



Public Safety Committee
2:00pm, Tuesday, September 9, 2025
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

Public Comment:

Citizens who wish to speak during the meeting must email their first and last name, address and topic to Nicole DeNeane, City Clerk, at nicoled@iop.net no later than 3:00 p.m. the day before the meeting. Citizens may also provide written public comment

here: <https://www.iop.net/public-comment-form>

Agenda

- 1. Call to order and acknowledgement that the press and the public have been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.**
- 2. Citizen's Comments-** All comments have a time limit of three (3) minutes.
- 3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes-** August 5, 2025
- 4. Special presentation-** BCDCOG update on mobility study progress
- 5. Old Business**
 - a. Discussion of traffic data at the intersection of 41st Avenue and Forest Trails
 - b. Update on Breach Inlet signage and parking
 - c. Discussion of changes to the noise ordinance/nighttime noise levels
 - d. Discussion of e-bike and motorized scooter regulations
 - e. Discussion of scope of future traffic study
 - f. Discussion of Public Safety-related matrix recommendations
- 6. New Business-** Discussion of marina boat ramp safety
- 7. Miscellaneous Business-** Next meeting date: October 7, 2025 at 11:00am
- 8. Adjournment**



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
11:00am, Tuesday, August 9, 2025
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Present: Council members Streetman, Anderson, Bogosian

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Chief Oliverius, Deputy Chief Thompson

2. Citizen's Comments

Randy Bell related a recent incident where residents were approached by a rental company following a noise complaint to determine who called Public Safety. He would like to see Council amend the ordinance to prevent any interaction with the complainant. He said such a rule exists within Wild Dunes.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2025

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2025 meeting. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

A. Discussion of shark fishing ordinance

Administrator Kerr said that he and the City Attorney spoke with representatives from DNR about the City's proposed shark fishing ordinance and guidelines. The State believes they are the "sole authority related to anything fishing" and that this issue is outside of the City's jurisdiction. DNR does like the guidelines proposed by the City and will provide feedback on them as they pertain to State law.

He reviewed the specific concerns DNR has with the ordinance, noting that they have no issues with Subsection G. DNR says there is already a statute preventing drones on managed beaches unless it is for official purposes. They suggested a change to the definition of chumming so that it is not directed at fishing; perhaps adding it is unhealthy to add fish parts to the water.

Administrator Kerr mentioned the articles he sent to Council recently about the court challenges other municipalities and counties are facing following approval of shark fishing bans.

After a brief discussion, Council Member Bogosian suggested taking out Section A, leaving Section B with a modified definition of chumming, leaving Subsection G as it is, and removing references to trot lines from the ordinance. He would like to have the section relating to drones left in the ordinance even if DNR does not approve of it and see if it gets challenged in court.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend the ordinance as amended to City Council. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Update on Breach Inlet signage

Chief Oliverius said he met with Sullivan's Island to discuss shared training and shared signage for Breach Inlet. He will share the sign template with them as soon as it is available. He referenced an image in the meeting packet outlining suggested sign placement.

Administrator Kerr said that the City will start placing signs on the IOP side of the inlet and report back on the location of those signs. Council Member Bogosian said he would like to see the fine amount added to the signs. Chief Oliverius pointed out that the fine on Sullivan's Island is different than that on the Isle of Palms.

C. Discussion of changes to the noise ordinance/nighttime noise levels

Council Member Anderson suggested there be a 55-decibel sound limit across the island during nighttime hours. She has spoken with Wild Dunes who has no issues with a nighttime noise level being enacted.

Council Member Bogosian said he believes it is City Council's job to set the tone and vision for the Isle of Palms community and supports a nighttime noise level. He said policies should reflect the type of community Council envisions. He acknowledged that the rental agencies have helped tremendously with keeping noise levels down in the evenings.

Council Member Streetman would like City Council to discuss the suggested noise level. While he believes the issue is under-reported, he said the data does not suggest this is a major problem. Council Member Bogosian said he would like the Public Safety Committee to do the work and present City Council with a fair and reasonable amendment to the noise ordinance.

Discussion ensued as to what the Committee would need to hear and discuss before presenting something to City Council. Administrator Kerr reminded the Committee that the suggestion for a nighttime noise level came from the Planning Commission. However, Mr. David Cohen expressed concern about ambient noise that could hover around 55 decibels.

Administrator Kerr will speak with Mr. Cohen about the redline version of the noise ordinance and his thoughts on adding in a nighttime noise level. He will bring back the results of that conversation and a possible revision of the ordinance to the September Committee meeting.

D. Discussion and consideration of designating official golf cart paths

Council Member Bogosian said the proposed ordinance in the packet does not address how golf carts are to cross the street at crosswalks. Deputy Chief Thompson stated that SCDOT says golf

carts are not to use crosswalks to cross the street. Administrator Kerr added SCDOT has approved this ordinance.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend this ordinance to City Council for approval. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion of scope of future traffic study

Council Member Anderson believes two issues need to be addressed in a traffic study: better management of traffic flow on peak weekends and during sudden rainstorms and better traffic flow through the intersection at the Isle of Palms Connector. She reported that the Town of Mt. Pleasant's Transportation Committee agrees a traffic study is a good idea and will discuss it with their Town Council.

