

Ordinance No. 808-2025

By Council Members Hairston, Polensek
and Griffin (by departmental request)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

To supplement the Codified Ordinances of Ohio, 1976, by enacting new Section 401.711, relating to the definition of under-speed vehicles; and to enact new Sections 450.01 to 450.06 and 450.99 relating to under-speed vehicles.

WHEREAS, this ordinance constitutes an emergency measure providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, are supplemented by enacting new Section 401.711 to read as follows:

Section 401.711 Under-Speed Vehicle

“Under-speed vehicle” means a three or four-wheeled vehicle, including a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart, with an attainable speed on a paved level surface of not more than twenty (20) miles per hour and with a gross vehicle weight rating less than three thousand (3,000) pounds; this does not include low-speed vehicles such as a golf cart modified to attain a speed of more than twenty (20) miles per hour.

Section 2. That the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, are supplemented by enacting new Sections 450.01 to 450.06 and 450.99 to read as follows:

Chapter 450
Under-Speed Vehicles (including non-modified golf carts)

Section 450.01 Under-Speed Vehicles Permitted on City Streets

Subject to the requirements of this chapter, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of Public Safety or designee, the use of under-speed vehicles shall be permitted on City street public rights-of-way where the speed limit is thirty-five (35) miles per hour or less.

Section 450.02 Title and Registration Required

- (a) Prior to the operation of an under-speed vehicle on City streets and public rights-of-way, the vehicle must be titled in accordance with Chapter 4505 of the Revised Code and registered in accordance with Chapter 4503 of the Revised Code.
- (b) Out-of-state under-speed vehicles are not permitted on City streets.

Section 450.03 Annual Vehicle Inspection

- (a) Before the owner of the under-speed vehicle may obtain a new or transferred title for the under-speed vehicle, the under-speed vehicle must pass an

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annual inspection conducted by the Bureau of Traffic or other local law enforcement agency. The inspection fee shall be One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00).

(b) At the time of the inspection, the owner of the under-speed vehicle must present all of the following:

- (1) A valid driver’s license. If the owner of the under-speed vehicle is a business, the business must require that all persons operating its under-speed vehicles have a valid driver’s license;
- (2) Proof of insurance;
- (3) Proof of ownership;
- (4) Proof of the gross vehicle weight; and
- (5) Payment for the inspection fee. (Check payable to *City of Cleveland*.)

Section 450.04 Compliance with Traffic Laws

All under-speed vehicles must be operated on City streets in accordance with all applicable state and local laws, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) Anyone who operates a vehicle on the City streets must have a valid driver’s license;
- (b) A vehicle must have the required license plates; and
- (c) A vehicle must have at least minimum liability insurance coverage as required by the State of Ohio.

Section 450.05 Rules and Regulations by Director of Public Safety

All under-speed vehicles shall conform to the rules and regulations governing their use, imposed by the Director of Public Safety or designee, as deemed necessary for public safety to life and property and the maintenance of traffic on sidewalks and public right of ways including an option to create a restricted service area map, any special event restrictions, and an option to charge a fee for curb use for pick up and drop off in an amount to be determined by the Board of Control.

Section 450.06 Required Equipment

An under-speed vehicle, at a minimum, must have all of the following:

- (a) Brake lights (2 lights);
- (b) Head lights (2 lights)
- (c) Tail lights (2 lights);

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- (d) Turn signals (2 front, 2 rear);
- (e) A horn;
- (f) A rearview mirror;
- (g) A windshield;
- (h) Brakes and a brake system;
- (i) A steering mechanism;
- (j) Appropriate tires that are free of major bumps, bulges, breaks, or any other unsafe conditions;
- (k) Seat belts sufficient for the maximum occupancy of the vehicle; and
- (l) A properly placed inspection sticker issued by the Bureau of Traffic.

Section 450.99 Penalty

Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter 450 for which a penalty is not already provided in another section of this Traffic Code is guilty of a minor degree misdemeanor and shall be fined in an amount to be determined by the Board of Control and face potential impoundment of the under-speed vehicle pursuant to Section 405.02.

In addition to any other method of enforcement provided for in this Chapter 450, any violation of the provisions of this chapter which is a minor misdemeanor may be enforced by the issuance of a citation in compliance with Rule 4.1 of the Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure. Each day of non-compliance shall constitute a separate violation. Individuals, corporations, or companies so named on the title of said vehicle shall be responsible for all safety equipment and shall also be responsible for all penalties set forth in this section.

Section 3. That this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

AP:uo
7-9-2025
FOR: Director Mersmann

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READ FIRST TIME on JULY 9, 2025
and referred to DIRECTORS of City Planning Commission,
Public Safety, Finance, Law;
COMMITTEES on Development Planning and Sustainability, Safety,
Finance Diversity Equity and Inclusion

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

REPORT after second Reading

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY
COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND
SUSTAINABILITY

FILED WITH COMMITTEE

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY
COMMITTEE ON
SAFETY

FILED WITH COMMITTEE

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY
COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE, DIVERSITY, EQUITY
and INCLUSION

FILED WITH COMMITTEE