brief overview of current state law. For more complete regulations, consult state statute or review driver's manual at the Department of Vehicle Services at:

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/statutes.asp>

<http://www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs/DLTraining/mom/ManualFrame.htm>





**Motorized foot scooter.**

- a device with handlebars designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator
- powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion, and that has either
  - (1) no more than two ten-inch or smaller diameter wheels or
  - (2) an engine or motor that is capable of a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour on a flat surface.

Every person operating a motorized foot scooter shall have all rights and duties applicable to the operator of a bicycle, except in respect to those provisions relating expressly to motorized foot scooters and in respect to those provisions of law that by their nature cannot reasonably be applied to motorized foot scooters.

Sidewalk and passenger prohibition. **No person may operate a motorized foot scooter upon a sidewalk,** except when necessary to enter or leave adjacent property. No person may operate a motorized foot scooter that is carrying any person other than the operator.

Minimum age for operator. No person under the age of 12 years may operate a motorized foot scooter.

Protective headgear. No person under the age of 18 years may operate a motorized foot scooter without wearing properly fitted and fastened protective headgear that complies with standards established by the commissioner of public safety.

Required lighting equipment. A motorized foot scooter must be equipped with a headlight and a taillight that comply with standards established by the commissioner of public safety if the vehicle is operated under conditions when vehicle lights are required by law.

Operation requirements and prohibitions. (a) A person operating a motorized foot scooter on a roadway shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except in the following situations:

- (1) when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
- (2) when preparing for a left turn, in which case the operator shall stop and dismount at the right-hand curb or right edge of the roadway, and shall complete the turn by crossing the roadway on foot, subject to restrictions placed by law on pedestrians; or
- (3) when reasonably necessary to avoid impediments or conditions that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge, including, but not limited to, fixed or moving objects, vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow lanes.

(b) A person may operate a motorized foot scooter on a bicycle path, bicycle lane, bicycle trail, or bikeway that is not reserved for the exclusive use of non-motorized traffic, unless the local authority or governing body having jurisdiction over that path, lane, trail, or bikeway prohibits operation by law.

# Motorized/Electric-Assisted Bicycle (Moped) Requirements

## Motorized Bicycle –

- Motor of a piston displacement capacity of 50 cubic centimeters or less
- Maximum of two brake horsepower
- Maximum speed of not more than 30 mph on a flat surface
- Fully operable pedals for human propulsion are **not** required, but may be a part of the machine
- "Motorized Bicycle" includes Electric assisted Bicycle as listed below



## Electric-Assisted Bicycle - " A motor vehicle with two or three wheels that:

- (1) has a saddle and fully operable pedals for human propulsion;
- (2) meets the requirements of federal motor vehicle safety standards
- (3) has an electric motor that
  - (i) has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts,
  - (ii) is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour,
  - (iii) is incapable of further increasing the speed of the device when human power alone is used to propel the vehicle at a speed of more than 20 miles per hour, and
  - (iv) disengages or ceases to function when the vehicle's brakes are applied."



## **\*\*The requirements for operating an electric-assisted bicycle are the same as for other motorized bicycles, except as specified in the following information.**

### **LICENSE AND PERMITS**

Any person who has a valid driver's license may operate a motorized bicycle without taking any further tests or having an endorsement on the license. Anyone without a driver's license, regardless of age, must obtain a motorized bicycle operator's permit.

### **VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

Motorized bicycles must be registered annually and display a current license plate. Registration and re-registration can be done at any deputy registrar's office.

### **INSURANCE**

Motorized bicycle riders, regardless of age or license status, must have liability insurance. No-fault liability insurance is not required for electric-assisted bicycle operators.

### **OPERATING RULES**

These rules and restrictions apply to operating motorized bicycles:

- Because of the relatively low speeds of motorized bicycles, you should ride in the traffic lane as far right on the roadway as possible, unless you are going to turn left. Electric-assisted bicycle operators may ride on the shoulder of the road going in the same direction as adjacent vehicular traffic.
- **Riding on sidewalks is not permitted** except where it would be necessary for a short distance to get from a driveway, alley or building to an adjacent roadway.
- Motorized bicycles are not allowed on lanes and trails that have been set aside for bicycles. (Electric-assisted bicycle operators may ride in a bicycle lane.)
- Motorized bicycles are not allowed on interstate freeways.
- A parent or guardian of an operator under the age of 16 also may ride on the motorized bicycle as a passenger or operator, if the motorized bicycle is equipped with a seat and foot rests for a second passenger.
- A motorized bicycle equipped with a headlight and taillight meeting the requirements of lighting for motorcycles may be operated during night time hours.

### **EQUIPMENT AND GEAR**

A motorized bicycle must meet the same lighting and brake requirements as a motorcycle, with a headlight, and tail light with a stop signal capacity. The headlight must be on during all times of operation. A horn and mirror also are required safety equipment for a motorized bicycle. Motorized bicycle riders must wear an eye protection device. (An eye protection device is recommended, but not required, for electric assisted bicycle operators. Motorized/electric assisted bicycle riders under 18 years old **must** wear a helmet.

### **PARKING RULES**

A person may park a motorized/electric-assisted bicycle on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by local authorities. It must not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrians or other traffic



This is what is commonly referred to as a Pocket Rocket. Unless meeting all the safety and equipment standards set forth in state law, the Pocket Rocket is **NOT** legal for street/highway or sidewalk use. It is limited to private property operation only.