



MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
September 25, 2024
6:00 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Downtown Bike Lane Policies - City Manager
Support of Downtown Bike Lane Policies - Mapping Technician
2. Relating to Winter Maintenance Parking Restrictions
Ordinance O-2024-14

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

1. Councilor Williams - Accessible Curb Ramp at Bus Loading Area - Central Square Terrace on Roxbury Street

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meeting Date: September 25, 2024
To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee
From: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager
Through:
Subject: **Downtown Bike Lane Policies - City Manager**

Recommendation:

Recommend the MSFI committee support the creation of an ordinance to establish bike lane rules for the downtown core as discussed.

Attachments:

None

Background:

To prepare for the upcoming downtown project, which includes the installation of protected bike lanes, the Mayor and City Manager established a bike lane policy committee. This committee was comprised of stakeholders selected by the mayor to ensure a broad representation of community needs.

The Committee's charge:

The Downtown infrastructure project design includes protected bike lanes on Main Street. This committee will be charged with reviewing and recommending policies and communication/education efforts related to protected bike lanes downtown. These recommendations will be provided to the city's downtown infrastructure technical review committee for consideration. The committee's work will be focused on both pedestrian and bike safety.

The following summary is the result of their work.

This memo provides an overview of the general rules, existing regulations, and intended guidelines for the operation of bicycles and personal vehicles. The purpose is to ensure the safety of all road users, promote multi-modal transit, and encourage respectful sharing of public spaces.

Existing rules-

1. General Rules of the Road for Cyclists

Cyclists in Keene must follow all applicable state regulations, primarily outlined in New Hampshire Title XXI Chapter 265. Key guidelines, as supported by the League of American Bicyclists, include: Cyclists are required to follow the same traffic and motor vehicle rules as drivers.

Cyclists must be visible, predictable, and should dismount at intersections to become pedestrians.

Bicycles must be in proper working condition.

2. Regulations for the Downtown Core (DT-C) Area

In the Downtown Core (DT-C) and certain Downtown Growth (DT-G) districts, personal vehicles such as bicycles, skateboards, and scooters are prohibited from being operated on sidewalks. Exceptions exist for areas designated for handicapped use, baby carriages, and authorized construction or delivery vehicles.

Prohibited Areas Include:

Washington Street (Vernon Street to Central Square)

Central Square and portions of Main Street

City Hall and Wells Street parking areas, among others

This regulation is supported by City Code Chapter 94 and ensures pedestrian safety and compliance with state motor vehicle regulations.

Proposed Protected Bike Lanes in the Downtown Core (DT-C)

The newly established protected bike lanes are intended to:

Encourage the use of bicycles for commuting, shopping, and recreation.

Ensure the safety and coexistence of pedestrians and cyclists.

Provide a safe, dedicated space for cyclists, promoting respect for all modes of transport.

Proposed-

1. Key Regulations for Bike Lane Use

Yield to Pedestrians: Cyclists must yield to pedestrians in bike lanes and at crosswalks as per RSA 265:37.

Obey Traffic Controls: Cyclists must follow all traffic signals and stop signs, especially during downtown events.

No Parking and Loading in Bike Lanes: Bicycles and vehicles must not park or obstruct bike lanes to ensure their availability for cyclists.

Safe Speed and Direction: Cyclists should travel at safe speeds and ride in the direction of traffic, per Keene's Code of Ordinances Sec. 94-465.

Lighting Requirements: Bicycles must have front white and rear red lights if operated between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.

Safety Considerations

Class 3 e-bikes and motorized personal vehicles exceeding 750W are prohibited in bike lanes, consistent with state law.

Helmets are required for cyclists under 16 years old and recommended for all users.

Children between 1-4 years, weighing up to 40 lbs, must be secured in a harness and properly seated on a bicycle.

Encouragement of Bicycle Use

Cyclists are encouraged to use public and private bike racks available throughout Downtown Keene. A map of bike rack locations will be made available.

These regulations and guidelines are designed to enhance safety, promote cycling as a viable mode of transportation, and ensure harmonious use of public spaces in the city. For additional details or clarifications, please refer to the full text of Keene's City Code and applicable state regulations.

References:

New Hampshire Revised Statutes (Title XXI, Chapter 265)

City of Keene Code of Ordinances Chapter 94

League of American Bicyclists Guidance



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.1.

Meeting Date: September 25, 2024
To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee
From: William Schoefmann, Mapping Technician
Through: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager
Subject: **Support of Downtown Bike Lane Policies - Mapping Technician**

Recommendation:

The MSFI Committee support the bike lane policies and rules drafted in conjunction with the Bike Lane Policy Committee for the downtown separated bike lane facilities as part of the Downtown Infrastructure Project.

Attachments:

None

Background:

At its regular monthly meeting on June 12, 2024 the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee (BPPAC) voted unanimously to support the proposed policies and rules drafted by the Mayor and Manager's Bike Lane Policy Committee,
"Dr. Russell motioned that the BPPAC acknowledges support of the documents presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haas and was unanimously approved."



CITY OF KEENE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Four

AN ORDINANCE Relating to Winter Maintenance Parking Restrictions

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

That the City Code of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, as amended, is hereby further amended by removing Sec. 94-95 (a) “Snow maintenance period” in its entirety and replacing it with the following bolded text:

(a) Winter maintenance period.

- 1) **The Public Works Director or their designee (“Director”) shall be empowered to declare a Winter Weather Parking Ban whenever the existing conditions warrant or weather forecasts predicting snowfall, sleet, freezing rain, or other inclement weather indicate that the execution of necessary highway maintenance activities will require the prohibition of parking on city streets or municipal lots. Once a Winter Weather Parking Ban is declared, it shall continue until such time as it is terminated pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance. The Director may declare a Winter Weather Parking Ban at any time and for any duration necessary to conduct highway maintenance activities.**
- 2) **No vehicle or trailer shall be left standing or unoccupied upon any of the public ways or bridges in the city and owners of all vehicles or trailers so standing during a declared Winter Weather Parking Ban shall be deemed in violation of RSA 262:31 et seq.**
- 3) **The Police Chief or his/her designee is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this section as provided for in Sections 94-181 through 94-184, pertaining to penalties, towing, immobilization and appeals.**
- 4) **The Director shall notify the public when a Winter Weather Parking Ban starts and ends by using available methods for communicating messages to the public, which may include but not be limited to an automated push notification system, the City’s website, social media, texts, signage, and telephone notification.**
 - a. **The declaration shall be made no less than six (6) hours prior to the starting time of the ban.**
 - b. **The declaration of a Winter Weather Parking Ban may be made applicable to all City streets, certain streets, or streets within a defined perimeter.**

- c. **The declaration of a Winter Weather Parking Ban may be made applicable to all public surface parking lots or only certain lots.**

Jay V. Kahn, Mayor

In City Council September 19, 2024.
Referred to the Municipal Services,
Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.


Patricia C. Smith
City Clerk