

Administrative Calls 637-5575  
Emergency Calls 911  
Area Code 717

**The Borough of Hanover**  
**Department of Police**  
44 Frederick Street  
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

CHAD E. MARTIN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Electric scooters, motor scooters, electric wheelchairs, etc.; what's legal, what's required, and what's safe?

As the popularity of these vehicles increase the police department receives questions and complaints related to the use of motor scooters and similar type mobility vehicles upon roadways and sidewalks. We will attempt to answer most of these questions in this article.

There are motor scooters that are legal to operate on the roadway. These motor scooters have a certification label attached which certifies that the motor scooter meets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. These vehicles also have a 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) affixed to the frame by the manufacturer and are sold and/or traded using a title. These vehicles may be operated upon the roadway when properly registered, inspected, and insured. Drivers of these vehicles must also be properly licensed and operators must wear a helmet if they are under 21 years of age. Operators of motor scooters must obey all traffic regulations and cannot operate these vehicles upon sidewalks.

Motor scooters that do not conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards cannot legally operated upon the roadway or public sidewalk. This also applies to electric skateboards and unicycles. They can only be used in private property. In the case of children operating one of these devices, they should only be used in the presence of adult supervision while wearing protective equipment. These motor scooters may fall under the following classifications (whether they have an electric or gasoline engine): small motorcycles, mini-bikes, "pocket bikes", "pocket rockets", and motorized standing scooters.

A self-propelled wheelchair (electric wheelchair) or electric mobility device is not considered a vehicle in Pennsylvania. As such, they are not required to be titled, registered, inspected, or insured, nor require a license to operate. Operators of these devices should follow law related to and be treated by motorists as pedestrians. These devices are permitted to be operated on the berm of a roadway.

While not observed in Hanover that we are aware of, Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (EPAMDs) or Segway are legally permitted to be operated upon roadways and sidewalks, unless prohibited by local ordinance. While considered a vehicle, they are not a motor vehicle and not subject to titling, registration, inspection, insurance, or operator licensing. A Segway should follow laws related to and be treated by motorists the same as a bicycle.

Please reference the accompanying PennDOT fact sheet for further information and/or visit [www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov) for additional information.

Stay Safe,



Chad E. Martin  
Chief of Police