

Chapter 20

MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC*

* **State Law References:** Traffic generally, Minn. Stats. chs. 168--171; powers of local authorities, Minn. Stats. §§ 169.02, 169.04.

Sec. 20-1. Adoption of state statutes.

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Sec. 20-1. Adoption of state statutes.

The provisions of Minn. Stats. chs. 168--171 are adopted by reference.
(Ord. No. 31, § 1, 10-6-1970)

Sec. 20-2. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Motor vehicle means every vehicle which is self-propelled and not deriving its power from overhead wires.

Unreasonable acceleration means to start or accelerate a motor vehicle in an unsafe, unreasonable or imprudent manner or in a manner that evidences an unnecessary exhibition of speed or creates unnecessary noise or nuisance.

(Ord. No. 48, § 1, 9-2-1980)

Sec. 20-3. Unreasonable acceleration prohibited.

Unreasonable acceleration of any motor vehicle on any street, highway, roadway, private road or driveway within the city is hereby declared to be unlawful and a public nuisance.

(Ord. No. 48, § 2, 9-2-1980)

Sec. 20-4. Standard of evidence.

It shall be prima facie evidence of unreasonable acceleration if a motor vehicle shall be observed starting or accelerating in such a manner as to cause squealing or screeching sounds emitted by the motor vehicle's tires, fishtailing of the motor vehicle, or the throwing of sand or gravel by the tires of said motor vehicle, or any combination of said actions.

(Ord. No. 48, § 3, 9-2-1980)

Sec. 20-5. Parking lots.

Parking of vehicles in lots used by the public for parking shall conform to the markings of stalls or positions for parking designated on the surface of the parking area and no vehicle shall be parked or allowed to stand in any area of such parking lot which has been designated or is used for a lane for moving traffic. (Ord. No. 36, § IV, 6-5-1973)

Sec. 20-6. Weight limits.

(a) *Findings.* The streets, roads and public ways of the city will be seriously damaged or destroyed by reason of climactic conditions unless the usage of vehicles thereon is prohibited or restricted, or unless permissible weights allowed are reduced during certain seasons of the year.

(b) *Spring load limits.* Vehicles traveling or parked on the public streets, roads and other public ways of the city may not exceed five tons gross weight per axle during the spring thaw period. The spring thaw period for city streets, roads, and other public ways will be as determined by the state department of transportation for state roads in the same area. Weight limit may be further reduced by the city engineer or road commissioner where necessary to protect public safety or the public's investment in roadways by the posting of signs identifying the reduced weight limit on the street or roadway where the reduced weight limit is to apply.

(c) *Exemptions.* The load limits hereby set forth are not applicable to emergency vehicles, or to public school buses operated by or under contract to any of the school districts serving residents of the city.

(d) *Temporary suspension.* The load limits established herein may be temporarily suspended by the city council in specific cases involving the public health, safety and/or welfare. (Ord. No. 1998-82, §§ 80-1--80-4, 3-3-1998)

State Law References: Local weight limits, Minn. Stats. § 169.87.

Sec. 20-7. Snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Recreational vehicle means any self-propelled vehicle which is designed for travel on nonroadway surfaces and includes, but is not limited to, snowmobiles, trail bikes, and all-terrain vehicles.

(b) *Purpose.* It is the purpose of this section to provide for the public safety by regulating the manner in which recreational vehicles are operated.

(c) *Adoption of state regulations.* The regulations regarding snowmobiles provided for by Minn. Stats. §§ 84.81--84.89 are hereby adopted and made a part of this section by reference as if fully set forth herein.

(d) *Unlawful operation.* It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a snowmobile or other recreational vehicle on private property of another without permission of the owner or person in control of said property.

(e) *Traffic ordinances.* Traffic ordinances shall apply to the operation of snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles upon streets and highways, except for those relating to required equipment, and except those which by their nature have no application.

(f) *Prohibited places.* No person shall operate a snowmobile or other recreational vehicle in any of the following places:

- (1) Upon any property owned by the city unless said property has been clearly marked with signs erected by authority of the city council permitting snowmobile operation and such operation shall then be limited to the area so designated.
- (2) Upon any school grounds without express permission of a school administrator.
- (3) Within 100 feet of any fisherman, pedestrian, skating rink, or sliding area where the operation would conflict with the use or endanger other persons or property.

(Ord. No. 34, §§ I--VI, 2-19-1972)

State Law References: Snowmobiles, Minn. Stats. § 84.81 et seq.; recreational motor vehicles, Minn. Stats. § 84.90.

Sec. 20-8. Riding of animals and driving animal-drawn vehicles.

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Animal means horse, pony or any other animal that can be ridden or used to draw a conveyance.

Minor child means a child of less than 13 years of age.

(b) *Purpose.* It is the purpose of this section to provide for the public safety by regulating the manner in which animals are ridden or driven on public thoroughfares.

(c) *Rules and regulations.*

- (1) No minor child shall ride an animal upon a public thoroughfare unless such animal is equipped with a saddle or bareback pad and also bridle and/or hackamore. No person shall ride an animal on any public thoroughfare unless such animal is under proper control. No person shall drive an animal drawn conveyance upon a public thoroughfare unless such animal is equipped with a bridle and a harness suitable to ensure proper control of such animal.
- (2) Animals may not be ridden or driven more than two abreast on any public thoroughfare; provided, however, that on a paved road in the city, animals must be ridden or driven single file.
- (3) Animals must be ridden or driven on the right-hand shoulders of public thoroughfares whenever possible.
- (4) Animals must not be ridden or driven on private lawns, crop lands or other private property without the owner's permission.

- (5) When approaching a blind intersection obscured by a high hedge, embankments or snow, the rider of an animal or driver of an animal-drawn vehicle shall come to a complete stop and proceed through said intersection at a pace no faster than a walk.
- (6) When crossing a road, animals must be lead or walked and under no circumstances ridden at a pace faster than a walk.
- (7) Any person riding an animal or driving an animal-drawn vehicle on a public thoroughfare shall comply with the traffic laws of the state, and violation thereof shall be deemed to be a violation of this chapter.

(d) *Display of regulations.* All persons who board animals shall post a copy of these regulations in a conspicuous place on the premises.
(Ord. No. 45, §§ 1--4, 1-2-1979)