

# Low-Speed and Under-Speed Vehicles

## PROGRAM SUMMARY



City Council passed Ordinance No. 6076-2023 in order to create a new N.R.C.O. Chapter 478, regulating the operation of low-speed vehicles (LSV) and under-speed vehicles (USV) on city streets where the posted speed limit does **NOT** exceed 25 mph.

For those wishing to have their LSV or USV operate legally on city streets the following administrative steps need to be completed:

1. The **OWNER** (person's name who appears on the title) of the LSV/USV shall call the North Ridgeville Police Department (NRPD) at (440) 490-2001 and advise they would like to have their LSV/USV inspected. The dispatcher will request the owner's contact information and will forward this information to the officer completing the inspection. The officer assigned to the inspection will contact the owner to schedule an appointment. For owner convenience this inspection will occur at the residence, place of business or where the vehicle is being stored (location must be within North Ridgeville city limits). Prior to scheduling the inspection, please take the time to insure all the equipment required on the LSV/USV (both State and City), is present and in good working order.
2. At the inspection the officer will do the following:
  - A. Collect a fee in the amount of \$20 by cash or check payable to the City of North Ridgeville. If the vehicle does not pass inspection and has to be reinspected at a later date, no additional fee will be required.
  - B. View the title for the vehicle to insure you are the listed owner.
  - C. Insure the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the title and vehicle match. Please know where your VIN is located and is legible.
  - D. Inspect the vehicle for the following State and City requirements:

### **STATE OF OHIO REQUIREMENTS**

- Brakes
- Brake lights (2 lights)
- Head lights (2 lights)
- Tail Lights (2 lights)
- Warning devices/reflectors (e.g., turn signals)
- Steering mechanism
- Windshield
- Rearview mirror
- Tires (in safe operating conditions)

### **ADDITIONAL CITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Must have four wheels
- Gross vehicle rating is not more than 3,000 pounds
- Speedometer
- One working rear red-colored tail light
- Rear license plate
- Light to illuminate the rear license plate to make plate legible from a distance of 50 feet
- One working brake light
- Two headlights, white or clear in color
- Horn
- Rearview mirror
- Windshield
- Windshield wiper
- Turn signals
- Brakes sufficient to stop within 40 feet
- Emergency brake sufficient to stop on any grade
- Working exhaust system if the unit has an internal combustion system
- One seat belt per occupant of the vehicle

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### **ADDITIONAL CITY REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)**

- One child safety seat installed to manufacturer specifications for any occupant under the age of four or under 40 pounds in weight (only if applicable)
- One child booster safety seat installed to manufacturer specifications for any occupant between the ages of four and eight or under 4'9" in height (only if applicable)
- Proof of liability insurance for LSV/USV

If at the time of inspection, the officer finds equipment not working and/or missing, the officer will notify the owner and indicate it on the form. The vehicle will be marked as "Not Passing Inspection." Upon fixing the deficiencies, the owner will again need to call NRPD and request another inspection.

3. Upon passing the inspection you will receive the following:
  - A. State of Ohio DPS Form 1373 – **Inspection of Under-Speed Vehicle, Utility Vehicle, or Mini Truck.** Upon successful completion of the inspection, you will be supplied a copy of this form. You will need to take this form (in addition to any other forms required) to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles to obtain a registration (license plate/expiration sticker) for your vehicle.
  - B. City of North Ridgeville Form – **Low-Speed and Under-Speed Vehicles Certificate of Compliance.** Upon successful completion of the inspection a copy of this form will be supplied to you and is required to be carried inside the LSV/USV when vehicle is operated on the roadway.
  - C. A sticker that indicates your vehicle passed inspection by NRPD. The owner shall display the sticker in a conspicuous place on the rear of the low-speed or under-speed vehicle.

While we encourage you to read the city ordinance in its entirety, here are some of the more important safety items to be aware of:

- Speed attainable in one mile is more than 20 mph and not more than 25 mph on a paved surface.
- An Ohio operator's license is required to operate the LSV/USV.
- To operate the LSV/USV you must be sixteen years of age or older.
- Can only be operated on streets posted 25 mph.
- May cross intersections only at such intersections in which the posted speed limit is 25 mph or less.
- Must comply with all other applicable traffic laws.
- A seat belt is required for every occupant on the LSV/USV.
- Children must utilize child restraint seats as required by the Ohio Revised Code.
- Have proof of insurance in the vehicle.

DATE:	<u>January 17, 2023</u>	1 <sup>ST</sup> READING:	<u>January 17, 2023</u>
INTRODUCED BY:	<u>Councilwoman Swenk</u>	2 <sup>ND</sup> READING:	<u>May 1, 2023</u>
REFERRED BY:	<u>Safety Committee Meeting</u>	3 <sup>RD</sup> READING:	<u>May 15, 2023</u>
TEMPORARY NO:	<u>T 4-2023 Amended</u>	ADOPTED:	<u>May 15, 2023</u>
		EFFECTIVE:	<u>June 14, 2023</u>

Committee meeting on 2-21-2023  
 Committee meeting on 4-17-2023  
 Committee Report to Council on 5-1-2023  
 Amended on the Floor on 5-1-2023

**ORDINANCE NO. 6076-2023**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING N.R.C.O. CHAPTER 478,  
 REGULATING THE OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED AND  
 UNDER-SPEED VEHICLES AND DECLARING AN  
 EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.214, Operation of low-speed, under-speed, or utility vehicles, or a mini-truck was passed January 1, 2017, regulating these types of vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, O.R.C. Section 4511.214(C) states: “Nothing in this section shall prevent a local authority from adopting more stringent local ordinances, resolutions, or regulations governing the operation of a low-speed vehicle, or a mini-truck, or a motor-driven cycle or motor scooter; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the City Council to create a new N.R.C.O. Chapter 478, regulating the operation of low-speed and under-speed vehicles, and to be in compliance with State regulations except to permit the crossing of intersections only at such intersections in which the posted speed limit is **twenty-five miles per hour or less** and not thirty-five miles per hour or less as set forth in ORC 4511.214.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** N.R.C.O. Chapter 478 is hereby created for the regulation the operation of low-speed and under-speed vehicles, as follows:

**CHAPTER 478 - LOW-SPEED AND UNDER-SPEED VEHICLES.**

**478.01 Definitions.**

Low-Speed Vehicle (LSV) or under-speed vehicle means a vehicle:

- (a) that is 4-wheeled,

- (b) whose speed attainable in one mile is more than 20mph and not more than 25mph on a paved surface;
- (c) whose gross vehicle weight rating is not more than 3,000 pounds.

All LSVs must meet all U.S. federal safety standards and state/local laws

478.02 Equipment.

Low-speed and under-speed vehicles operated on the streets, highways, and public property within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, shall have a minimum of the following functional equipment thereon:

- (a) Speedometer
- (b) At least one working rear red-colored tail light;
- (c) License plates in the front and rear of the low-speed or under-speed vehicle bracketed to the vehicle;
- (d) A light to illuminate the rear license plate and make the plate legible from a distance of 50 feet;
- (e) At least one working brake light;
- (f) Two headlights, white or clear in color;
- (g) A horn;
- (h) A rearview mirror;
- (i) A windshield;
- (j) A windshield wiper;
- (k) Turn signals;
- (l) Brakes sufficient to stop within 40 feet;
- (m) An emergency brake sufficient to hold the vehicle on any grade;
- (n) Working exhaust system if the unit has an internal combustion system;
- (o) One seat belt per occupant of the vehicle;
- (p) A child safety seat installed to manufacturer specifications for any occupant under the age of four or under 40-pounds in weight;
- (q) A child booster safety seat installed to manufacturer specifications for any occupant between the ages of four and eight or under 4'9" in height.

478.03 Licensing Requirements of Operator.

- (a) The operator of a low-speed or under-speed vehicle on public roadways or public property within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, shall have a valid driver's license.

- (b) The operator of a low-speed or under-speed vehicle on public roadways or public property in the City of North Ridgeville shall be no less than 16 years of age.

478.04 Insurance Requirement of Owner and Operator.

- (a) The owner of a low-speed or under-speed vehicle that is driven on public roadways or public property within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, shall maintain proof of financial responsibility thereon as required by the Ohio Revised Code.
- (b) The operator of a low-speed or under-speed vehicle that is driven on public roadways or public property within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, shall have in his/her possession proof of insurance while operating the low-speed or under-speed vehicle.

478.05 Inspection and Title Requirements.

- (a) No person shall operate a low-speed or under-speed vehicle on public roadways or public property within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, without first obtaining an inspection by the Chief of Police of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, the Lorain County Sheriff, or the law enforcement official of another jurisdiction within the State of Ohio.
- (b) No person shall operate a low-speed or under-speed vehicle on the public roadways or public property within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, without permanently displaying a reflective triangular-shaped sticker/decals issued by the inspecting authority on the low-speed or under-speed vehicle.
- (c) No person shall operate a low-speed or under-speed vehicle on public roadways or public property within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, without first obtaining a Certificate of Title from the Clerk of Courts.
- (d) If the Chief of Police of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, or his/her designee, or another agent designated and approved by the State of Ohio, determines that the low-speed or under-speed vehicle complies with the State of Ohio's statutory requirements that are applicable to motor vehicles, the Chief of Police of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, shall issue the owner or operator a certificate of compliance entitling the owner or operator to operate the low-speed or under-speed vehicle on the streets within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville. The owner or operator shall also show the Chief of Police of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, or his/her designee, proof of

liability insurance for the low-speed or under-speed vehicle before a certificate of compliance is issued. The owner or operator of any low-speed or under-speed vehicle shall be required to pay a fee in the amount of \$20.00 to the City of North Ridgeville through the Police Department of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, before the low-speed or under-speed vehicle may be operated on the streets of the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio. Any certificate issued pursuant to this section by the Chief of Police of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, shall expire upon the transfer or sale of the low-speed or the under-speed vehicle. The Chief of Police of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, shall keep a copy of each certificate issued pursuant to this section. The owner or operator of any low-speed or under-speed vehicle shall keep a copy of any certificate issued pursuant to this section inside the low-speed or under-speed vehicle to which it pertains. The Chief of Police of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, shall issue a sticker or other similar device to the owner of each low-speed or under-speed vehicle once it is inspected. The sticker shall signify compliance with this section. The owner of each low-speed or under-speed vehicle shall display the sticker in a conspicuous place on the rear of the low-speed or under-speed vehicle.

478.06 Operation.

- (a) No person shall operate a low-speed or under-speed vehicle upon any street within the corporate limits of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, where the posted speed limit exceeds twenty-five miles per hour. An operator of a low-speed or under-speed vehicle may cross intersections only at such intersections in which the posted speed limit is twenty-five miles per hour or less. The operator of a low-speed or under-speed vehicle shall comply with all other applicable laws.

478.07 Penalty.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided, whoever violates any provision of this Section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates his section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**SECTION 2.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were conducted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal

action were in meetings open to the public in accordance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 3.** This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure, the emergency being the immediate necessity to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the Citizens of the City of North Ridgeville. Wherefore, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: May 15, 2023



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Jason R. Jacobs  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST :



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Nicholas Ciofani  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: May 18, 2023



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Kevin Corcoran  
MAYOR