Administrator Kerr reported that Mayor Pounds has reached out to the Town of Sullivan's Island and Charleston County about participating in a traffic study. The scope of the traffic study will need to be adjusted depending on which entities will be participating in the study. Administrator Kerr suggested that COG will need to be involved since the study may reach across multiple municipalities. Council Member Bogosian would like a firm answer as to who wants to be involved in the study by the September meeting.

5. New Business

A. Review of parameters for IOP Connector Run – October 4, 2025

Scott Toole shared the details of the IOP Connector Run with the Committee. He said the run is structured the same as it has been for the last 30+ years. Administrator Kerr said Public Safety will continue to work with Mr. Toole on the details if the Committee approves. Committee members agree Mr. Toole should continue to work with Public Safety on the event.

B. Discussion of painting the intersection at 41st Avenue and Forest Trails

Administrator Kerr said the Police Department has submitted a request to SCDOT to have stop bars painted at this intersection.

Council Member Streetman reminded the Committee that the stop sign at that intersection was placed temporarily in 2021, and its effectiveness has yet to be studied. He would like to see an evaluation of traffic stop data from that intersection before agreeing to have stop bars painted there.

Administrator Kerr said he will put a pause on the request to SCDOT. Council Member Bogosian said people living in the area believe the sign has been beneficial in correcting speeding.

C. Discussion of e-bikes and motorized scooters

Deputy Chief Thompson said that he and Chief Cornett have been reviewing e-bike and motorized scooter ordinances from the Town of Mt. Pleasant and Hilton Head Island so they can put something together for the Committee's consideration.

Council Member Bogosian would like Chief Cornett to bring specific recommendations to the September meeting. Council Member Anderson suggested Chief Cornett reach out to Wild Dunes as they are also discussing the issue.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, September 1, 2025 at 11:00am.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

41st Ave Stop Sign Review

3 month comparison of statistics prior to the installation and after the installation of the 4 way stop sign

March through May

These months were used due to an issue with computer equipment to get more of the peak season timeframe

Marginal Side Comparison

Prior to 4 Way Stop Sign

- Incoming (from IOP Marina)
 - Max speeds (errors possible) – 70 MPH
 - Average Speed – 22.68 MPH
 - Percent 25 or less MPH – 81.56%
- Outgoing (twd Palm Blvd)
 - Max speeds (errors possible) – 74 MPH
 - Average Speed – 23.08 MPH
 - Percent 25 or less MPH – 79.60%

After 4 Way Stop Sign

- Incoming (from IOP Marina)
 - Max speeds (errors possible) – 50 MPH
 - Average Speed – 19.37 MPH
 - Percent 25 or less MPH – 97.89%
- Outgoing (twd Palm Blvd)
 - Max speeds (errors possible) – 57 MPH
 - Average Speed – 19.69 MPH
 - Percent 25 or less MPH – 96.18%

Wildwood Side Comparison

Prior to 4 Way Stop Sign

- Incoming (from Palms Blvd)
 - Max speeds (errors possible) – 68 MPH
 - Average Speed – 22.82 MPH
 - Percent 25 or less MPH – 82.15%
- Outgoing (twd IOP Marina)
 - Max speeds (errors possible) – 69 MPH
 - Average Speed – 22.71 MPH
 - Percent 25 or less MPH – 82.62%

After 4 Way Stop Sign

- Incoming (from Palms Blvd)
 - Max speeds (errors possible) – 72 MPH
 - Average Speed – 22.28 MPH
 - Percent 25 or less MPH – 85.46%
- Outgoing (twd IOP Marina)
 - Max speeds (errors possible) – 59 MPH
 - Average Speed – 22.08 MPH
 - Percent 25 or less MPH – 86.21%

Overall

- Marginal Rd side saw a significant reduction in violators after the installation of the 4 way stop sign
- Wildwood Rd side saw a slight reduction in violators after the installation of the 4 way stop sign.
- Note: possible errors on the maximum speed are attributed to potential batching (reading speeds on more than one vehicle at a time) when reading vehicle speeds

Sec. 9-2-5. Noise.

