



Vestavia Hills Police Department Micromobility Reference Guide Definitions

Roadway

Motor vehicle means any vehicle which is propelled or drawn on land by a motor, such as, but not limited to, passenger cars, trucks, truck-trailers, semi-trailers, campers, go-carts, snowmobiles, amphibious craft on land, dune buggies or racing vehicles, but not including motorcycles.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: VH Ordinance 11-64 / AL State Code Section 32-1-1.1

Class M License

Every person, except those specifically exempted by statutory enactment, shall procure a driver's license before driving a motor vehicle upon the highways of this state. Every new resident of the State of Alabama shall procure an Alabama driver's license within 30 days after establishing residence in this state.

- A. Rights and Duties: A person operating a motor-driven cycle with a Class M motorcycle license with a motor-driven cycle restriction, a motorcycle Class M displayed on the person's regular license, or a Class M motorcycle license shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under Chapter 6 of this title, except as to special regulations in this article and those provisions of this chapter which by their nature can have no application.
- B. Issuance:
 - 1) A Class M motorcycle license with a motor-driven cycle restriction shall be issued to any person 14 years and older if the person has passed a motorcycle knowledge test designated by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency or if the individual has successfully completed an Alabama Traffic Safety Center/Alabama Motorcycle Safety Program, Motorcycle Safety Foundation, Basic Riders Course.
 - 2) A person 17 years of age or younger operating a motor-driven cycle shall be subject to the operating hours, exceptions and suspensions provided in Section 32-6-7.2.
- C. This section and the portion of Section 32-5A-240 amended by Act 2015-223 do not apply to a person who has obtained a license to operate a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle prior to January 1, 2016.
- D. **Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code:** VH Ordinance 9-13 / AL State Code 32-6-1 & 32-12-22

Golf Cart

- **Purpose:** Designed for use on golf courses to carry golf equipment and a few passengers.
- **Speed:** Typically operate at speeds under 20 mph.
- **Safety Features:** Usually lack the comprehensive safety equipment required for street use.
- **Legal Status:** Generally not street-legal and restricted to private properties or designated roads



Low-Speed Electric Vehicle (LSEV)

A low-speed vehicle (LSV) is a street-legal, four-wheeled vehicle with a top speed of 25 mph and a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 3,000 lbs. Most U.S. states allow LSVs to drive on roads marked 35 mph or less. Low-speed vehicles are typically electric and must adhere to federal performance and safety standards.

Low-speed vehicles must adhere to the performance and safety standards set by the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic and Safety Association) which states that LSVs must not exceed 25 mph (40 km/h) and must be equipped with:

- Headlamps (headlights)
- Front and rear turn signal lights
- Taillights
- Brake lights (stop lamps)
- Red reflex reflectors
- Appropriate mirrors: an exterior mirror on the driver’s side and an exterior mirror on the passenger’s side or an interior mirror
- Parking brake
- Conforming windshield
- Type 1 or 2 seat belt assembly
- Alert sound (horn)
- VIN (vehicle identification number)



Differences Between Low-Speed Vehicles and Golf Carts

	LSV	Golf Cart
Number of Forward-Facing Passengers	2-6 (depending on model)	2-4
Comfort Features	Smooth ride, spacious interior, customization options available to add doors, etc.	Smooth ride, spacious interior, customization options available to add doors, etc.
Driver Requirements	Must be operated by a licensed driver	No license required
Rules and Regulations	Street-legal; varies by state/province	Not street-legal
Safety Features	Mandatory 3-point safety belts, headlights, turn signals	Optional safety belts, headlights, turn signals
Vehicle Speed	25 mph (40 km/h)	Not to exceed 15 mph (24 km/h)

Scooter

A device weighing less than 100 pounds that satisfies all of the following:

- Has handlebars and an electric motor
- Is solely powered by the electric motor or human power
- Has a maximum speed of no more than 20 m.p.h. on a paved level surface when powered solely by the electric motor
- Term does not include an e-bike, EPAMD, Segway, motorcycle, or moped.

“Scooters” are considered “motor vehicles” and “motor driven cycles”. This is important because the rules that apply to both motor vehicles and motor driven cycles also apply to scooters.



Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: VH Ordinance 11-64 / AL State Code 32-1-1.1(62)

Bicycle

Every device propelled by human power upon which any individual may ride, having two tandem wheels either of which is more than 14 inches in diameter.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: AL State Code 32-1-1.1



Registration

The registration certificates and registration plates issued under the laws of this state pertaining to the registration of vehicles.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: AL State Code 32-1-1.1

Shared Micromobility Device System

A system that provides shared micromobility devices to users for short-term rentals, whether or not the system requires docking stations or other similar fixed infrastructure to receive or return the shared micromobility device.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: AL State Code 32-1-1.1



Shared Micromobility Device

A type of transportation device that includes a bicycle, electric bicycle, tricycle, scooter, hoverboard, skateboard, pedal car, or similar device, except a device used as an electrical personal assistive mobility device by an individual with disabilities, used in a shared micromobility device system.



Municipal or City Park

The City Council or other governing body of any town or city may establish, lay out and improve public grounds, parks, and boulevards and regulate the same and may provide music and other exhibitions for the amusement of the inhabitants.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: AL State Code 11-47-19

Vestavia Hills Municipal Parks

Wald Park – VH Ordinance 12-1

Liberty Park Sports Complex – VH Ordinance 12-2

Little Shades Creek Park “McCallum Park” – VH Ordinance 12-3

Cahaba Heights Park – VH Ordinance 12-4

Byrd Park – VH Ordinance 12-5

Shallowford Park – VH Ordinance 12-6

Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex – VH Ordinance 12-7

Meadowlawn Park – VH Ordinance 12-8

Drive a Scooter on the Sidewalk

No person shall drive any vehicle upon a sidewalk or sidewalk area except upon a permanent or duly authorized temporary driveway.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: VH Ordinance 9-16 / AL State Code 32-5A-52

Drive a Scooter Without a License

A driver's license shall not be issued to the following persons:

1. Any person less than 16 years of age;
2. Any person who's driving right or privilege is suspended;
3. Any person who's driving right or privilege is revoked;
4. Any person who is a habitual abuser of alcohol or drugs;
5. Any person afflicted with or suffering from a physical or mental disability which, in the opinion of the Director of Public Safety or examining officer will prevent a person from exercising reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: VH Ordinance 9-13 / AL State Code 32-6-7

Driving a Scooter on Public Streets Without a License

Every person, except those specifically exempted by statutory enactment, shall procure a driver's license before driving a motor vehicle upon the highways of this state. Every new resident of the State of Alabama shall procure an Alabama driver's license within 30 days after establishing residence in this state.

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Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: VH Ordinance 11-64 / AL State Code 32-6-1 & 32-12-22

Permitting a Child to Ride a Scooter Without a Helmet or Shoes

No person shall knowingly permit or allow any juvenile for whom he or she is a parent or guardian to operate or ride upon a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle while not wearing a protective helmet of the kind (Section 32-12-41).

No person shall knowingly permit or allow any juvenile for whom he or she is a parent or guardian to operate or ride upon a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle while not wearing shoes.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: AL State Code 32-12-41 & 32-5A-245

Permitting a Child to Violate any of the Laws Applicable to Scooters

It is unlawful for any person to do any act forbidden or to fail to perform any act required by this chapter. The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit any such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this chapter. As used herein, the term motor-driven cycle shall include every motorcycle weighing when fully equipped less than 200 pounds and every bicycle with motor attached, excluding an electric bicycle, and every motor scooter.

Applicable City Ordinance and/or State Code: AL State Code 32-12-20



Vestavia Hills Police Department Enforcement and Sidewalk Usage: Liberty Park vs. Traditional Vestavia Hills

Liberty Park

- The City maintains control of public roads **from curb to curb**, but sidewalks within the community are privately governed by HOA rules and covenants.
- Because sidewalks are privately regulated, **Police enforcement does not apply to bicycles, scooters or golf carts** unless a safety or criminal issue arises (such as reckless endangerment).
- This arrangement provides residents with more flexibility for recreational use, while still ensuring safety through HOA guidelines.

Traditional Vestavia Hills

- In other parts of Vestavia Hills, the City regulates **rights-of-way, roads and sidewalks** under municipal ordinances.
- These ordinances clearly define sidewalk use:
 - **Motorized vehicles** (golf carts, e-scooters) are prohibited.
 - **Bicycles** may be permitted unless restricted by signage, but riders must yield to pedestrians.
- Enforcement is handled by the Police department under City code.

Key Differences

Liberty Park sidewalks fall under private governance, with City enforcement limited to safety incidents. In contrast, sidewalks in traditional Vestavia Hills are fully regulated by municipal ordinances, with strict rules on motorized devices.