

CHAPTER 14 – TRAFFIC CODE

14.01 THE MINNESOTA HIGHWAY TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT.

1. Adoption. The City hereby adopts the Minnesota Highway Traffic Regulation Act as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169 as hereafter amended as the Traffic Code of the City of Mahtomedi. Every provision contained in Minnesota Statutes Chapter, 169 is hereby adopted and made a part of this Chapter by reference.
2. Definitions. The words and phrases used in this Chapter shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in Minnesota Statutes Section 169.011.

14.02 MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES.

1. Exhibition Driving. No person shall turn, accelerate, start, decelerate, or otherwise operate a motor vehicle in a manner which causes unnecessary engine noise or backfire, squealing of tires, skidding, sliding, swaying, throwing of sand, gravel or dirt, or in a manner simulating a race on any public or private street, highway, roadway, road, driveway or other public land within the City. It shall be prima facie evidence of such unnecessary exhibition of speed and/or unreasonable acceleration if a motor vehicle is observed starting or accelerating in such a manner as to cause squealing or screeching sounds emitted by the motor vehicle's tires, fishtailing of the motor vehicle, or the throwing of sand or gravel by the tires of the motor vehicle, or any combination of these actions.
2. Riding Outside of Vehicle. No person shall, when riding in a motor vehicle, allow any part of their body to project beyond the limits of the vehicle, except when signaling with the arm, nor shall any person hang onto any moving vehicle.

14.03 SPEED RESTRICTIONS.

1. Speed Limit Zones Established. The City Council may establish and modify speed limit zones within the City pursuant to its authority under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169. The office of the City Administrator shall maintain a complete listing of all speed limit zones within the City.
2. Signs. The Public Works Director shall erect or remove appropriate signs to clearly designate the following: speed limits; special hazards by reason of pedestrians, traffic weather or highway conditions; intersections; railroad grade crossings; curves; hills; narrow winding roadways; or such other traffic-related signs.

14.04 PASSING RESTRICTIONS.

1. No Passing Zones Established. The City Council may establish or modify no passing zones within the City. The City Administrator shall maintain a complete listing of all no passing zones within the City.

14.05 SEASONAL ROAD RESTRICTIONS.

1. Seasonal Load Restriction Zones Established. The City Council may establish seasonal load restriction zones within the City whenever any highway under the City's jurisdiction by reason of deterioration, rain, snow or other climatic conditions, may be seriously damaged or destroyed if such load restrictions are not imposed. The City Administrator shall maintain a complete listing of all seasonal load restriction zones.
2. Load Restrictions. No person shall operate any vehicle or combination of vehicles upon any County or City road or upon any highway within the City without proper authorization from the City for the time period that coincides with the dates established for that year by the Washington County Highway Department and the State Highway Department where the gross weight on any single axle, as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 169.87, subd. 2, exceeds 10,000 pounds. Emergency vehicles, public utilities vehicles and school buses are excepted and exempted from the provisions of this statute.
3. Permits.
 - A. Application. Haulers may file a written application with the Public Works Director requesting authorization to move vehicles or a combination of loads with weights exceeding the seasonal load restrictions. The application for a permit shall specifically describe in writing the vehicle(s) or load(s) to be moved and the particular highways and period of time for which a permit is requested.
 - B. The Public Works Director may grant a temporary hauling permit which shall contain restrictions regarding the duration of the permit, vehicle routing, and any other necessary restrictions related to the temporary hauling permit.
4. Signs. The Public Works Director shall erect or remove appropriate seasonal load restriction signs.

14.06 SNOWMOBILES, OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLES, OFF-ROAD VEHICLES AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES.

1. Adoption. Any person operating a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, off-road vehicle or other recreational motor vehicle in the City of

Mahtomedi shall be subject to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Sections 84.771 to 84.929, inclusive, and to Minnesota Rules 6100 and 6102, inclusive, and any other applicable Statutes and Rules, which are incorporated herein and made a part of this Section as completely as if set out in full.