- a. *Declaration; specific noises.* It shall be unlawful for any person to create, assist in creating, permit, continue, or permit the continuance of any noise in the City that is unreasonably loud or disturbing in the circumstances to a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities except as expressly allowed pursuant to subsections e. and f. of this section. The following are declared to be unreasonably loud or disturbing noises in violation of this section, but such acts shall not be deemed to be exclusive:
- (1) *Blowing horns.* Except as required by law, no person shall blow or cause to be blown within the City any steam whistle, electric horn, or other signaling or warning device, except as alarm signals in case of fire or collision or other imminent danger.
 - (2) *Pets.* It shall be unlawful to keep, stable, harbor or maintain any animal or bird which disturbs the comfort or repose of any reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities in the vicinity by making continually or frequently loud noise.
 - (3) *Loudspeakers, etc.* It shall be unlawful to use, maintain or operate loudspeakers, sound trucks, amplifiers or other mechanical or electrical devices for increasing the volume of sound, upon the street, sidewalks, parks or other outdoor public places owned or under the control of the City, except as permitted under subsection e. and f. of this section; provided, however, that any City-owned property subject to a commercial lease and a noise control agreement or permit is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.
 - (4) *Hawking or peddling.* It shall be unlawful for any person to make any noise on a public street or in such proximity thereto as to be distinctly and loudly audible on such street by any kind of crying, calling, or shouting or by means of any whistle, rattle, bell, gong, clapper, horn, hammer, drum, musical instrument, or other device for the purpose of attracting attention or of inviting patronage of any persons to any business whatsoever. It is the express intention of this paragraph to prohibit hawking, peddling, soliciting or using other loud noises to attract attention to a business and not to prohibit the spill-over noise emanating from a lawfully operating business.
 - (5) *Radios, phonographs, televisions, etc.* The use, operation or playing of or permitting the use, operation or playing of any radio, hi-fi, stereo system, phonograph, piccolo, television or any musical instrument in such manner or with such unreasonably loud volume in the circumstances as to disturb any reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities, or the playing of such instrument in such manner as to disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities in any dwelling or other residence.
 - (6) *Use of vehicle.* The use of any automobile, motorcycle, motor boat, personal watercraft, water jet pack or other type of vehicle in such a state of disrepair, or so loaded, or used or repaired in such a manner as to create unreasonably loud or disturbing noises in the circumstances, particularly grating, grinding, rattling, riveting, revving or other disturbing noises.
 - (7) *Exhaust discharge.* To discharge into the open air the exhaust from any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine, motor boat engine, motorcycle or motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.
 - (8) *Noise in proximity to schools, courts, etc.* The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, institution of learning, library, or court, while the same is in session, or adjacent to any church during church services, which interferes with the work or worship at any such place or institution.
- b. ~~*Amplified Music—Nighttime sound-play.*~~ It shall be unlawful for any person, entity or establishment to play, operate or cause an equivalent sound level in excess of 55 dBA beyond the property of the noise source as

measured with a sound meter conforming to ANSI?ASA s1.13-2005 (or later) during the nighttime, which is the time between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday. Additionally, at nighttime it shall be unlawful to play, operate or cause to be played or operated, any radio, amplified musical instrument (including but not limited to brass or drum instruments), or other amplification device or apparatus with the primary purpose of making sound ~~making or reproducing musical or other sounds or cause any sound created by yelling, screaming, or loud talking~~ between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday, in such a manner as to be plainly audible on any adjacent street or right-of-way, or adjacent to any place of public accommodations, dwelling or other residence ~~in any adjacent street or right-of-way, adjacent place of public accommodation, or adjacent dwelling or other residence~~. For the purpose of this section, plainly audible shall mean any sound that can be detected by a ~~reasonable~~ person of ordinary sensibilities using his or her unaided hearing faculties, including the understanding of spoken speech, comprehension of whether a voice is raised or normal, or comprehension of musical rhythms.

- c. *Amplified Music—Daytime Play.* It shall be unlawful for any person, entity or establishment to play, operate or cause to be played or operated, any radio, amplified musical instrument (including but not limited to brass or drum instruments), or other amplification device or apparatus making or reproducing musical or other sounds between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, or between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, in such a manner or with such unreasonably loud volume in the circumstances as to disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities in any dwelling or other residence.
- d. *Piledrivers and other apparatus, tools or equipment.* It shall be unlawful for any contractor, subcontractor, landscaper, supplier or vendor to operate or use any piledrivers, steam shovels, pneumatic hammers, derricks, steam or electric hoists, or other apparatus, tools or equipment, the use of which is attended with loud or disturbing noises, at any time other than between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. No such use shall be permitted on Sundays or on the following legal holidays: New Year's Day; Memorial Day; Fourth of July; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day. Approval for such use may be granted by the City for performing emergency repairs outside of the hours specified. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit an owner or member of an owner's immediate family from performing maintenance, repairs, or other work on their own property at any time, provided that such work is otherwise in compliance with City ordinances.
- e. *Public interest events.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, on application to, and approval by, the Chief of Police, written permits may be granted to broadcast programs of music, speeches, general entertainment, or announcements as a part of and incident to community celebrations of national, State, or City occasions, public festivals, or other public interest events, provided that traffic on the streets is controlled. In determining whether or not to issue such a permit, the Chief of Police shall weigh the public interests in the event against the noise and disturbance anticipated to be created by the event and must consider the intensity and duration of the noise and the area that will likely be affected. The language or content emanating from the event shall not be considered.
- f. *Exceptions.* None of the foregoing prohibitions shall apply to or be enforced against:
 - (1) Any City vehicle engaged in City business;
 - (2) Any City-hosted, City-sponsored or City-sanctioned special events;
 - (3) Excavations or repairs of bridges, streets or highways, by or on behalf of the City, county or state during the night, when the public welfare and convenience renders it impossible to perform the work during the day; nor shall the same apply to work performed by public utility companies under like conditions and circumstances, or when there is urgent necessity therefor;

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- (4) Construction activities performed by or on behalf of a governmental agency, including, but not limited to, construction, repair or maintenance of public buildings and drainage facilities, dredging activities, beach renourishment activities, and other public projects.
- g. *Enforcement factors.* Factors to be considered in determining whether a noise is unreasonably loud, disturbing, or excessive for the purposes of this section shall include, but are not limited to, any or all of the following:
- (1) The intensity and volume of the noise;
 - (2) The intensity of the background noise, if any;
 - (3) Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual;
 - (4) Whether the origin of the noise is associated with nature or human-made activity;
 - (5) The proximity of the noise to sleeping facilities;
 - (6) The land use, nature, and zoning of the area from which the noise emanates and the area where it is received;
 - (7) The time of day or night, along with the day of the week and time of year, when the noise occurs;
 - (8) The time duration of the noise;
 - (9) Whether the sound source is temporary;
 - (10) Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent or constant;
 - (11) Whether or not noise abatement measures are possible and whether or not they are used to reduce the noise level;
 - (12) The number of people and their activities that are affected by the noise;
 - (13) The existence of complaints concerning the noise from persons or premises affected by the noise;
 - (14) Whether the noise in the circumstances would disturb a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities; and
 - (15) The nature of any communicative content of the noise shall not be considered for the purpose of this section.
- h. *Violations and penalties.* A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable pursuant to section 1-3-66. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.
- i. *Nuisance.*
- (1) Violation of this section is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, which may be abated by the City by restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction, or other means provided for by law, and the City may take action to recover the costs of the nuisance abatement.
 - (2) In addition to the penalties set forth in subsection (h) of this section, repeated violations of this section by a person who owns, manages, operates, is a business agent of, or otherwise controls a business establishment may result in the suspension or revocation of any business license issued to the premises on which the violations occurred in accordance with section 7-1-15.

(Code 1994, § 9-2-5; Ord. No. 1999-15, 6-22-1999; Ord. No. 2001-4, § 1, 3-27-2001; Ord. No. 2003-15, § 1, 11-25-2003; Ord. No. 2016-02, § 1, 2-23-2016; Ord. No. 2018-04, § 1, 4-24-2018)

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DOUGLAS KERR, CITY ADMINISTRATOR &
IOP PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FROM: CHIEF KEVIN CORNETT

SUBJECT: E-BIKE LAWS AND ORDINANCES REVIEWS

DATE: 8/25/2025

CC:



I have conducted a search for different state statutes and local ordinances pertaining to the operation and use of e-bikes.

SC §56-5-710(A)(8) gives a municipality the jurisdiction to regulate “the operation of bicycles and requiring the registration and licensing of them, including the requirements of a registration fee”

- Must not conflict with state law.

SC §56-1-10(29) defines an electric assist bicycle and bicycle with helper motors.

- Must have full operable pedals and an electric motor of 750 watts or less, or one horsepower
 - o More than 750 watts is a moped under §56-1-10(26)
- Must have a top motor-powered speed of less than 20 mph (when operated by a rider weighing 170 pounds on a paved level surface)
- The electric motor must stop or disengage when brakes are applied
- Shall have a label applied permanently by the manufacturer in a prominent location that indicates the bicycle’s wattage use and maximum electrically assisted speed.

During my review of local ordinances pertaining to electric assist bicycles (e-bikes) I looked at ordinances for the Town of Hilton Head Island and the Town of Mount Pleasant. I will break down the ordinances for both below.

Town of Hilton Head Island, SC:

- §12-1-611 references SC §56-1-10(29) to define an electric-assist bicycle
- §12-1-612 requires any business that rents or sells electric-assist bikes to provide a town issued safety and etiquette pamphlet with each transaction to consumers
- §12-1-613 provides for punishments associated with the previous two ordinances and includes a provision to declare a business a nuisance for three or more convictions in a 12-month period.

Town of Mount Pleasant, SC:

- §73.30 reinforces state law that an e-bike must obey the laws applicable to a driver of a vehicle.
- §73.31 requires:
 - o E-bikes travel at 15 miles an hour or less
 - o Riders shall operate with due care and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within pathways
 - o Reinforces state law that riders may only ride upon an e-bike with a permanent and regular seat.
 - o Riders shall not be engaged in an activity that is not necessary to the operation of the e-bike which impairs or would be expected to impair safe operation of the e-bike.
- §73.32 requires:
 - o Riders under 21 shall not operate or ride upon an e-bike without a protective helmet
 - o Must have proper brakes
 - o Reinforces state law that requires a headlamp and reflectors.
- §73.33 reinforces state law about the use of hand and arm signals
- §73.34 (Ordinance updated by Town Council at Aug. 12th council meeting) provides guidelines for the use of e-bikes on sidewalks:
 - o Only children under 17 and their accompanying adults may ride on a sidewalk or shared multi-use path
 - o Must ride at a speed of 12 miles an hour or less
 - o Provides that e-bikes must not be operated in a manner that causes damage to public or private property.
- §73.35 reinforces state law that any bike with a motor that is propelled by a motor exceeding 750 watts or one horsepower is a moped.
- §73.99 provides that anyone (including minors) may receive a citation for violating these ordinances
 - o This was discussed by their town council at the August 12th meeting.

