

## Legislation Text

---

File #: 19-038, Version: 1

---

Presenter/Contact  
Garry Ford, City Engineer  
(830) 221-4020 - [gford@nbtexas.org](mailto:gford@nbtexas.org)

**SUBJECT:**

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

**BACKGROUND / RATIONALE:**

City Council unanimously approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Article V of Chapter 126 of the Code of Ordinances regarding bicycles on November 26, 2018.

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.