

**TOWN OF TRENTON
WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN
ORDINANCE NO. 2026.07.01
AMENDING CHAPTER 368 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

WHEREAS, the Town Code states that the Town Board shall have the authority to enact and amend ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has been advised that electric and gas-powered bicycles and scooters have become more prevalent in the town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Police Chief has identified a safety concern with operators failing to follow appropriate rules on town roads and recommends adding guidelines for these vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Trenton does ordain as follows:

Chapter 368, Vehicles and Traffic is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Add the following subsection to Chapter 368:

§368-23. Electric bicycles, electric scooters, gas-powered bicycles and gas-powered scooters

A. Definitions.

1. "Electric Bicycle" shall have the meaning as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(15ph) and shall be classified as follows:
 - a. Class 1 Electric Bicycle – A bicycle equipped with an electric motor of 750 watts or less that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
 - b. Class 2 Electric Bicycle – A bicycle equipped with an electric motor of 750 watts or less that may be used to propel the bicycle without pedaling but does not assist when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
 - c. Class 3 Electric Bicycle – A bicycle equipped with an electric motor of 750 watts or less that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.
2. "Electric Scooter" (including self-balancing scooters) means a vehicle that is designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator, powered by an electric motor, and capable of speeds not exceeding 20 miles per hour.
3. "Gas-Powered Bicycle or Scooter" refers to a bicycle or scooter that has been modified by adding a non-integral gas or other fuel powered unit, enabling it to reach speeds beyond those originally intended for the vehicle.

B. Operation of electric bicycles and electric scooters.

1. Operators of electric bicycles and electric scooters within the Town of Trenton shall comply with all applicable provisions of Wis. Stats. §§ 340-351, including but not limited to Wis. Stat. § 346.806. Electric bicycle and electric scooter operators shall adhere to the rules of the road Chapter 346 as defined in the Wisconsin State Statutes, including but not limited to yielding, signaling, stopping, speeds and right-of-way rules applicable to bicycles.
2. Any parent or guardian of a person 12 years of age or younger operating an electric bicycle or electric scooter shall be liable for any violations of this section committed by the minor and shall be subject to forfeitures and Section B4 below.
3. Use of electric bicycles and electric scooters on any Town green spaces (including parkland) or as a means of cutting through yards or accessing or crossing any property not designated for vehicle movement, is strictly prohibited.
4. Operators of electric bicycles or electric scooters, and/or parents or guardians of such operators as per Section B2 above, shall be fully liable for any damage caused to

public or private property as a result of purposeful or negligent or illegal actions in conflict with this section, and thus shall be responsible for complete and full restitution of all costs associated with such damage, in addition to any forfeiture for such violation.

5. Operation of Class 3 electric bicycles. No person under the age of 16 may operate a Class 3 electric bicycle, though a person under 16 may ride as a passenger if the bicycle is designed to accommodate passengers. Anyone operating a Class 3 electric bicycle or any electric bicycle equipped with a motor exceeding 750 watts or capable of speeds greater than 28 miles per hour is required to have a valid driver's license and is subject to all applicable motor vehicle laws.
 6. Operation of electric scooters. No electric scooter may be operated at speeds exceeding 20 miles per hour within the Town limits and must comply with and adhere to all regulations outlined within Section 3 below.
- C. Operation of Gas-Powered Bicycles and Gas-Powered Scooters. Operation of gas-powered bicycles and gas-powered scooters are prohibited in the Town of Trenton in all locations.
- D. Violations and penalties. The penalty for violating the provisions herein shall be a forfeiture as set forth in the town schedule of fees, forfeitures and deposits, for each violation. Any violation of any provisions of this section, even if repeated actions, constitutes as a separate a penalty subject to a separate or additional forfeiture.

Section 2. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance is effective on publication or posting.

Adopted this 20th day of July 2026.

In favor: 3 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

_____ ss/___ Mike Lipscomb, Town Chairperson

_____ ss/___ Tony Thoma, Town Supervisor

_____ ss/___ Barbara Davies, Town Supervisor

_____ ss/___ Attest, Cindy Komro, Town Clerk

Posted on: 07/21/2026