2. Definitions. The terms snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, and off-road vehicle shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 84. The term recreational vehicle means any all-terrain vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, or other off-road vehicle.
3. Operation Generally.
 - A. The provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 169 apply to the operation of snowmobiles upon streets and highways in the City, except for those provisions which by their nature are not applicable to such operation.
 - B. A person may not drive or operate a snowmobile or other recreational vehicle:
 - i. At a rate of speed greater than reasonable and proper under the surrounding circumstances;
 - ii. With more persons on the vehicle than it was designed to carry;
 - iii. On a public sidewalk or walkway;
 - iv. On the private property of another without lawful written authority or consent of the owner or occupant in possession of the property;
 - v. At any place in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner so as to endanger the person or property of another or to cause injury or damage to another person or property;
 - vi. With any person or thing in tow except by use of a rigid towbar attached to the rear of a snowmobile;
 - vii. At a speed greater than ten (10) miles per hour when within one hundred (100) feet of any person not on a recreational vehicle, or an icehouse, skating rink, or sledding or sliding area;
 - viii. Between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., except for emergency purposes;
 - ix. On the roadway, shoulder, or inside bank or slope of any street or highway within the city, except when crossing the same to access a marked trail. Operation in the ditch or on the outside bank within

the right-of-way of any street or highway except interstate highways or freeways is permitted in conformance with state law; or

- x. Upon any property owned by the City of Mahtomedi, including parks and trails, unless the property has been clearly marked with signs permitting snowmobile or other recreational vehicle operation, and then such operation shall be limited to the area so designated.

C. Unattended Vehicles on Public Property Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of a snowmobile or recreational vehicle to leave or allow it to remain unattended on public property, streets, or highways while the motor is running or with the keys to start the same in the ignition.

D. Impounding of Snowmobile or Other Recreational Motor Vehicle. Authorized law enforcement agents may remove or impound a parked snowmobile or recreational vehicle from a street to a garage or other place of safety when the vehicle:

- i. Constitutes an obstruction to traffic;
- ii. Hinders snow removal or street maintenance;
- iii. Hinders public safety personnel at the scene of an emergency;
- iv. Constitutes evidence of a crime; or
- v. Is parked in violation of the law.

A snowmobile or recreational vehicle may also be impounded when necessary for its own safekeeping or when the driver has been arrested and no other driver is available to promptly remove the vehicle. An impounded vehicle may not be released until the fees for towing and storage are paid.

E. Exemption. This Section shall not prohibit or restrict the operation of vehicles, including snowmobiles or other recreational motor vehicles, by agents or employees of the City, County, law enforcement agencies, State Department of Natural Resources, or other governmental agencies when performing or exercising their official duties or powers.

14.07 STOP SIGNS AND OTHER TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

- 1. Process Initiation. The process for evaluating the installation, removal, or change of stop signs or other traffic-control devices regulating a City street may be initiated by a request of a City resident, the Director of Public Works, the City

Engineer, or any City Council member. Thereafter, City staff shall add the matter to a City Council agenda as soon as reasonably convenient allowing a reasonable period of time for the Director of Public Works and/or for the City Engineer to prepare an evaluation of the proposed request.

2. City Council Meeting. The City Council shall review the evaluation of the requested installation, removal, or change of stop signs or other traffic-control devices regulating a City street as prepared by the Director of Public Works and/or by the City Engineer.
3. Resolution Documenting Request Denial or Documenting the Approved Installation, Removal, or Change of Stop Signs or Other Traffic-Control Devices Regulating a City Street. The City Council may deny any such request or the City Council may approve any installation, removal, or change of stop signs or other traffic-control devices regulating a City street at or after the original City Council meeting. The City staff shall prepare a draft resolution documenting the denial of a request or the City staff shall prepare draft resolution documenting the approval of the installation, removal, or change of stop signs or other traffic-control devices regulating a City street. The City Council should pass a resolution documenting its denial of the request or documenting any approval of the installation, removal, or change of stop signs or other traffic-control devices regulating a City street. The resolution documenting the action of the Council can be adopted at the original City Council meeting or at a subsequent City Council meeting allowing a reasonable time for City staff to prepare a draft resolution.
4. Authorization to Install, Remove, or Change Appropriate Signs. The Director of Public Works is authorized to install, remove or change the appropriate signs or other traffic control devices as soon as reasonably convenient to effectuate the installation, removal, or change of stop signs or other traffic-control devices regulating a City street as approved by the City Council.