

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

March 7, 2017

City Council

STAFF

Paul Sizemore, FC Moves Program Manager
Joe Olson, City Traffic Engineer
Craig Horton, Police Lieutenant

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 028, 2017, Amending the Fort Collins Traffic Code Restricting Parking in Bicycle Lanes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on February 21, 2017 amends sections of the Fort Collins Traffic Code to clarify regulations relating to bike lanes. The amendment to Section 1013 clarified that bicycle lanes can be identified by signs or pavement markings and that parking in bike lanes is prohibited. The amendment to Section 1204 included bike lanes in the list of locations where parking is prohibited.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

ATTACHMENTS

1. First Reading Agenda Item Summary, February 21, 2017 (w/o attachments) (PDF)
2. Ordinance No. 028, 2017 (PDF)

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February 21, 2017

City Council

STAFF

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SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 028, 2017, Amending the Fort Collins Traffic Code Restricting Parking in Bicycle Lanes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to amend sections of the Fort Collins Traffic Code to clarify regulations relating to bike lanes. The amendment to Section 1013 clarifies that bicycle lanes can be identified by signs or pavement markings and that parking in bike lanes is prohibited. The amendment to Section 1204 includes bike lanes in the list of locations where parking is prohibited.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Fort Collins Traffic Code is largely based upon the Model Traffic Code for the State of Colorado. The Code includes a section that enumerates various places where parking is prohibited without the need for traffic signs or pavement markings. Currently the Code does not specifically identify bike lanes as one of these locations and there are differences of interpretation among City staff whether such a prohibition is implied.

This lack of clarity results in difficulty enforcing the Code and keeping bike lanes clear for cyclists. In order to address this problem, staff from FC Moves, Traffic Operations, Police Services, and the City Attorney's Office worked together to clarify the Code. Other Colorado cities, including Denver, have already adopted amendments to the model code language to specifically include bike lanes as one of those locations where parking is prohibited. The proposed Ordinance follows a similar formula to the one used by these other cities, and will provide clarity allowing more effective enforcement.

The Ordinance includes amendments to two sections of the Traffic Code applicable to this issue. The first amendment is to Section 1013, which establishes regulations for driving on roadways with designated bicycle lanes. The amendment clarifies that bike lanes can be identified by either signage or pavement markings, or that parking in bike lanes is prohibited. For internal consistency, the Ordinance also amends Section 1204 to include bike lanes in a list of locations where parking is prohibited.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The proposed changes to the Traffic Code are not anticipated to have a financial impact on the City.

BOARD / COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Staff presented the concept of the proposed changes to the three City boards and committees with a direct interest in parking and bicycling issues.

On November 28, 2016, staff discussed the changes with the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The Committee was supportive of the proposal, but a formal endorsement was not requested.

On December 21, 2016, the Transportation Board voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

On January 9, 2017, the Parking Advisory Board voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public engagement around this proposal consisted of discussion and input from the three City boards and committees described above. These are citizen boards with an interest in bicycling and parking issues. Any new projects that involve the installation of bike lanes will include public outreach specific to the project type.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Transportation Board Memo, December 21, 2016 (PDF)
2. Parking Advisory Board Memo, February 3, 2017 (PDF)
3. Bicycle Advisory Committee minutes, November 28, 2016 (PDF)

ORDINANCE NO. 028, 2017
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AMENDING THE FORT COLLINS TRAFFIC CODE
RESTRICTING PARKING IN BICYCLE LANES

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2003, by Ordinance No. 016, 2003, the City Council adopted the Fort Collins Traffic Code (the "Traffic Code"); and

WHEREAS, due to an ambiguity in the current Traffic Code, there is often confusion for citizens and City staff whether vehicles may park in bicycle lanes; and

WHEREAS, bicyclists are often placed in difficult and unsafe positions when vehicles park in designated bicycle lanes; and

WHEREAS, after a robust outreach to the citizens of the City, staff recommends the Traffic Code be amended to state without ambiguity that parking in bicycle lanes is not permitted; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it is necessary for the preservation of the health, safety, and welfare of the City's citizens to amend the Traffic Code to reflect that vehicles may not park in bicycle lanes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That Section 1013 of the Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1013. Driving on roadways with designated bicycle lanes.

Whenever a lane has been established on a roadway as a bicycle lane, any person operating a motor vehicle on such roadway shall not park in such bicycle lane and shall not move into or out of such bicycle lane except to enter or leave the highway, enter or leave a parking space, or to prepare for a turn. Any person operating a motor vehicle shall not enter a bicycle lane as provided by this subsection until yielding the right-of-way to all bicycles lawfully within the bicycle lane. For purposes of this subsection and subsection 1204, at least three signs or pavement stencils per mile designating a lane as a bicycle lane, together with a white line parallel to the roadway, shall constitute prima facie evidence that a bicycle lane has been established on such roadway.

Section 3. That Section 1204(3) of the Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1204. Stopping, standing or parking prohibited in specified places.

...

- (3) In addition to the restrictions specified in Subsections (1) and (2) of this Section, no person shall park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, in any of the following places:
- (a) Within fifty (50) feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing.
 - (b) At any other place where official signs prohibit parking.
 - (c) To park any vehicle other than an authorized vehicle in any area designated for such use.
 - (d) Where a lane has been established on a roadway as a bicycle lane pursuant to subsection 1013.

...

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading, and ordered published this 21st day of February, A.D. 2017, and to be presented for final passage on the 7th day of March, A.D. 2017.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Passed and adopted on final reading on the 7th day of March, A.D. 2017.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk