



Bicycle and Personal Transportation Devices

No. 5005

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Affected Parties:
Undergraduate
Graduate
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Other

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1.0 Purpose

Virginia Tech promotes the safe use of bicycles and personal transportation devices as forms of alternative transportation, which enhances the university's goals for a more sustainable campus. This policy establishes responsibilities and procedures to ensure pedestrian safety, proper vehicular operation, and enforcement of bicycles, unicycles, skateboards, E-scooters, in-line skates, roller skates, mopeds, motor scooters and electronic personal assistance mobility devices (EPAMDs) on campus, as well as parking regulations. This policy applies to Virginia Tech faculty, staff, students, and visitors to the Blacksburg campus.

2.0 Policy

All persons operating a bicycle, unicycle, skateboard, E-scooter, in-line skates, roller skates, moped, motor scooter or EPAMD on university property are to comply with all applicable Virginia state statutes and university policies, and all traffic control devices. On the roadway bicyclists, motor scooter, E-scooter, and moped operators must obey all the laws of vehicular traffic. Pedestrians have the right of way and bicyclists, skateboarders, E-scooters, in-line skaters, roller skaters, and EPAMD users on pathways and sidewalks must be careful of and courteous to pedestrians. Three or four wheel All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited from use on the main campus grounds or roadways. See University Policy 5501 Electric/Gas Utility-type Vehicles (EGUVs) (<http://www.policies.vt.edu/5501.pdf>) for guidelines on use of golf carts and other EGUVs.

2.1 Use on Roadways, Pathways, and Sidewalks

2.1.1 Bicycles, Unicycles, and E-Scooters

Bicycles, unicycles, and E-scooters are permitted on all roadways, as well as concrete and asphalt pathways, grass, and sidewalks, with the exception of times when there is heavy pedestrian traffic on sidewalks and pathways. In times of heavy pedestrian traffic, when sidewalks and pathways are congested (such as class change), cyclists shall dismount completely and walk. Cyclists are encouraged to dismount at crosswalks. Use of devices for tricks, including but not limited to: wheelies; jumps; use on stairs, benches, or handrails; or any use other than utilitarian transportation, is prohibited. Additionally, bicycle, unicycle, or E-scooter use is not permitted in parking garages; bicycles and unicycles may be walked to or from a vehicle parked in a garage, but the rider should dismount before entering the garage.



2.1.2 Skateboards, In-line Skates, Roller Skates, and EPAMDs

Skateboards, in-line skates, roller skates, and EPAMDs are permitted on all concrete and asphalt pathways and sidewalks but not roadways. In times of heavy pedestrian traffic, when sidewalks and pathways are congested (such as class change), skaters and EPAMD users shall dismount completely and walk. Skateboarders will keep all wheels on the ground at all times. Use of skateboards and in-line skates for tricks, including but not limited to: grabs, grinds, manuals, railstands, or any use other than utilitarian transportation, is prohibited. Skateboarders, in-line skate, roller skate, and EPAMD users shall slow to speeds matching pedestrians when using crosswalks. Additionally, skateboard, in-line skate, and roller skate use is not permitted in parking lots or parking garages.

2.1.3 Mopeds and Motor Scooters

Mopeds and motor scooters are permitted only on roadways and drivers must obey all the laws of vehicular traffic. On sidewalks and pathways, mopeds and motor scooters must be walked at all times.

2.2 Prohibition of EPAMDs and E-Scooters in Buildings

E-Scooters and EPAMDs, including hover boards, are not permitted, either for use or for storage/charging, in university owned or leased buildings anywhere in the world, except with written approval from the Vice President for Operations. These devices are also not permitted for charging at any exterior outlets on university owned or leased facilities, except with written approval from the Vice President for Operations.

2.3 Use of Lights on Bicycles, Mopeds, E-Scooters and Motor Scooters

In accordance with the Code of Virginia ([§ 46.2-1015](#)) lights are required on bicycles, EPAMDs, mopeds, E-scooters, and motor scooters: “Every bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric personal delivery device, electric power-assisted bicycle, and moped, and motorized skateboard or scooter with handlebars when in use between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with a headlight on the front emitting a white light visible in clear weather from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and a red reflector visible from a distance of at least 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlights on a motor vehicle. Such lights and reflector shall be of types approved by the Superintendent [of State Police].”

All bicycles, EPAMDS, mopeds, E-scooters and motor scooters shall use lights and reflectors consistent with the Code of Virginia (§46.2-1015).

