

2024 Model Traffic Code

October 21, 2024 Town Council Meeting



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 the speed of operation of such vehicles from 35 to 30 mph
- Clarifying the prohibition against the use of off-highway vehicles to ensure that dirt bikes, unlicensed e-motorcycles and other such 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

Town Council has requested the addition of the following language 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 Town.
- 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.

Additional Considerations

Town Council has requested the addition of new section that allows a police officer to impound a vehicle if the officer has probable cause to believe that the operator is in violation of:

- Vehicle registration requirements
- Driver's license requirements; and
- Compulsory insurance requirements

Motion

- “I move to approve Ordinance No. 2025-__ as introduced by title on first reading.”
- “I move to approve Ordinance No. 2025-__ as introduced by title, with the following conditions: _____.”
- “I move to continue Ordinance No. 2025-__ to the Town Council meeting on _____.”