The Isle of Palms Police Department has created our version of a Bike / E-Bike Safety & Etiquette pamphlet to distribute and will ask any business that rents or sells e-bikes to distribute them to consumers.

Attached you will find copies of all of the reference local ordinances and the IOPPD Bike/E-Bike Safety & Etiquette pamphlet. I have highlighted some to have further discussions about.

Sec. 12-1-512. - Electric-assist bicycles or bicycles with helper motors.

Electric-assist bicycles or bicycles with helper motors, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-10(2), and section 12-1-610 of this Code may traverse and utilize any publicly owned pathway designed for pedestrians or bicycles. Bicycles with electric motors that exceed the limitations for an "electric-assist bicycle" or a "bicycle with helper motor" set out in S. C. Code Ann. § 56-1-10, are prohibited on publicly-owned pathways.

(Ord. No. 22-14, § 1(Exh. A), 8-16-22)

ARTICLE 6. - ELECTRIC-ASSIST BICYCLES

Sec. 12-1-610. - Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to maintain public safety on publicly-owned pathways designed for pedestrians and bicycles.

(Ord. No. 22-14, § 1(Exh. A), 8-16-22)

Sec. 12-1-611. - Electric-assist bicycle defined.

For the purpose of this chapter, the term "electric-assist bicycle" is as defined in S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-10(29). The term includes "bicycles with helper motors".

(Ord. No. 22-14, § 1(Exh. A), 8-16-22)

State Law reference— S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-10(29) "Electric-assist bicycles" and "bicycles with helper motors" means low-speed electrically assisted bicycles with two or three (3) wheels, each having fully operable pedals and an electric motor of no more than 750 watts, or one horsepower, and a top motor-powered speed of less than twenty (20) miles an hour when operated by a rider weighing one hundred seventy (170) pounds on a paved level surface, that meet the requirements of the Federal Consumer Product Code provided in 16 C.F.R., Part 1512, and that operate in a manner such that the electric motor disengages or ceases to function when their brakes are applied or the rider stops pedaling. Manufacturers and distributors of electric-assist bicycles shall apply a label that is affixed permanently, in a prominent location, to each electric-assist bicycle, indicating its wattage and maximum electrically assisted speed. The owner or user of an electric-assist bicycle shall not remove or tamper with the label. If a user tampers with or modifies an electric-assist bicycle, changing the speed capability, he must replace the label indicating the vehicle's wattage or horsepower. Electric-assist bicycles and bicycles with helper motors are not mopeds.

Sec. 12-1-612. - Public safety provisions.

- (a) Any business engaged in renting or selling "electric-assist bicycles," as well as all other electric bicycles that exceed the speed or motor power of "electric-assist bicycles," must provide a town-issued safety and etiquette pamphlet upon each transaction to consumers.
- (b) An "electric-assist bicycle," operated on publicly-owned pathways and roads in the Town of Hilton Head shall have a label permanently affixed to the device indicating its wattage or horsepower and maximum electrically assisted speed, as required by S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-10(29).

(Ord. No. 22-14, § 1(Exh. A), 8-16-22)

Sec. 12-1-613. - Violations and penalties.

- (a) *Violations.* It shall be a violation of this chapter to:
 - (1) Fail to comply with any requirement of the chapter.
- (b) Violations of this chapter are subject to the penalties and remedies available under section 1-5-10, section 10-1150, section 9-1-111, et seq. These remedies are in addition to any other remedies available at law or in equity for a violation.
- (c) Any business or individual engaged in the leasing or sale of electric-assist bicycles that is the subject of three or more convictions of violations of this chapter in any twelve-month period shall be declared a nuisance under section 9-1-111, et seq., and the violator shall be subject to all remedies available to the town under sections 1-5-10, and 10-1-150.

(Ord. No. 22-14, § 1(Exh. A), 8-16-22)

REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO E-BIKES

§ 73.30 RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PERSONS OPERATING E-BIKES.

Every person operating an E-Bike 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 by the laws of this state declaring rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by the traffic regulations of the town applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as to special regulations in this subchapter and except as to those provisions of laws and regulations which by their nature can have no application.

(Ord. 23023, passed 9-15-23)

§ 73.31 LIMITATIONS AS TO OPERATION, SPEED, RIDING POSITION, AND NUMBER OF RIDERS OF E-BIKES.

(A) No person shall operate an E-Bike at a speed in excess of 15 miles an hour.

(B) An operator of an E-Bike shall operate the E-Bike with due care and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within public pathways and rights-of-way.

