

ORDINANCE NO.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES,
OF THE CITY OF GULF SHORES ADOPTED JULY 29, 1989,
AT CHAPTER 21, TRAFFIC, ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL
BY ADDING SEC. 21-14. – 21-17. OPERATION OF MOBILITY DEVICES**

WHEREAS, in recent years the number of mobility devices, many with electric-driven power assistance, has increased dramatically, both because of personal ownership and the number of rentals;

WHEREAS, the City Council of Gulf Shores finds that the unsafe operation of regulated mobility devices on all public property and private property open to the public for pedestrian and bicycle travel poses a significant risk to the safety and welfare of persons, pedestrians, motorists, and children throughout the City;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Ordinance is to implement reasonable regulations on the operation and use of these types of mobility devices pursuant to the City's police power to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, to better promote the safe use and operation of regulated mobility devices, to prevent vehicular and pedestrian conflicts and other traffic hazards, to prevent hazards to public safety, and to enhance pedestrian and motorist safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GULF SHORES, ALABAMA, WHILE IN REGULAR SESSION ON JANUARY 26, 2026, as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 21, TRAFFIC, of the *Code of Ordinances*, adopted July 24, 1989, be and is hereby amended at ARTICLE I., IN GENERAL, by adding Sec. 21-14. 21-17., Operation of Mobility Devices to read as follows:

CHAPTER 21 TRAFFIC

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL.

* * * *

Sec. 21-14. Definitions.

In addition to the definitions set forth elsewhere in this Code, for purposes of this Ordinance, the words and phrases defined herein shall be construed in accordance with the following definitions:

Bicycle is a vehicle composed of two wheels held in a frame propelled by pedals and steered with handlebars.

ELECTRIC BICYCLE. A bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the rider, and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that meets the requirements of one of the following three classes:

(a) *Class 1 electric bicycle* means an 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 the speed of 20 miles per hour.

(b) *Class 2 electric bicycle* means an 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 the speed of 20 miles per hour.

(c) *Class 3 electric bicycle* means an 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 the speed of 28 miles per hour.

Electric personal assistive mobility device is an electric-driven self-balanced vehicle, more commonly known as a Segway or Hoverboard.

Electrically motorized board is a one or two-wheeled board, more commonly known as an electric skateboard.

Motor-driven cycle is a motor scooter also commonly known as an “E-Moto,” and is further defined in *Ala. Code* § 32-1-1.1(37)

Motorized scooter is a two-wheeled electric scooter with an upright handlebar and rectangular platform on which the rider stands.

Multi-use Path means an off-road facility of asphalt, concrete or crushed aggregate intended to accommodate multiple types of non-vehicular traffic, such as pedestrians, joggers, cyclists, or skaters.

Operate means to ride, operate, and/or otherwise control a regulated mobility device other than walking such device.

Regulated mobility device means an electric bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electrically motorized board, E-Moto, motorized scooter, shared mobility device, and any other similar mobility device.

Sidewalk means the portion of the public right-of-way between the curb line of any street, road, highway, bicycle lane, or other thoroughfare designed for vehicular travel and the adjacent property line, or any other paved path or walkway, which is intended for pedestrian travel, whether publicly or privately owned and/or maintained.

Sec. 21-15. Unlawful operation of regulated mobility devices.

It shall be unlawful and a violation of this Ordinance for any person to operate a bicycle or regulated mobility device in an unsafe manner on any street, road, highway, sidewalk, bike path,

bike lane, trail, park, or upon any private property which is held open to the public for pedestrian travel. Operating a bicycle or regulated mobility device in an unsafe manner includes any one or more of the following:

- (a) Violating any provision of the City of Gulf Shores Municipal Code, Alabama Rules of the Road, or other law or regulation applicable to the use or operation of any bicycle or regulated mobility device.
- (b) Operating on any street, road, highway, or bicycle lane against the direction of traffic.
- (c) Operating upon any public drainage facility, culvert, ditch, or channel.
- (d) Operating in a manner other than the manner in which the bicycle or regulated mobility device was designed, including carrying more than one passenger or carrying passengers on the bicycle or regulated mobility device in a manner other than as designed.
- (e) Operating on any street, road, highway, bicycle path, bicycle lane, trail or sidewalk with more than two bicycles or regulated mobility devices side-by-side.
- (f) Operating at a speed greater than the posted speed limit on any street, road, or highway, or any posted speed limit on any bicycle path, bicycle lane, or designated multi-use path.
- (g) Operating a bicycle or regulated mobility device on a sidewalk that has not been designated by the City of Gulf Shores for use by both pedestrians and bicycles or regulated mobility devices.
- (h) Operating while hitched to or physically attached to any moving vehicle or motorized device.
- (i) Operating while allowing another person who is not a passenger to either cling to or to be physically attached to the bicycle or regulated mobility device.
- (j) Operating while lifting one or more wheels into the air.
- (k) Operating while failing to yield the right-of-way to any and all pedestrians or failing to yield the right-of-way to a vehicle upon entering a roadway or driveway from a sidewalk.
- (l) Passing a pedestrian or other cyclist without first either ringing a bell or audibly warning such pedestrian or cyclist of the intention to pass by calling out “passing on your left” sufficiently in advance of passing.
- (m) Operating while failing to obey any posted signs regulating operation, including speed limit signs or signs prohibiting or limiting operation in specific areas.
- (n) A person under the age of 18 operating without a properly fitted and fastened helmet, including a passenger under the age of 18.
- (o) Tampering with or modifying a regulated mobility device so as to change the speed capability of the device, or otherwise altering, modifying, or adjusting the motor settings to increase the speed of the device, unless the required label indicating the classification is appropriately replaced.

Sec. 21-16 Designated speed limits and posted prohibited operation areas.

- (a) The City Council designates the following multi-use paths and sidewalks, depicted on Exhibit “A”, as public areas suitable for use by regulated mobility devices and subject to a maximum speed limit of ten (10) miles per hour.
- (b) The City Council of Gulf Shores may by resolution designate and declare any street, road, highway, sidewalk, trail, or other area generally open to public access, or portions thereof, to be locations where the operation of bicycles or regulated mobility devices are prohibited, or may require such areas to be designated as dismount zones only.
- (c) The Mayor is authorized to cause signs and/or markings to be placed giving notice of such speed limits or prohibitions as necessary to implement the regulations established by Subsection (a) and (b) above.

Sec. 21-17 Penalties.

Any person who violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of an offense against the City and upon conviction shall be punished as follows:

- (a) A fine of \$250.00 for a first violation.
- (b) A fine of \$400.00 for a second violation of this Ordinance within one year from the date of the first violation.
- (c) A fine of \$500.00 for each additional violation of this Ordinance within one year from the date of the first violation.
- (d) If a person under the age of 18 is found in violation of any provisions of this Ordinance, and no parent or legal guardian is present, the police officer may take immediate possession of the bicycles or regulated mobility device and transport the device for safekeeping to the nearest City facility; thereafter, the regulated mobility device shall be released by the City to the legal owner of the device and/or to the parent or legal guardian of the person under the age of 18, upon payment of a \$50 impoundment fee.
- (e) If a person under the age of 18 is found in violation of any provision of this Chapter, and no parent or legal guardian is present, the police officer may also contact the parent or legal guardian of the person under the age of 18 to notify them of the violation.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ROBERT CRAFT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

TOBI WATERS
CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE

I, Tobi Waters, City Clerk of the City of Gulf Shores, Alabama, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. , which Ordinance was legally adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council on _____, 2026, and the same was duly published as required by law.

CITY CLERK