

2024 Model Traffic Code



What is the Model Traffic Code?

- A standardized code adopted by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Designed to provide some level of uniformity and consistency regarding local traffic regulations throughout the State
- Modeled after the Uniform Safety Code, Title 42, Article 4, Parts 1 to 3, 5 to 19, and 21, C.R.S.

History

- The first Model Traffic Code (MTC) was adopted in 1952, and has since been revised 12 times
- In 1982, the Castle Town Council adopted the 1977 edition of the Model Traffic Code
- At present, the Town utilizes the 2010 edition of the Model Traffic Code, which was adopted in 2012
- The 2024 Model Traffic Code is the second edition that has been promulgated since that time

Major Changes for 2024

- Expansion of the Town's authority to regulate the use of state highways within the Town in snow-packed conditions
- Adoption of new regulations regarding the establishment of steep downhill grade zones on state highways and allowing the Town to enforce speed limits within these zones
- Addition of electric scooters and autocycles (three-wheelers) to the list of vehicles subject to local regulations

Major Changes for 2024

- Adoption of new regulations designed to provide additional protections for:
 - Snowplow operators during emergency operations;
 - Stationary emergency vehicles, tow trucks, and public utility vehicles displaying warning lights; and
 - Bicyclists and other authorized users of bicycle lanes
 - Vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, highway workers, emergency service providers, and peace officers

Major Changes for 2024

- Establishing new offenses, including:
 - Failure to yield the right-of-way in a roundabout;
 - Illegal parking in a designated electric motor vehicle charging station
 - Unlawful use of a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle
- Allowing motorcycles to travel between lanes at stop lights

Local Amendments

- Allowing the Town to enforce parking provisions on private property where parking restriction signs are posted
- Excluding golf carts from the definition of “low-speed electric vehicle” and lowering their speed of operation from 35 to 30 mph
- Clarifying the prohibition against the use of off-highway vehicles to ensure that unlicensed e-motorcycles and other similar vehicles are kept off our streets and roadways

Local Amendments

- Prohibiting motor vehicles of any kind on the sidewalk, including golf carts and clarifying that golf carts are only allowed on golf courses
- Enhancing the safety requirements governing the use of child restraint systems
- Granting CRPD the requisite authority to enforce vehicle registration requirements in the municipal court

Additional Considerations

Aurora recently adopted the following ordinance to combat the unlawful use of dirt bikes and e-motorcycles by minors:

- No parent or guardian shall cause or knowingly permit their child or ward under the age of eighteen years to drive or ride an off highway vehicle in the City.
- Any person who enters a plea of guilty, no contest or is convicted at trial of violating any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$250.00.

Next Steps

- An ordinance adopting the 2024 Edition of the Model Traffic Code, with Town-specific amendments will be placed on the October 21st Town Council agenda for consideration
- The ordinance is the result of a collaborative effort between the Town Manager, Town Attorney, Castle Rock Police Department, and Public Works Department