(C) No person shall ride upon an E-Bike other than upon a permanent and regular seat attached to the E-Bike. Any person operating an E-Bike must keep his or her feet firmly on the pedals or foot pegs while sitting on the seat.

(D) No E-Bike may be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

(E) No person shall operate an E-Bike while engaged in an activity that is not necessary to the operation of the E-Bike which impairs, or would reasonable be expected to impair, the ability of the person to safely operate the E-Bike.

(Ord. 23023, passed 9-15-23)

§ 73.32 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR E-BIKES.

(A) No person under the age of 21 shall operate or ride an E-Bike unless he or she wears a protective bicycle helmet.

(B) An E-Bike must be equipped with a brake that will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(C) An E-Bike, when in use at nighttime, must be equipped with a lamp on the front which must emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear that must be visible from all distances from 50 feet to 300 feet to the rear when directly in front of the lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

(Ord. 23023, passed 9-15-23)

§ 73.33 OPERATORS OF E-BIKES REQUIRED TO USE HAND AND ARM SIGNALS.

(A) An operator of an E-Bike shall indicate a right turn by extending the left arm upward, by raising the left arm to the square, or by extending the right arm horizontally to the right.

(B) An operator of an E-Bike shall indicate a left turn by extending the left arm horizontally.

(C) An operator of an E-Bike shall indicate stopping or decreasing speed by extending the left arm or the right arm downward.

(D) An operator of an E-Bike is not required to give signals provided for in this section continuously if the hand or arm is needed to control the E-Bike.

(Ord. 23023, passed 9-15-23)

§ 73.34 RIDING E-BIKES ON SIDEWALKS.

(A) No person shall ride or operate an E-Bike upon any sidewalk in the town except:

(1) Children the age of 17 and under and any adults accompanying children the age of seven and under may ride an E-Bike on any sidewalk;

(2) Where the sidewalk is designated by the Engineering and Development Services Department as a shared use path measuring at least eight feet in width;

(3) On sidewalks adjacent to roadways where no bicycle path has been provided; or

(4) Where the adjacent highway has a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or more, any person may ride an E-Bike on the adjacent sidewalk except as otherwise herein prohibited or if there is a dedicated bicycle path on the adjacent highway.

(B) For the purposes of this section, "bicycle path" means a portion of the roadway or a paved lane separated from the roadway that has been designated by striping, pavement markings, and signage for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

(C) Any person permitted under this section to ride or operate an E-Bike on a sidewalk, bicycle path, or shared use path shall at all times ride or operate the E-Bike with due care and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians using the sidewalk.

(D) No person shall ride or operate an E-Bike on any sidewalk or shared use path in the town at a speed in excess of ten miles an hour.

(E) Where permitted in the above divisions, E-Bikes shall not be operated in a manner which causes damage to public or private property.

(F) The provisions of this section shall not diminish, detract from, or change the rights and duties of operators of E-Bikes under this chapter or state law.

(Ord. 23023, passed 9-15-23)

§ 73.35 MODIFICATION OF E-BIKES EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE HORSEPOWER OR SPEED.

Any E-Bike that exceeds 750 watts or one horsepower and produces speeds in excess of 20 miles an hour shall be deemed a moped under this chapter and shall be subject to all regulations applicable to mopeds.

(Ord. 23023, passed 9-15-23)

10 - SIDEWALK
15 - SHARED USE PATH
12 MPR FOR BOTH = PASSED

AS AMENDED
= PASSED

TO DISCUSS AGAIN
ON 8/12 @ MT. P
CITY COUNCIL MEETING = FINAL READING

ORDINANCE NO. 25036

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON) 73.34, ENTITLED *RIDING E-BIKES ON*
TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT) *SIDEWALKS*, AND 73.99, ENTITLED
) *PENALTY*, OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT CODE
) OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2023, Mount Pleasant Town Council repealed and replaced Chapter 73 of the Mount Pleasant Code of Ordinances titled *Bicycle* by Ordinance Number 23023 in order to provide regulations and restrictions for electronic-assisted bicycles; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 56-5-710(A)(8), municipalities may regulate the operation of bicycles with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Mount Pleasant Town Council, in order to protect the general health, safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors, desires to amend Sections 73.34, entitled *Riding E-Bikes on Sidewalks*, and 73.99, entitled *Penalty*, of the Mount Pleasant Code of Ordinances to provide restrictions to operations of e-bikes on sidewalks and to allow for penalties to be assessed against persons under the age of 18 for violations of Chapter 73; and

WHEREAS, Mount Pleasant Town Council has the authority to amend its Code of Ordinances when deemed to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Town, and now desires to do so as displayed below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Councilmembers of the Municipality of Mount Pleasant, in Council assembled, Sections 73.34, entitled *Riding E-Bikes on Sidewalks*, and 73.99, entitled *Penalty*, of the Mount Pleasant Code of Ordinances are hereby amended to specifically read as follows:

For all changes new language and symbols shall be underlined and removed language and symbols shall be represented by a strikethrough.

