

## **Motorized Transportation Device Policy for Washington University in St. Louis**

All Motorized Transportation Devices on University property must be used in accordance with the University regulations stated in this policy. We encourage all community members to abide by and help enforce this policy.

### **REASON FOR POLICY**

Safety is a priority on Washington University in St. Louis campuses, and one of our goals is to create a safe, enjoyable environment for all. Due to the rapid changes in micro-mobility options, a policy on Motorized Transportation Devices has been created and will be internally reviewed on an annual basis.

### **DEFINITIONS**

- **Motorized Transportation Device:** A wheeled transportation device that has a flat footboard typically designed to be stood upon (some have seats) and can be powered by a motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion. This includes, but is not limited to, electric scooters (e-scooters), hoverboards (self-balancing scooters/skateboards), electric skateboards (e-skateboards), Segways and similar devices. This does NOT include Vespa-like scooters that are sat upon, mopeds and similar devices, all of which are not allowed on the interior campus.
- **Electric Scooter:** A device that typically has one (1) front and one (1) rear wheel with a low footboard between, is steered by a handlebar, and can be propelled by a motor.
- **University:** Washington University in St. Louis
- **Campus:** Danforth Campus, North Campus, West Campus, South Campus, and all satellite locations (e.g., Academy Building, 560 Music Center, etc.)
- **Right-of-way:** The right of one individual to proceed ahead of another individual approaching the same area. Pedestrians have the right-of-way.
- **Impoundment:** The confiscation of a device that was in violation of University policy. Unclaimed impounded devices will be held for 60 days and then disposed of at the University's discretion.
- **Pedestrian:** A person who is walking on foot.

### **LOCAL & STATE LAWS & REGULATIONS**

This policy only applies to the use of these devices on Washington University in St. Louis property. Parts of this policy might conflict with local and state laws that must be followed once you leave University property. Not obeying applicable laws can result in a ticket by local law enforcement.

**Please review all laws and regulations applicable to your device that must be followed when operating the device on public streets, walkways and property** (e.g., Forsyth Blvd, Big Bend Blvd, Skinker Blvd, Forest Park Pkwy, Wydown Blvd, and anywhere else outside of Campus).

For example, the City of St. Louis can give a \$500 fine for not wearing a helmet while operating an electric scooter. An overview can be found on the Parking & Transportation website.

## POLICY

### 1. Use

Motorized Transportation Devices cannot be used for University-related work or academic purposes, and any activity that presents a risk of injury to persons or damage to property is strictly prohibited. This policy does not apply to individuals with a documented disability who are operating an electric assistive mobility device ([MO 307.205](#)).

### 2. Motorized Transportation Devices' Areas of Operation

- **Devices CAN operate on Wallace Drive, Shepley Drive, Snow Way Drive, and Throop Drive.**
- **Devices CANNOT operate on any other University property besides the areas listed above.**
- **However, if a device is able to be used manually as a kick/push scooter (i.e., operated solely by human power without the motor), it can be operated on Campus by pushing one foot against the ground without the motor engaged.**
  - Please check your device's owner's manual to confirm it can be used manually without damaging the motor, which isn't a standard feature.

### 3. When operating a Motorized Transportation Device, you must obey all the following regulations:

- A properly fitted and fastened helmet must be worn.
- Riders must follow all the traffic rules applicable to a driver of a motor vehicle, including traffic lights, signs, and riding with the direction of traffic.
- Individuals must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing a pedestrian or a cyclist.
- Riders cannot use earbuds or headphones on/in both ears.
- You cannot ride at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions.
- A device cannot be operated with more than one person on it.
- When riding on a street in the dark or dusk, an electric scooter must have a visible front-facing white light, rear-facing red reflector or red light, and reflective material and/or lights on each side.

Please be aware of your surroundings; uneven pavement, potholes and unexpected items can cause you to lose control of the device, and it is harder for vehicles to see you.

### 4. Parking a Motorized Transportation Device

An electric scooter must be parked upright at or near a bike rack and may never be left on its side. It is prohibited to park these devices on sidewalks, pathways, ramps, stairs or anywhere that could obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic or access for those with a disability.

All other smaller Motorized Transportation Devices, including hoverboards and electric skateboards, must be parked in a manner that does not pose a tripping hazard, impede pedestrian traffic or block access for those with a disability.

#### Impoundment

Any unattended device that presents a safety hazard or impedes pedestrian traffic will be impounded immediately without notice.

- The University is not responsible for damage to the device that occurs during impoundment and has no responsibility or liability to replace or make compensation for such items.

## **5. Mandatory Electric Scooter Registration**

Registration serves as a theft deterrent as well as allows the University to assist in the recovery of lost or stolen property, contact owners of impounded devices, and better manage our facilities.

- (a) All personally owned electric scooters must be registered with the University by visiting [project529.com/washu](http://project529.com/washu).
- (b) For registration to be valid, you must show proof of registration by permanently attaching the provided registration sticker to the electric scooter in a visible manner according to the registration policy listed online. If the sticker is not properly attached, the electric scooter is not considered officially registered with the University.
- (c) If ownership of a registered electric scooter changes, the information must be updated in the Project 529 registration system to reflect the proper owner.

## **6. Charging a Device**

Due to fire and electrical safety hazards, Motorized Transportation Devices cannot be charged on University property, including academic buildings and residence halls, unless charging areas have been approved in writing by Facilities, Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), and the Insurance Office.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY**

Disciplinary actions for violations will be tailored to each constituency within the University and be based on the severity and frequency of the violation(s). Parking & Transportation will refer non-compliant University-affiliated individuals to the appropriate office for follow-up, which can result in disciplinary action.

- Faculty and staff who refuse to comply with the policy will have their managers notified.
- Students will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Please refer to section III of the [Student Conduct Code](#) for potential offenses and section VI for potential disciplinary actions.
- Contractors, consultants and vendors will be referred to the appropriate contact.
- Visitors who refuse to cooperate will be asked to leave Campus.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For contacts and detailed information, including safety tips and resources, please visit the Parking & Transportation Services website at [parking.wustl.edu/mtd](http://parking.wustl.edu/mtd).