2.4 Use of Helmets and Eye Protection

Helmet use and eye protection are strongly encouraged when operating a moped or motor scooter on campus. In accordance Code of Virginia §46.2-915.2, and Town of Blacksburg Ordinance 1497 – Safety Equipment for Moped Operators and Passengers (<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10159&stateId=46&stateName=Virginia>) all operators of mopeds and motor scooters shall wear helmets and eye protection. The university also encourages helmet and other personal protective equipment (such as knee/elbow pad) use for individuals using bicycles, unicycles, skateboards, E-scooters, in-line skates, roller skates, and EPAMDs.



2.5 Use of Earphones

In accordance with the Code of Virginia ([§46.2-1078](#)), “It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped on the highways in the Commonwealth while using earphones on or in both ears.”

2.6 Designated Dismount Zones

A designated dismount zone is an area in which use of bicycles, unicycles, EPAMDs, skateboards, E-scooters, in-line skates, and roller skates are not allowed during certain times and days. In the event dismount zones are deemed necessary signs shall be placed in appropriate areas.

2.7 Registration and Parking Regulations

Bicycles, motor scooters, and mopeds must be registered through Parking Services and adhere to the parking regulations described in section 3.0 Procedures.

3.0 Procedures

3.1 Registration

3.1.1 Bicycles

All bicycles and unicycles on the Blacksburg campus must be registered with Parking Services. Registration is designed to prevent theft and assist with the recovery of stolen bicycles. Registration can be completed [on-line](#). Failure to register a cycle can result in fines or impoundment of the bicycle or unicycle.

3.1.2 Mopeds, Motor Scooters, and Power Assisted Bicycles

All mopeds, motor scooters and power assisted bicycles on the Blacksburg campus must be registered with Parking Services and the appropriate permit must be displayed. Permits are available for purchase at Parking Services. The serial number and a valid Hokie Passport are needed for registration. Failure to register a moped, motor scooter or power assisted bicycle can result in fines or impoundment of the vehicle.

3.2 Parking Regulations

3.2.1 Bicycles

Bicycles and unicycles must be parked only at bicycle parking racks, except when written permission has been granted by the head of the department to keep a device within the area assigned to the owner. Bicycles and unicycles may be kept in a residence hall room with the agreement of the roommate. Bicycles and unicycles may not be kept in any other area of a residence hall or building including, but not limited to: stairwells, hallways, corridors or doorways. No person is permitted to park a bicycle or unicycle in any location other than those specified by this policy.

3.2.2 Mopeds and Motor Scooters

Operators of motor scooters and mopeds must adhere to the following guidelines or be subject to having their vehicle immobilized and receiving a citation from the VT Police Department or Parking Services:



1. A parking permit from Parking Services is required for motor scooters and mopeds to be parked on campus.
2. Vehicles must park in designated motor scooter and moped parking spaces and are not allowed to park in any other location (such as bike racks, stairways, breezeways, or on the sidewalks).
3. If a motor scooter/moped space is not available, the motor scooter or moped can be parked in regular motorcycle or car space. If parked in a motorcycle or car parking space, permit affiliation must match the signed spaces (i.e. F/S, C/G, R).
4. Operators should also use the appropriate security features to ensure the vehicle is not stolen.
5. Maps of authorized parking areas are available at Parking Services and online - www.parking.vt.edu

3.2.3 E-Scooters

E-Scooters must be parked within 5 feet of an approved bicycle rack or at designated zones on campus. E-scooters cannot block ADA pathways, ADA access ramps, or building entrances or exits. E-scooters are not allowed in any university owned or leased building anywhere in the world.

3.2.4 Bicycle, Mopeds or Motor Scooters Parking Violations

Bicycles, unicycles, mopeds, E-scooter, or motor scooters found parked and/or locked in areas other than those expressly stated within this policy may be impounded or immobilized by Parking Services or the VT Police Department. Parking Services and the VT Police Department will not be held responsible for the replacement of locks damaged during this process. The owner of the bicycle, unicycle, moped, or motor scooter that is improperly parked will receive a parking citation.

3.3 Violation of Policy

Violations of any state regulations or university policy may result in a citation being issued by the VT Police Department or Parking Services. Repeated violations may result in suspension or revocation of bicycle, skateboard, E-scooter, in-line skates, roller skates, EPAMDs, moped or motor scooter operation privileges on campus.

3.4 Abandoned Bicycles, Mopeds and Motor Scooters

Bicycles, unicycles, mopeds, and motor scooters that are left on university grounds more than five days following spring graduation will be considered abandoned. These bikes will be impounded and disposed of in accordance with university policy.

