

New York City Department of Transportation

Notice of Adoption

NOTICE OF ADOPTION relating to amendments of the New York City Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Traffic Rules" contained in Chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York to remove the prohibition on the operation of mopeds (limited use motorcycles) on the Brooklyn Bridge and the lower roadway of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) by Section 2903(a) of the New York City Charter and in accordance with the requirements of Section 1043 of the New York City Charter that DOT hereby amends Chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York.

This rule was first published in the City Record on March 13, 2025, and a public hearing was held on April 14, 2025. DOT carefully reviewed the seven verbal and written comments that were submitted in response to the proposed rule. The majority of comments support providing a legal route for moped riders to cross the East River while maintaining the ban on mopeds from operating in bike and pedestrian paths. Other comments expressed concern for the safety of moped riders and proposed that moped riders be required to wear appropriate safety equipment. Another comment suggested that moped users be licensed and registered. While valid, these concerns are already addressed in the Rules of the City of New York, the New York City Administrative Code, and the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. For that reason, no changes were made to the proposed rule.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of the Adopted Rule

The Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) is authorized to issue rules regarding parking and traffic operations in the City pursuant to Section 2903(a) of the New York City Charter. The adopted rule will be contained within Chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York, relating to the "Traffic Rules."

The adopted rule amends Section 4-07(n) of the Traffic Rules to remove the prohibition on the operation of mopeds on the Brooklyn Bridge and the lower roadway of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge while leaving in place the prohibition on the operation of mopeds on the Manhattan Bridge and the Williamsburg Bridge. The decision to allow mopeds to operate on the Brooklyn Bridge and the lower roadway of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge was based on data showing that, while the speed limit on the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge is 35 miles per hour and the speed limit on the Brooklyn Bridge is 30 miles per hour, the traffic speeds on these bridges are slower (including during the overnight hours) than those on the Manhattan Bridge, Williamsburg Bridge, and the upper roadway of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge. In addition, there are barriers or bridge structures running along the Brooklyn Bridge and the lower roadway of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge that help protect riders in the event of a crash, while the configurations of the Manhattan Bridge, Williamsburg Bridge, and the upper

roadway of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge do not provide the same protections. These changes were made due to the increasing need for mopeds to be able to travel directly from Brooklyn and Queens to Manhattan and back. Prior to the adoption of this rule, there was no legal route for mopeds to travel across the East River, as they are prohibited from operating on both the motor vehicle lanes and protected bicycle and pedestrian paths on all of the roadways that cross the river.

New material is underlined.

[Deleted material is in brackets.]

Section 1. Subdivision (n) of section 4-07 of chapter 4 of Title 34 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

(n) *Mopeds restricted.* No moped as defined in 34 RCNY § 4-19(a) is permitted to operate on the [Brooklyn Bridge,] Manhattan Bridge, the Williamsburg Bridge, the upper roadway of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge, or on any limited access highway, or on any bicycle lane or path.