

Legislation Text

File #: 18-694, Version: 1

Presenter/Contact
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SUBJECT:

Approval of the first reading of an ordinance amending Article V of Chapter 126 of the Code of Ordinances regarding bicycles.

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE:

City staff is proposing amendments to Article V of Chapter 126 of the Code of Ordinances regarding bicycles to clean up this ordinance and address the operation of bicycles on sidewalks. In addition, the definition of a “vulnerable road user” is proposed to be moved into the definitions section of Chapter 126. Changes to specific sections are detailed below:

Sec. 126-1. Definitions.

- Revising the diameter of a bicycle wheel from 14 to 10 inches in the definition of bicycle.
- Moving the definition of “vulnerable road user” from Sec. 126-103.

Sec. 126-103. Vulnerable road users.

- Moving the definition of “vulnerable road user” to Sec. 126-1.

Ch. 126, Art. V, Div. 2. Licenses, Tags, Registration and Fees.

- Removing this division for bicycle registration, issuance of bicycle licenses and metal tags, and bicycle inspections. The Police Department does not have a formal process for these procedures, and they are not commonly requested.

Sec. 126-251. Lamps and reflectors.

- Clean up of this section to make it more enforceable.

Sec. 126-266. Traffic regulations apply to persons riding bicycles; competitive racing.

- Removed definition of bicycle as it is already listed in Sec. 126-1.

Sec. 126-267. Obedience to traffic devices.

- Specifying that bicycles in the bike lanes must travel in the direction of adjacent motor vehicles unless the bike lane is designated otherwise.

Sec. 126-271. Manner of riding on roadways; use of bicycle paths.

- Clean up of the text to make more enforceable.

Sec. 126-272. Prohibited on sidewalks; posted areas.

- Renaming section to “Riding on sidewalks”.

- Allowing for operation of bicycles on sidewalks with the exception of specified areas, including where the sidewalk abuts a building, when it would endanger pedestrians, or where operation of a bicycle on the sidewalk is prohibited by an official traffic control device.
- Requiring cyclists on the sidewalk to yield right-of-way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.
- Requiring cyclists to dismount and walk their bicycle across in pedestrian crosswalks when pedestrians are present.
- Created exceptions for the riding on sidewalk prohibitions for people 12 years of age or under, an adult accompanying a person 12 years of age or under, and where there is an obstruction in the bike lane adjacent to the sidewalk.

Sec. 126-276. Bicycle turn signals.

- Created this section to require cyclists to give hand and arm signals.

All proposed amendments have been reviewed by the Police Department and City Attorney's Office.

ADDRESSES A NEED/ISSUE IN A CITY PLAN OR COUNCIL PRIORITY:

2006 Comprehensive Plan: Transportation Goal 21: Provide a system of convenient and safe transportation facilities through comprehensive, cooperative and continuing transportation system planning and development.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board unanimously voted to recommend the proposed amendments to Article V of Chapter 126 of the City of New Braunfels Code of Ordinances regarding bicycles at their meeting on October 18, 2018.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the amendments to Article V of Chapter 126 of the Code of Ordinances regarding bicycles.