3.5 Damage to University Property by Bicycles and Personal Transportation Devices

Students whose use of bicycles or personal transportation devices damage university property may be referred to Student Conduct for possible restitution. See the Student Code of Conduct in the Hokie Handbook (<https://www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu/policies/code-of-conduct.html>) for further information.



4.0 Definitions

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV): A small open motor vehicle with one or two seats and three or more wheels fitted with large tires, designed with a motorcycle style suspension for use on rough ground.

Bicycle: A device with pedals propelled solely by human power, upon which a person may ride either on or astride a regular seat attached thereto, having two or more wheels in tandem, including children's bicycles, except a toy vehicle intended for use by young children.

Electric/Gas Utility-type Vehicles (EGUV): a light weight non-licensed vehicle of recreational or utilitarian design usually possessing 4 wheels and an electric or internal combustion engine. These vehicles are most commonly identified as a golf carts or utility-type vehicles such as a “Gator”.

Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device (EPAMD): An electric personal assistive mobility device is a self-balancing one-wheeled or two-nontandem-wheeled device that is designed to transport only one person and is powered by an electric propulsion system that limits the device's maximum speed to fifteen miles per hour or less. Such devices must be equipped with a system that will enable the user to bring the device to a controlled stop. This category includes devices commonly known as hover boards, self-balancing scooters, or self-balancing wheeled boards.

E-Scooter: Electric skateboard or scooter that is ridden in a standing position generally consisting of two or more wheels, designed to transport only one person, and is powered by an electric propulsion system. Such devices must be equipped with a system that will enable the user to bring the device to a controlled stop.

In-line Skate: A roller skate with a boot that has wheels mounted in a single line.

Moped: A vehicle that travels on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground that has (i) a seat that is no less than 24 inches in height, measured from the middle of the seat perpendicular to the ground, (ii) a gasoline, electric, or hybrid motor that displaces less than 50 cubic centimeters, and (iii) pedals.

Motor Scooter: A type of non-pedaled vehicle that meets the following standards:

1. Has two wheels, of which one is 10 inches or more in diameter
2. Has a seat for the operator
3. Has a step-through chassis
4. Is equipped with an automatic transmission.
5. Has a motor with a rating of 2.7 brake horsepower or less, and if the motor is an internal combustion engine, with a capacity of 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement or less.

Power Assisted Bicycle: A vehicle that travels on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and is equipped with (i) pedals that allow propulsion by human power and (ii) an electric motor with an input of no more than 1,000 watts that reduces the pedal effort required of the rider.

Roller Skate: A set of wheels attached to shoes, usually one pair at the front and another at the back, used for skating.

Skateboard: A board with wheels that is ridden in a standing or crouching position and propelled by foot.

Unicycle: A device that travels on only one wheel and upon which a person may ride (typically using a seat/saddle).



University Property: For the purposes of this policy, university campus and university property pertain to the Blacksburg campus only. The only exception is the prohibition of the operation, storage, or charging of EPAMDs; this prohibition applies to all university-owned or leased facilities anywhere in the world.

5.0 References

Code of Virginia §46.2-1015

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1015/>

Code of Virginia §46.2-1078

<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter10/section46.2-1078.1/>

Code of Virginia §46.2-915.2

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-915.2/>

Hokie Handbook

<https://www.hokiehandbook.vt.edu>

Town of Blacksburg, regulations for using skateboards and bicycles on downtown streets

<http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=10159&sid=46>

Virginia Department of Transportation - laws regulating bicycling on Virginia's public highways

http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/bikeped/laws_and_safety_tips.asp

Virginia Tech Parking & Transportation (bicycle registration, moped/motor scooter parking permits, etc.)

<https://parking.vt.edu/>

6.0 Approval and Revisions

Approved June 10, 2009 by Vice President for Administrative Services, Sherwood G. Wilson.

- Revision 1
Added restriction on use of skateboards, in-line skates, and roller skates in parking lots and parking garages to Section 2.1.2

Approved August 19 2011 by Vice President for Administrative Services, Sherwood G. Wilson.

- Revision 2
 - Added definition for unicycle and added unicycle to sections pertaining to bicycles.
 - Updated definition of EPAMDs and added prohibition of these devices from campus buildings.
 - Added reference to student caused damages and potential restitution (see Hokie Handbook).

Approved January 14, 2016 by Vice President for Administration, Sherwood G. Wilson.

Revision 3



Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- Added definitions and guidance regarding e-scooters.
- Technical updates to hyperlinks.

Approved July 1, 2019 by Vice President for Operations, Sherwood G. Wilson.