§ 73.34 RIDING E-BIKES ON SIDEWALKS.

- (A) No person shall ride or operate an E-Bike upon any sidewalk in the town except:
- (1) Children the age of 17 and under and any adults accompanying children the age of seven and under may ride an E-Bike on any sidewalk;
 - (2) Where the sidewalk is designated by the Engineering and Development Services Department as a shared use path measuring at least eight feet in width;
 - (3) On sidewalks adjacent to roadways where no bicycle path has been provided; or
 - (4) Where the adjacent highway has a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or more, any person may ride an E-Bike on the adjacent sidewalk except as otherwise herein prohibited or if there is a dedicated bicycle path on the adjacent highway.
- (B) For the purposes of this section, "bicycle path" means a portion of the roadway or a paved lane separated from the roadway that has been designated by striping, pavement markings, and signage for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.
- (C) Any person permitted under this section to ride or operate an E-Bike on a sidewalk, bicycle path, or shared use path shall at all times ride or operate the E-Bike with due care and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians using the sidewalk.
- (D) No person shall ride or operate an E-Bike on any sidewalk or shared use path in the town at a speed in excess of ~~ten~~ fifteen miles an hour.
- (E) Where permitted in the above divisions, E-Bikes shall not be operated in a manner which causes damage to public or private property.
- (F) The provisions of this section shall not diminish, detract from, or change the rights and duties of operators of E-Bikes under this chapter or state law.

§ 73.99 PENALTY.

Any person ~~18 years of age or older~~ violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall, on conviction in the municipal court therefor, in addition to any other penalties as mentioned in this section and applicable state law, be punished by the payment of a fine not to exceed \$500 or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 30 days. Any corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter, on conviction in the municipal court therefor, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500, which may be recovered by an action for debt, and by the suspension or revocation of any license mentioned in this chapter. However, no penalty shall exceed the penalty provided by state law for similar offenses.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON FINAL READING.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

J.W. Haynie, Mayor
Town of Mount Pleasant

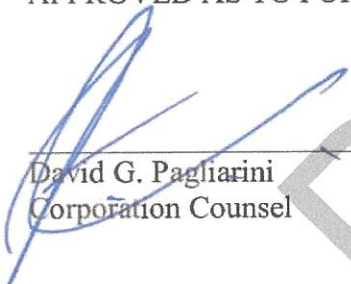
Attest:

Christine Barrett
Clerk of Council

_____, 2025
Mount Pleasant, SC

Introduced: _____, 2025
Final Reading: _____, 2025

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



David G. Pagliarini
Corporation Counsel

CONTACT US

Isle of Palms Police Department
30 JC Long Blvd
Isle of Palms, SC 29451
843-886-6522

This pamphlet shares important information for visitors and residents so they are aware of and adhere to local bike laws, take precautions to remain safe when out riding their bicycles and know how to make their bicycle riding experience enjoyable for themselves and others.

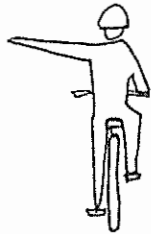
These safety and etiquette guidelines apply to all bike riders including e-bike riders.

BIKE / E-BIKE

Safety & Etiquette



HAND SIGNALS



LEFT



STOP



RIGHT

Source: SC Department of Public Safety, Safe Streets Save Lives Campaign

Bike Safety Tips:

Bikes have to follow the same rules as a car

Stop at stop signs

Ride with the flow of traffic

Wear a helmet

Yield to pedestrians when riding on a sidewalk

Walk bicycles/e-bikes when using a pedestrian crosswalk to cross over a roadway instead of riding

Yield to pedestrians crossing at a crosswalk when you biking in the roadway traffic lanes

Watch out for cars (they may not see you!)

Bicycles & e-bikes must have a red rear reflector and a headlight if biking at night

Use a SAFE and courteous speed

Use hand signals when turning or stopping

E-BIKES

Before you ride, it is important to understand an e-bike is different from other bicycles. It can be faster, heavier, handles differently, needs longer stopping distances, and requires some practice to operate. Practice mounting, dismounting, stopping, and starting your e-bike in a safe location prior to your first ride.

South Carolina law states any e-bike that is being operated on publicly owned pathways, sidewalks, and roads must have a permanent label indicating the bike's horsepower and maximum assisted speed to ensure that it falls within the class 1 and class 2 limitations.

Isle of Palms Municipal Ordinance prohibits the use of e-bikes on the beach between Memorial Day and Labor Day

7/10/2025

Suggested request for Proposal for IOP peak congestion traffic study

During the summer of 2025, traffic on the Isle of Palms Connector consistently reached volumes of 25,000 vehicles per day (vpd) and on some weekends over 30,000 vpd. The result was gridlock conditions on the island on peak weekends and travel times reaching 90 minutes or more just to exit the island. This is unacceptable.

The City of Isle of Palms is requesting a proposal to evaluate peak summer travel conditions and propose solutions to reduce delays.

