

# **Rules Regarding the Use of Bicycles, Skateboards and Similar Conveyances on Campus**

The Department of Public Safety has established rules regarding the use of Bicycles, skateboards, and similar conveyances on campus, as outlined in the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees Regulations Regarding Use of University Property

The University of Rhode Island is committed to supporting sustainable transportation options, recreational outlets, and access for the URI community. In this effort, the University requires the safe, responsible, and legal use of Bicycles and other Personal Transportation Devices (PTDs) on its campus(es) and on all adjacent and connecting roadways and sidewalks. Users of PTDs are expected to operate these vehicles safely, with respect for other community members, and with deference toward all pedestrians on campus. In addition, these users are required to operate PTDs in a way that minimizes the possibility of injury to themselves, other persons, and damage to property and must obey all official traffic signs, control devices, and the lawful instruction of any law enforcement officer or representative from the Department of Public Safety.

All Bicycles and PTDs must be operated according to the provisions of the State of Rhode Island General Laws Title 31 (Motor and Other Vehicles) as well as the rules contained herein.

## **1. Applicability**

All users of University Property.

## **2. Definitions**

**Bicycle:** per Rhode Island statute, “every vehicle having two (2) tandem wheels, except scooters and similar devices, propelled exclusively by human power, and upon which a person may ride” (RIGL § 31-1-3). For the purposes of these rules, e-bikes are considered Bicycles. See RIGL § 31-19 (Operation of Bicycles) and § 31-19.1 (Motorized Bicycles) for further detail.

**Mobility Device:** A device to assist people with disabilities with locomotion. Mobility Devices include wheelchairs (manual and motorized) as well as Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD). An OPDMD is defined as “any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of locomotion, including golf carts, electronic personal assistance mobility devices, such as Segways, or any mobility device designed to operate in areas without defined pedestrian routes, but that it is not a wheelchair.” When an OPDMD is being used by a person with a mobility disability, different rules apply under the Americans with Disabilities Act than when it is being used by a person without a disability

**Personal Transportation Device (PTD):** Any vehicle low speed, human or other powered transportation device. PTDs include, but are not limited to Bicycles, e-bikes, skateboards, roller skates, mopeds, Segways, scooters, e-scooters, Onewheels, Go-peds, hoverboards, and similar human-powered or motor-assisted transportation devices. Mobility Devices are excluded from this definition of PTDs.

**University Property.** Property belonging to the State of Rhode Island and held in trust by the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees; property held by the University of Rhode Island or any of its component units in its own name; and property owned by third parties but assigned to, occupied by, or managed by the University or any of its component units. University Property includes all real property, including without limitation land, buildings and other structures, fences, driveways and walkways, and other permanent improvements and associated infrastructure.

### **3. Personal Transportation Device (including Bicycle) Operation**

Persons operating PTDs:

- Shall practice courteous, defensive riding
- Must have their PTD under control at all times
- Must be aware of the surrounding environment and remain cautious
- Shall travel at safe speeds given the likely presence of pedestrians
- Must yield to pedestrians, vehicles, and other PTDs, as appropriate
- May not operate PTDs inside any building
- Skateboards and other PTDs (excluding Bicycles and –e-bikes) shall not be ridden on any public or URI-controlled roadway RIGL § 31-19-19

Rights and Restrictions regarding PTD (including Bicycle) Operation:

- Bicycle riders are given the same rights and must follow the same laws as drivers of registered motor vehicles in accordance with State and other relevant laws and rules (RIGL 31-19).
- Bicycles may be ridden on pedestrian sidewalks on campus or adjacent roadways if conditions warrant (see RIGL 31-19-12).

### **4. Equipment**

- It is incumbent on the owner of a Bicycle or any other PTD to maintain the safe operational condition of the vehicle.
- When riding any Bicycle at night, lighting must be deployed consistent with RI State law.
- The University encourages the use of helmets and high visibility clothing when riding bicycles or other PTDs on campus.
- The use of headphones, earbuds, or other audio devices while operating PTDs is prohibited.

## **5. Parking and Securing Bicycles and other PTDs**

Bicycles may be secured to all approved structures and systems identified in [Map / Appendix A]. Bicycles must be secured to a bike rack when left unattended on campus for any period of time. Bicycles shall not be left, locked, secured, or otherwise attached to handrails, light posts, emergency stations, fences, trash receptacles, trees, trip rails, benches, signposts, or other similar non-approved structures. Bicycles and other PTDs shall not be parked in any manner that constitutes a safety hazard or in such a manner as to interfere with access to or egress from facilities (such as within lounges, hallways, and building entrances). Parked Bicycles or other PTDs that present safety hazards or interfere with access or egress from facilities may be immediately removed by Public Safety, Transportation and Parking, or, if associated with University housing, Housing and Residential Life and impounded.

Bicycles and other PTDs that are secured to non-approved structures may be removed by the Department of Public Safety.

Long-term storage of Bicycles is available through the Department of Public Safety. Please contact the Department of Public Safety for additional information.

## **6. Abandonment of Bicycles and other PTDs**

A Bicycle or other PTD will be considered abandoned when tagged by University Police or Transportation and Parking and locked or left on University Property for more than thirty (30) days past the issuance of the tag. Abandoned PTDs will be removed by the Department of Public Safety and impounded. In the event of removal, any damage to the PTD, lock, chain, or other device used to secure the Bicycles will not be the responsibility of the University. A removed PTD will be released upon proof of ownership, such as a serial number, receipt, or reasonable descriptions of unique characteristics of the vehicle. The owner may be charged a storage fee of up to \$100 for PTDs held longer than 30 days. To claim a removed Bicycle, contact Transportation & Parking during business hours. Impounded Bicycles may be disposed by the Department of Public Safety after six months in storage.

## **7. Charging Electric PTDs**

PTDs that include a rechargeable battery may be stored indoors. When charging electric PTDs, certain restrictions will apply:

- Original manufacturers equipment or equipment specified by the manufacturer must be used when charging
- All devices and battery packs must be UL listed
- Chargers must be plugged directly into the wall; the use of an extension cord or power strip is prohibited
- Charging may not occur in the vicinity of combustible materials  
Charging cannot occur within any means of egress

## **8. Enforcement**

Public Safety officers and a parking enforcement representative from the Office of Transportation and Parking may issue a citation for violations of this policy. After three violations by the same individual, the PTD being operated in the latest violation may be impounded.

Those persons causing damage to persons or property while engaged in the use of these devices will be held responsible and may be subject to University discipline or other charges depending upon the circumstance of the incident.

The theft of a Bicycle or other PTD should be reported to the University Police Department immediately.

## **9. Exemptions**

Mobility Devices (including wheelchairs and OPDMDs) operated by persons with physical disabilities are permitted in all on sidewalks, pedestrian corridors, bicycle paths, or elsewhere, including within the interior of buildings, as needed to provide accessibility. Mobility Devices may be used in all areas of a facility where members of the public are allowed to go.

Bicycles, motorcycles, utility task vehicles (UTVs), and any other PTD operated by Law Enforcement or Security are exempt from the rules noted herein.

Requests for exemptions to this policy for programmed events must be made in writing to the Director of Transportation & Parking and/or the Director of Public Safety for review. Exemptions will be issued in writing.

Map/Appendix A

