DRAFT ORDINANCE
CITY OF TANEYTOWN, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 08-2026

AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 193-5, "Bicycles," of the Code of the City of Taneytown to incorporate electric bicycles, align local definitions with Maryland law, establish clear safety rules for bicycle and electric bicycle operation, and provide reasonable enforcement standards.

WHEREAS

A. the Mayor and City Council has become aware of the increasing use and presence of bicycles and electric bicycles within City limits, including on public streets, sidewalks, trails, parks, and other public property; and

B. the Mayor and City Council recognize the need to promote public safety and ensure the responsible operation of bicycles and electric bicycles, particularly in areas frequented by pedestrians and among younger riders; and

C. the State of Maryland has established definitions and classifications for electric bicycles under Transportation Article § 11-117.1, including Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 electric bicycles; and

D. the Mayor and City Council desire to incorporate electric bicycles into Chapter 193-5 of the City Code in a manner generally consistent with Maryland law while adopting reasonable local safety rules tailored to local conditions; and

E. the Mayor and City Council further find that clarifying regulations related to helmet requirements, safe operation, shared-use areas, and enforcement procedures will enhance public safety and provide clear guidance to residents and visitors regarding the lawful use of bicycles and electric bicycles within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Taneytown, Maryland, as follows:

SECTION 1.

That Section § 193-5 (Bicycles) shall be amended as follows:

A. Helmet requirement; helmet enforcement.

1. **Helmet requirement.**
   No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall operate, or be carried as a passenger on, a bicycle or electric bicycle on any public street, public right-of-way, sidewalk, trail, park facility, or other public property within the City unless wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet meeting applicable safety standards.

2. **Enforcement of helmet requirement.**
   A violation of section A shall not result in a civil fine, monetary penalty, or impoundment based solely on the helmet violation. Enforcement of section A shall be limited to a written warning and the provision of educational materials or information regarding bicycle helmet use and safety.

B. Dangerous operation prohibited.

No person shall operate a bicycle or electric bicycle in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger any person or property. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. operating at a speed unreasonable for existing pedestrian or traffic conditions;
2. weaving through pedestrians without due care;
3. failing to yield to pedestrians on a sidewalk, trail, or shared-use path where bicycle riding is permitted;
4. otherwise failing to maintain reasonable control of the bicycle or electric bicycle.

C. Shared-use areas.

Where operation on a trail or sidewalk is permitted, the operator shall yield to pedestrians and exercise due care.

D. Civil penalty.

A violation of this section, other than a violation of subsection A(1) relating to helmet use, shall constitute a civil offense. Any person found in violation may be subject to a civil fine in an amount established by resolution of the Mayor and Council.

E. Impoundment.

A violation of subsection A(1) relating to helmet use shall not serve as the basis for impoundment under this section. Impoundment of a bicycle or electric bicycle may occur only if:

1. the operator has committed repeated violations of this section, other than subsection A(1), after prior warning and citations;
2. the bicycle or electric bicycle was used in conduct creating an immediate danger to others; or
3. the bicycle or electric bicycle is abandoned or otherwise lawfully subject to impoundment under other applicable law.

F. Impoundment procedures.

Any impoundment authorized under this section shall be documented in writing and shall include:

1. the reason for impoundment;
2. the date, time, and location of impoundment;
3. identifying information for the bicycle or electric bicycle where available;
4. notice of how the owner, parent, or guardian may reclaim the property; and
5. notice of any appeal or review process.

The Taneytown Police Department may adopt additional administrative procedures consistent with this section.

G. Release of impounded property.

Any bicycle or electric bicycle impounded under this section shall be released to its owner, or to the parent or legal guardian if the owner is a minor, upon proof of ownership and resolution of the basis for impoundment. As authorized by policy or resolution, the City or the Taneytown Police Department may waive, reduce, or defer any applicable fine or fee, or approve a reasonable payment plan. Such relief may be granted for minors, for violations not involving actual harm or immediate danger to others, or in cases of genuine financial hardship. No bicycle or electric bicycle shall be retained solely because the owner demonstrates genuine financial hardship and is complying with an approved payment plan.

H. Disposal of unclaimed property.

If any bicycle or electric bicycle remains unclaimed for ninety (90) days following written notice to the owner, if known, or to the parent or guardian of a minor owner, the City may dispose of the property in a manner consistent with applicable law.

I. Electric bicycles.

1. **Definition.**
   "Electric bicycle" or "e-bike" shall have the meaning set forth in Transportation Article § 11-117.1 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended from time to time, and shall be classified in accordance with Maryland law as Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 electric bicycles.

2. **Permitted operation.**
   Electric bicycles may be operated where bicycles are allowed to travel, including on streets and bicycle lanes, except where prohibited or restricted by this Code, by posted rule on City facilities, or as otherwise permitted under Maryland law with respect to bicycle paths and trails.

3. **Class 3 age restriction.**
   No person under sixteen (16) years of age shall operate a Class 3 electric bicycle on a public highway within the City.

4. **Class 3 helmet requirement.**
   An operator or passenger on a Class 3 electric bicycle shall wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet meeting applicable safety standards.

5. **Compliance with law.**
   All electric bicycle operators shall comply with applicable Maryland law and with all provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. Codification; Severability; Effective Date

A. Codification.

The Code Editor is authorized to codify, renumber, and make non-substantive formatting changes consistent with this Ordinance.

B. Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

C. Effective date.

This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by the Charter and applicable law.

INTRODUCED THIS 13 **DAY OF** April **, 2026**

Clara Kalman

CLARA KALMAN, CITY CLERK

PASSED THIS 8 **DAY OF** June **, 2026 BY A VOTE OF** 4 **COUNCILMEMBERS IN FAVOR AND** 1 **COUNCILMEMBERS OPPOSED.**

Clara Kalman

CLARA KALMAN, CITY CLERK

APPROVED THIS 8th **DAY OF** June **, 2026.**

CHRISTOPHER G. MILLER, MAYOR