



**Proposal to Amend Chapter 45 of  
the City of Houston Code of Ordinances for the  
Regulation of Micromobility Devices  
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions  
as of November 10, 2025**

**1. What is a micromobility device?**

**Answer:** For the purposes of these regulations, a micromobility device is a self-propelled transportation device with:

- (1) a deck designed to allow a person to stand or sit while operating the device;
- (2) a braking system capable of stopping the device under typical operating conditions; and
- (3) the ability to be propelled by human motor, or electric power only.

The term includes e-scooters. Other examples of micromobility devices include hoverboards, electric skateboards, and electric roller skates. The term does not include all-terrain vehicles (although ATVs are subject to the regulations in this ordinance), mopeds, motorcycles, electric bicycles, motorized mobility devices, electronic personal assistive mobility devices, or a neighborhood electric vehicle all of which are defined and subject to regulations pursuant to the Texas Transportation Code.

**2. What amendments to Chapter 45 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances is the City of Houston proposing related to micromobility devices and off-highway vehicles?**

**Answer:** The proposed ordinance prohibits

- The rental of micromobility devices and off-highway vehicles between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. within the Houston city limits
- The operation of micromobility devices and off-highway vehicles on public roadways, streets, alleys, sidewalks, trails, and city parks within the Houston city limits between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m.
- The use of temporary structures for the purpose of renting or facilitating the rental of a micromobility device within the city limits at all times.

**3. What is an “off-highway vehicle”? Are off-highway vehicles also subject to the curfew?**

**Answer:** Off-highway vehicles are commonly known as ATVs and are regulated under the Texas Transportation Code Sections 551A.053 and 551A.054, which authorize the City of Houston to

restrict the use of these vehicles on public streets and highways. The proposed micromobility device curfew will also apply to off-highway vehicles.

**4. Why is the City of Houston imposing a curfew on scooter operations?**

**Answer:** The curfew is a necessary public safety measure, based on e-scooter accident statistics. For example, a review of 508 Houston Fire Department e-scooter emergency calls from January 2021 – July 2025 reveals that 78% of all e-scooter incidents requiring EMS assistance occurred between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. In addition, most nuisance complaints that the City of Houston receives about scooters from residents, business owners and patrons of businesses are about incidents that occurred during these hours.

**5. Where and when are micromobility devices allowed to operate currently?**

**Answer:** Currently, micromobility devices may be operated at all hours on any road for which the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. However, use of e-scooters is currently prohibited on sidewalks in a business district and some public trails.

**6. Will micromobility devices be completely banned from operating *everywhere* within the City of Houston during the curfew hours?**

**Answer:** No. Micromobility devices may be operated during curfew hours under the following scenarios:

- (1) as a direct means of transportation to or from the individual's school or place of employment;
- (2) when reasonably necessary to respond to a personal or family emergency, or to obtain emergency medical care or other urgent assistance;
- (3) by law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical personnel; or
- (4) by City of Houston employees in the performance of official duties; or during special events or activities expressly permitted or authorized by the City of Houston.

**7. Why is the City proposing this amendment?**

**Answer:** The City is proposing this amendment in the interest of public health and safety – to reduce safety hazards for both pedestrians and scooter operators (riders); to mitigate public nuisances such as noise; and to align with the City’s long-term vision for a safer and more pedestrian-friendly community.

**8. I rent scooters to the public from my store. Do I have to close operations at 8 p.m.?**

**Answer:** The ordinance prohibits the rental of micromobility devices and off-highway vehicles from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Stores may stay open to accept returns, but renting any of these devices during these hours is a violation of the ordinance.

**9. I am a disabled person with a mobility scooter. Is my scooter banned during curfew hours under this ordinance?**

**Answer:** No, the use of motor-assisted mobility scooters designed for transportation of persons with physical disabilities is not impacted by this ordinance and these devices are exempt pursuant to the proposed ordinance. Section 552A.0101 of the Texas Transportation Code defines motor-assisted or “motorized mobility device” as follows:

*(a) In this section, "motorized mobility device" means a device designed for transportation of persons with physical disabilities that:*

- (1) has three or more wheels;*
- (2) is propelled by a battery-powered motor;*
- (3) has not more than one forward gear; and*
- (4) is not capable of speeds exceeding eight miles per hour.*

**10. Are Segways considered “micromobility devices” under the proposed ordinance?**

**Answer:** No. Segways are classified as an electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD), which is distinct from a micromobility device according to Sec. 551.201 of the Texas Transportation Code.

*In this subchapter, "electric personal assistive mobility device" means a two non-tandem wheeled device designed for transporting one person that is:*

- (1) self-balancing; and*
- (2) propelled by an electric propulsion system with an average power of 750 watts or one horsepower.*

**11. I own my e-scooter. Are personal e-scooters exempt from this curfew?**

**Answer:** No. Personal e-scooters are not exempt from this ordinance except for purposes described in question 6.

**12. What other local laws or requirements apply to operating e-scooters?**

**Answer:** Chapter 551 of the Texas Transportation Code authorizes the governing body of a municipality to prohibit the operation of a motor assisted scooter on a street, highway, or sidewalk if the governing body finds it is necessary in the interest of public safety.

Section 26-155 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances states no person shall park a vehicle or motor-assisted scooter upon any public property in the city, including any public roadway, sidewalk, park, street, parking space, right-of-way or other public property, for the purpose of exhibiting, placing, displaying or offering to rent any goods or services.

**13. What are the penalties for violating the proposed ordinance if it is approved by City Council and the Mayor?**

**Answer:**

- a. Violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00; provided, however, that no penalty shall be greater or less than the penalty provided for the same or a similar offense under the laws of the state.
- b. Each violation of this article shall constitute and be punishable as a separate offense.
- c. Scooters being rented or operated during curfew hours or in violation of this ordinance may be seized and impounded.

**14. My scooter was seized and impounded. How do I get it back?**

**Answer:** Impounded scooters are inventoried and stored at the City of Houston's ParkHouston office, located at 2500 Fannin, Houston, Texas 77002. Retrieval must be in person and a per scooter fee of \$100 must be remitted to obtain release. Contact ParkHouston at [parking@houstontx.gov](mailto:parking@houstontx.gov) or 832-393-8690.

**15. Can I appeal the impoundment of the micromobility device?**

**Answer:** Yes, the ordinance prescribes a process for an administrative appeal and hearing (Sec. 45-343(e)). To request a hearing, a written request must be filed with ParkHouston no later than the 14 days after the micromobility device was impounded.

**16. How will e-scooter operators and owners, and the general public, find out about any changes to the proposed draft regulations and approval of the final regulations?**

**Answer:** The City of Houston has created a webpage dedicated to all information regarding the proposed micromobility device regulations. All updates and information will be posted to that website when it goes live immediately upon ordinance approval by City Council.

**17. Did the City solicit stakeholder engagement? What was the feedback provided?**

**Answer:** Yes. On July 18, 2025, the City posted proposed regulations to the City’s website to solicit feedback from stakeholders. To date, more than 300 responses have been posted to the website. The proposed changes were emailed to anyone who had provided email contact information to receive information about this proposal. The Administration & Regulatory Affairs Department also provided a presentation about these proposed regulations to City Council’s Quality of Life Committee on July 24, 2025, where comments were received from 40 public speakers. A resident survey was also conducted by the City of Houston and was responded to by close to 1200 participants.

The City’s original proposal was a total ban on e-scooter use in a designated scooter-free zone. In response to this substantial public engagement, however, the City changed its proposal to the curfew described in this final ordinance.

**18. If approved, when will the proposed micromobility device regulations be effective?**

**Answer:** The ordinance will be effective immediately after passage by City Council and the Mayor.