

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



ORDINANCE # 3178-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 257 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” TO ESTABLISH A NEW ARTICLE VIII ENTITLED “BICYCLE LANES”

“Interpretive Statement”

This Ordinance will establish a new article governing bike lanes within Chapter 257 of the Township Code, “Vehicles and Traffic”.

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2025, the Township Committee (the “Township Committee”) adopted Resolution No. 242-25 to begin the implementation of bicycle lanes on Parker Avenue; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2025, the Township Committee adopted Resolution No. 319-25, awarding a contract to Cifelli & Son General Contracting, Inc. for traffic calming improvements on Parker Avenue, including bicycle lanes; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to identify the location of the bicycle lanes and establish a new article of the Township Code to regulate the use of such bicycle lanes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. **RECITALS**. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth at length.

2. **NEW ARTICLE ESTABLISHED**. Chapter 257 of the Township Code, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”, is hereby amended and supplemented to establish a new Article VIII therein entitled “Bicycle Lanes”, as follows:

“1. Bicycle Lanes Generally.

a. A dedicated Bicycle Lane shall be a five-foot-wide lane demarcated with solid white line lane striping with the inclusion of standard bicycle symbols painted on the street, within the Bicycle Lane, clearly indicating the space as a Bicycle Lane. Dedicated Bicycle Lanes shall also include appropriate signage indicating a Bicycle Lane.

b. Shared Bicycle Lanes shall consist of standard bicycle symbols, known as sharrows, painted on the street to communicate that drivers shall share the road with bicyclists. Shared Bicycle Lanes shall include "Share the Road" posted signage.

c. Bicycle Lane striping and signage shall be subject to review and approval by the Engineering Department.

2. Specific Bicycle Lanes Designated. The following roadways are hereby designated as Bicycle Lanes:

a. The following shall be dedicated Bicycle Lanes: (i) West Parker Avenue, from Maplewood Avenue to Valley Street; and (ii) Parker Avenue from Valley Street to Boyden Avenue, with the exception of the North side of Parker between Burroughs Way and Burr Avenue.

b. The following shall be Shared Bicycle Lanes/vehicle lanes: (i) Parker Avenue, from Boyden Avenue to Irvington Avenue; and (ii) the North side of Parker Avenue between Burroughs Way and Burr Avenue.

3. Other Users of Bicycle Lanes. In addition to bicycle riders, the following users are permitted in Bicycle Lanes:

a. Individuals using roller blades.

b. Individuals using low-speed electric vehicles, as defined by New Jersey statute as a two- or three-wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts whose maximum speed is less than 20 miles per hour and meets the requirement of a Class 1 or Class 2 low-speed electric bicycle.

c. Individuals using a scooter with a floorboard that can be stood upon by the operator, with handlebars, and an electric motor that is capable of propelling the device, with or without human propulsion, at a maximum speed of less than 19 miles per hour.

d. Motorized wheelchairs with an orange safety flag at least five feet above street level.

e. Bicyclers with attached trailers for children will also have the same orange safety flag attached to the rear of the portage vehicle.

4. Rules and Regulations within Bicycle Lanes.

a. Any person operating a bicycle shall ride in the same direction of vehicular traffic traveling on the same side of the roadway.

b. Any person operating a bicycle shall stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

c. Any person operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of official traffic control signs, and other control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

d. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

e. No person shall operate a bicycle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

f. The rules and regulations of this section shall also apply to any non-bicycle riders using the Bicycle Lanes, including, but not limited to, individuals using roller blades and/or scooters as referenced elsewhere in this Article VIII.

5. Conflict with State Law. To the extent that any portion of this Article VIII shall conflict with State law, such applicable State law shall control.

6. Violations and Penalties. Unless another penalty is expressly provided by State law, any person found to have violated this Article shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$50 per occurrence.”

3. **SEVERABILITY.** If any section, paragraph, sub-paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the specific section, paragraph, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

4. **REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES.** Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistencies.

5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as provided by law.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing proposed Ordinance was introduced and read by title at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood held on November 5, 2025, and that the Township Committee will meet again on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 574 Valley Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, at which time and place the Township Committee will hold a hearing and proceed to consider the foregoing Ordinance on final reading and final passage.

ELIZABETH J. FRITZEN, R.M.C.
Township Clerk