



# Skates and Skateboards: Road or Sidewalk?

# Scope

Non-motorized wheeled vehicles:

- In-line skates (“Rollerblades”)
- Roller skates (“quads”)
- Skateboards
- Scooters (“Razor”)
- Unicycles and tricycles
- Others yet to be invented



# Issue

## Most jurisdictions:

- Not considered a form of transportation
- Considered “toy vehicles” or “play vehicles”
- Prohibited on roads and sidewalks
- Relegated to parks and recreation areas



# Typical Regulations

“No person shall ride upon or use any skateboard, roller skate, in-line skate, scooter, toy vehicle or similar device on any street, alley or sidewalk, except while crossing a roadway on a crosswalk, or unless the same has been set aside for a playground.”

# Typical Regulations



# Outcome

- Skaters ignore regulations and skate on roads and sidewalks
- Enforcement efforts receive negative media coverage
- Facilities are not designed for skaters
- No skater or motorist education
- Conflicts occur with other road and sidewalk users



# An Effective Alternative

Permit non-motorized wheeled vehicles to use roadways and sidewalks:

- All permitted on sidewalks
- In-line skates permitted on roads
- Skateboards and scooters permitted on all or some roads

# Skater in Bike Lane



# Benefits

- Direct skating and other non-motorized wheeled activities to desired locations
- Minimize conflicts with other road and sidewalk users
- Encourage use of alternative modes of transportation
- Avoid creating enforcement problems



# Skate Route



# Ideal Regulations

## Sidewalks:

- Non-motorized wheeled vehicles be permitted to use all sidewalks.
- Persons on non-motorized wheeled vehicles be required to yield to pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks.

## Roads:

- Non-motorized wheeled vehicles be permitted to use all roadways.
- Persons on non-motorized wheeled vehicles be required to obey all Motor Vehicle Act regulations applicable to cyclists.

# Examples



Jurisdiction	Applicable Regulations
Vancouver BC	Skates, skateboards and scooters permitted on minor streets (no centreline)
Kelowna BC	Skates permitted on roads ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
Kamloops BC	Skateboards permitted on roads, except arterial roads and specified commercial areas

# Examples



Jurisdiction	Applicable Regulations
Portland OR	Skates, skateboards and scooters permitted on roads and sidewalks, except downtown sidewalks
Minneapolis MN	Skates and skateboards permitted on roads and sidewalks, except downtown pedestrian mall
Tampa FL	Skates permitted on roads $\leq 30$ mph (50 km/h) Skates and skateboards permitted on sidewalks, except specified commercial areas

# Examples

Jurisdiction	Applicable Regulations
New York	Skates permitted on roads and highways, except some controlled-access highways
New Jersey	Skates and skateboards permitted on all roads
Wisconsin	Skates permitted on all roads, except state highways



# Skate Crossing



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