Micro-mobility Vehicle Guidelines (E-scooters and bikes)

Purpose

These guidelines establish responsibilities and procedures to ensure safety, proper operation and storage of electric bikes, scooters, skates and other micro-mobility vehicles, as each are defined below (collectively referred to in this policy as “”).

Affected Entities

All employees, students, visitors, and any individual who wishes to operate a micro-mobility vehicle on **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** owned or controlled property. These guidelines do not apply to electric wheelchairs, mobility scooters, or other electric mobility devices specifically designed for and used by an individual with a mobility-related disability.

Policy

Arkansas State University - Jonesboro promotes the use of micro-mobility vehicles as a mode of transportation to enhance the goals for a more sustainable campus. These guidelines do not cover the transit-related operation of a university-owned MMV during the performance of work duties.

1. **Definitions:**
    - Operator: One who uses a machine or device.
    - Micro-mobility Vehicle (MMV): The Federal Highway Administration broadly defines micro-mobility as any small, low-speed, human- or electric-powered transportation device, including bicycles, scooters, electric-assist bicycles, electric scooters, and other small, lightweight, wheeled conveyances; powered devices that are:
        1. Partially or fully motorized

    2. Low-speed – up to 30 miles (48 kilometers) per hour
    3. Less than 500 pounds (230 kilograms)
    4. Less than 3 feet (1 meter) wide
- Electric bicycle (e-Bike): a motorized bicycle equipped with an integrated electric motor to assist propulsion and a rechargeable battery pack to ride at speeds up to 28 mph. Battery packs may be removed for charging.
    1. Pedelec: a bike with an electric motor to assist the rider's pedal power
    2. Moped: a bike with a throttle to propel the bike with or without the rider's pedal power
- Electric scooter (e-Scooter): a scooter propelled by an electric motor. Battery packs are generally not removable for charging.
- Electric skateboard (e-Skate): a skateboard propelled by an electric motor. Battery packs are generally not removable for charging.

2. **Responsibility**
    - The operator of an MMV is responsible and liable for all damage or injury caused by said operator or device, whether to the operator, other persons or property.
    - The operator of an MMV assumes the risk of personal injury and death and will be held responsible for any injuries to themselves or others as a result of any violation of this policy or the improper operation of any MMV on Arkansas State University - Jonesboro property.
    - **The Arkansas** Transportation Code governs the operation of vehicles on public roadways as well as paths intended for use by pedestrians, cyclists, and other MMV users.
3. **Procedure**
    - Registration: MMVs should be registered with **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** prior to use on campus. Register HERE
    - Recalls and Safety Notices: The owner should stay informed and remain compliant regarding recalls or safety notices regarding their MMV.
4. **Operation**
    - All persons operating an MMV on **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** owned or controlled property must comply with all applicable State of **Arkansas** statutes, **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** policies and procedures, and posted signs. This includes obeying all stop signs and traffic signals.
    - MMV operators must yield to pedestrians.
    - MMV operation is permitted on:
        1. Shared paths and walkways designated as pedestrian/bicycle routes
    - MMV operators must obey all vehicular traffic laws when on the roadway, including using appropriate hand signals to indicate lane changes, turning, and stopping.
        1. In congested areas, MMV operators must match the speed of prevailing traffic, including that of pedestrians.
        2. In shared-use areas, MMV operators must pass with caution, after giving audible notice of passing to the pedestrian or other MMV they are passing. “On your left” is a common phrase used to notify passing.
        3. MMV operators must dismount to use designated pedestrian crosswalks.
        4. MMV operators must dismount in designated pedestrian-only areas.

- MMV operation is prohibited:
  1. on stairs, ramps, and railings
  2. on vegetation, lawns, benches, tables, planters, and other surfaces not intended for vehicular travel
  3. inside and at the entrance to **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** owned or controlled facilities and parking structures, including but not limited to such facilities' loading docks, driveways, and access ramps
- MMVs are for only, unless intended for multiple riders
- MMV operators shall not operate MMVs while impaired, engage in or maneuvers that may endanger the safety of the operator or others, or damage property.

5. **Parking, Storage, and Impound**
   - MMVs shall be parked only in areas specifically designated for storage of such devices and in accordance with facility-specific policies and procedures.
     1. MMVs should be locked to a bike rack or in a **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** provided MMV storage facility when not in use.
   - MMVs may not be left unattended on or at ramps, entrances, or other facilities designated for persons with physical disabilities or in such a manner as to impede the free and clear use of such facilities.
   - Indoor storage of MMVs is prohibited at **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** owned or controlled property.
   - Charging of MMV batteries is prohibited inside **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** owned or controlled property except at designated charging locations.

MMVs are an important option in campus commutes. Safe operation and parking of all MMVs on campus allows the **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** community to benefit from these vehicles.

The following guidelines were developed in coordination with the Department of Safety and Emergency Management, Parking Services, Arkansas State University Police Department, the Office of Student Affairs, Risk Management, Financial and Administrative Services, and campus governance groups.

Personal Safety

Consider the use of protective gear such as helmets, wrist guards, knee pads, and elbow pads. Safety gear may be ordered from free apps provided by scooter companies for active riders;

customers usually only pay for shipping.

MMVs can move rapidly and unpredictably for those unfamiliar with their operation.

- Read operation and safety information provided by the MMV manufacturer.
- Start slowly to maintain balance and center of gravity.

MMVs must be operated in a safe manner, and reckless operators are subject to citations.

MMV operators are responsible for their own safety.

- Be mindful of your surroundings.
- MMVs are intended for single rider use only.
- Don’t wear earbuds or headphones when operating an MMV.
- Keep both hands on the MMV handlebars at all times.
- Don’t operate an MMV while impaired.
- Don’t operate mobile electronics while the MMV is in motion.

Public Safety

Campus pedestrian traffic is very heavy, requiring low-speed operation of MMVs while near pedestrians. Pedestrians always have the right of way.

MMV operators must follow campus rules and regulations.

MMVs may only be operated in areas where bicycle traffic is allowed.

MMV operators must obey all traffic laws, including but not limited to

- stopping at stop signs and stoplights
- yielding to pedestrians and other vehicles
- adhering to posted speed limits
- exercising caution at intersections of pathways or roadways

Parking

Follow all **Arkansas State University - Jonesboro** parking rules.

MMVs may only be parked at bike racks or in designated MMV parking areas.

Parking Examples

	DON'T park on sidewalks or poles blocking pedestrian and ADA pathways DO park at designated MMV parking areas and racks
	DON'T park on ADA ramps and curb cuts DO park in areas out of the way of pedestrian and ADA access near bike racks
	DON'T park in the middle of a pedestrian plaza or sidewalk DO park out of the way of foot traffic near building walls in designated MMV areas and near bike racks
	DON'T block staircases DO park to the side of stairs in designated MMV areas
	DON'T park on sidewalks blocking access. This narrows a sidewalk too much for a wheelchair to use it DO park near bike racks out of the way
	DON'T park on streets DO park in designated MMV areas near streets
	DON'T park BEHIND bike racks, blocking access DO park in or next to bike racks

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