1) Data collection

- A. Collect hourly turning movement counts at two intersections on a summer Saturday during the peak morning and afternoon flow:
 - i. Palm Blvd. and 14th Avenue (signalized intersection)
 - ii. Palm Blvd, JC Long and 12th Ave (unsignalized intersection)
- B. Obtain 24- hour ped/bike volumes on the Connector.
- C. Use SCDOT 24-hour historical ATR counts at Station 10-0693 (SC 517) to select survey days and times
- D. Use 511SC.org to observe traffic flow on the island for non- survey weekends, including identifying bottlenecks
- E. On the selected survey day, observe peak traffic conditions on Palm Blvd at 14th Ave. and between 21st Ave and 30th Ave to identify the cause of bottlenecks. Drone-aerial photography may be used for observations.

2) Data analysis and recommendations

- A. At the Palm Blvd/14th Ave intersection, evaluate the signal timing and recommend changes to the intersection to improve traffic flow. Recommendations should include, but not be limited to:
 - i. An existing conditions intersection capacity analysis
 - ii. Reconfiguring lane use (including making 14th Ave. one way southbound) and evaluating the effect of changes on traffic flow on Ocean Blvd and at the of Palm Blvd/JC Long/12th Ave intersection
 - iii. Evaluating varying cycle length, phasing, and signal timing by time of day and for peak/off peak times to maximize efficiency and minimize delays.
- B. On the Connector, evaluating the potential for using the northbound ped/bicycle lane as a second vehicle lane when extreme congestion occurs, such as on the following weekends: Memorial Day weekend Saturday and July 4 weekend Saturday. Include how ped/bike volumes would be affected and how it would be rerouted. Coordinate with SCDOT.
- C. On Palm Blvd between 21st Ave and 30th Ave, recommend traffic control measures to reduce bottlenecks and avoid gridlock. Measures may include but not be limited to:
 - i. Placement of traffic control officers at merge points to manage traffic flow
 - ii. Possible temporary street closings to reduce cut-through traffic
 - iii. Encouraging motorists to wait out delays at the Rec Center on 29th Ave
 - iv. Other innovative ideas

3) Deliverables

- A. Traffic report that summarizes existing conditions, analysis techniques and recommendations.
- B. Recommended signal timing plans suitable for implementation by SCDOT (peak, off-peak, etc.)
- C. Traffic management plans for officers describing their roles, temporary street modifications (cone placement, temporary signage, etc.) and scheduling for implementation.
- D. Recommended changes in lane configurations on the Connector including (but not limited to) use of the bike/ped lane for vehicle travel and rough cost estimate to implement. Describe how bike/ped traffic would be rerouted.
- E. Any long-term suggestions that could be pursued in subsequent studies.

4) Meetings

- A. Three meetings with IOP staff and City Council to: 1) kickoff project; 2) present findings; and 3) present final report.
- B. Coordination with SCDOT and Town of Mt Pleasant as necessary to ensure an outcome that is implementable.

Recommendation	Source	Initiative	Timeline of Implementation	Type of Recommendation	Budgetary Cost	Initiative2
Work with golf cart rental companies to develop a communication piece for distribution to each renter, a placard/sticker to be posted in each cart, and/or a pledge to be signed by all renters that emphasizes state and local laws.	Community Enrichment		Short	Actionable		Golf Cart Code Enforcement
Consider passing an ordinance adding a requirement for golf cart and LSV owners/users to read and agree to a golf cart/LSV safety pledge emphasizing state and local laws.	Community Enrichment		Short	Exploratory		Golf Cart Code Enforcement
Manage traffic on the Isle of Palms Connector during specific time periods within the course of the year with seasonal police personnel for traffic management.	Community Enrichment		Short	Actionable		Improved Traffic Flow
Include funding in the 2023-2024 budget to initiate a comprehensive traffic study for the island to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. This study should be done in close collaboration with the SCDOT staff to ensure the solutions that are developed can be implemented within their network	Comprehensive Plan		Medium	Actionable	\$\$\$	Improved Traffic Flow
Evaluate the lane configuration of the Isle of Palms Connector to identify more efficient and safer alternatives	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Actionable		Improved Traffic Flow
Evaluate the intersection of the Isle of Palms Connector and Palm Boulevard to determine if an alternative design and/or phasing could increase operational efficiency	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Actionable		Improved Traffic Flow
Evaluate the Charleston County Park and municipal parking lots traffic routing, payment, and ticketing to identify more efficient methods for ingress and egress	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Actionable		Improved Traffic Flow
Develop a plan to improve alternate modes of transportation on the island including bikeways, golf carts and low speed vehicle facilities and sidewalks while improving pedestrian safety	Comprehensive Plan		Medium	Actionable		Improved Traffic Flow
Encourage appropriate measures to collect accurate traffic counts including the installation of new hardware at the key points of ingress and egress of the island	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Actionable		Improved Traffic Flow
Identify problem areas and appropriate funding sources	Comprehensive Plan		Short	Actionable		Improved Traffic Flow