Village of Lowville

Local Law 3 of 2026
Add Chapter 161, Article VI
Regulating the Operation of Bicycles, Scooters, and Similar Devices on Sidewalks and Roadways

§161-18 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this Article is to protect pedestrians, motorists, and all users of public spaces by regulating the operation of bicycles, scooters, and similar wheeled devices-whether motorized or non-motorized-on sidewalks and public roadways within the Village of Lowville

The Village Board finds that such regulation is necessary to promote public safety, reduce conflicts between pedestrians and riders, and ensure responsible use of public streets and sidewalks in accordance with New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

§161-19 AUTHORITY

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the authority granted to villages under §1640 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law and §10(1)(ii)(a)(11) of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

§161-20 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Local Law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Sidewalk - That portion of a street between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a roadway and the adjacent property lines, intended primarily for pedestrian use.

Roadway - That portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the shoulder or sidewalk.

Bicycle - Every two- or three-wheeled device upon which a person or persons may ride, propelled by human power through a belt, chain, or gears, as defined in New York State Vehicle & Traffic Law §102.

Scooter - A two-wheeled device having handlebars and a platform designed to be stood upon when riding, which may be propelled by human power or by an electric motor.

Electric bicycle or e-bike - A bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (one horsepower) as defined under Vehicle & Traffic Law §102-c.

Electric scooter - A device weighing less than one hundred pounds, with handlebars, a floorboard or seat, and powered by an electric motor capable of propelling the device at no more than twenty miles per hour, as defined under Vehicle & Traffic Law §114-e.

Motorized device - Any personal mobility device powered by an electric or gas motor and capable of self-propulsion, excluding wheelchairs or other mobility aids used by persons with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

§161-21 OPERATION ON SIDEWALKS

A. No person shall operate, ride, or propel a bicycle, scooter, electric bicycle, electric scooter, or other motorized device upon any sidewalk within the Village of Lowville.

B. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person from walking or pushing such a device along a sidewalk when it is not being ridden or operated; provided, however, that this **exception shall not apply when such action is used to avoid or deny responsibility for a violation occurring immediately prior to being stopped by enforcement personnel.**

C. This prohibition does not apply to persons using mobility devices or other assistive devices in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or New York State Disability Law, or to any other accommodations required by federal, state, or local law for persons with disabilities.

D. This prohibition shall not apply to:

1. Authorized public safety, maintenance, or municipal personnel performing official duties; or
2. Children under the age of 12 operating non-motorized bicycles or scooters within residential neighborhood where pedestrian traffic is minimal, provided they yield to pedestrians at all times.

§161-22 OPERATION ON ROADWAYS

A. **Applicability.**

The provisions of this section shall apply to all bicycles, scooters, electric bicycles, electric scooters, and similar devices operated on any street, roadway, or public right-of-way within the Village of Lowville.

B. **General Rules.**

1. Every person operating a bicycle, scooter, or similar device upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties

applicable to the driver of a vehicle under the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, except as otherwise provided herein.

2. Riders shall operate as near to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway as practicable, except when making a left turn, avoiding hazards, or when a lane is too narrow for safe side-by-side operation with motor vehicles.
3. No person shall operate more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or similar devices.
4. Operation is prohibited on any roadway where the posted speed limit exceeds **30 miles per hour** unless specifically authorized by the Village Board.
5. Riders shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and shall give an audible signal when overtaking or passing another person.
6. No person shall operate such a device while using any portable electronic device or wearing more than one earphone that impairs hearing.

C. **Age Restrictions.**

1. No person under the age of **16** shall operate an electric scooter or electric bicycle on any roadway.
2. Children under the age of 12 may operate non-motorized bicycles or scooters only on low-traffic residential streets **(Not County or State Roads)** and must be supervised by a parent or guardian.

D. **Helmet and Safety Equipment.**

1. Every operator and passenger of an electric scooter or electric bicycle shall wear a protective helmet meeting federal safety standards.
2. Every device operated after sunset shall be equipped with a front white light and rear red reflector or light visible from at least 500 feet.
3. Every device shall be maintained in good working condition, including brakes and tires.

E. **Prohibited Acts.**

1. No person shall operate any motorized device, scooter, or bicycle recklessly or in a manner that endangers property or the safety of others.
2. No person shall operate any such device while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
3. No person shall engage in racing, stunt riding, or any exhibition of speed on a public roadway.

§161-23 ENFORCEMENT

This Local Law shall be enforced by the **Village of Lowville Police Department** or any other officer or agency **with jurisdictional authority within the Village** as designated by the Village Board.

A. Enforcement on **Village-owned streets and sidewalks** shall be the responsibility of the Village Police Department.

B. Enforcement on **County or State roads within the Village** may be undertaken only **by officers with statutory authority** (e.g., Lewis County Sheriff's Department, New York State Police) or by Village Police **acting in cooperation with such agencies,** as authorized by law.

C. Officers may issue appearance tickets or summonses for violations in accordance with the **New York Criminal Procedure Law.**

D. Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of the Village Board to enter into agreements with the County or State for coordinated enforcement of this Local Law on non-village roads.

§161-24 PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES

A violation of this Local Law shall constitute a violation punishable by:

1. First offense: Fine not exceeding $50
2. Second offense within a twelve-month period: Fine not exceeding $100
3. Third offense within a twelve-month period: Fine not exceeding $250
4. Fourth and subsequent offenses within a twelve-month period: Fine not exceeding $500, and/or the offender may be subject to community service up to ten (10) hours related to public safety or pedestrian safety, at the discretion of the Village Court.

§.161-25 SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or provision of this Local Law shall be adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder thereof.

§161-26 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon adoption and or filing with the Secretary of State.