

Electric Scooters

I see electrical scooter-type wheelchairs on our streets and sidewalks. Is this legal and if so, are there any restrictions on them?

It is my understanding from your question that you are talking about a handicapped person on an electric wheelchair or motorized scooter. For the most part, it is legal for them to operate an electrical vehicle and motor assisted scooter on the public streets, bike trails and sidewalks where the speed limit is not greater than 30 miles per hour. If they are traveling on the street, they must ride as far to the right hand side of the roadway as they can get and operate it in a safe manner.

Section C of 551.302 of the Texas Transportation Code does state that a county or city may prohibit the operation of an electric vehicle or motor assisted scooter on any street or highway if the county or city determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety. At the present time in Harris County, I know of no restriction of them when they are driven in a safe manner in full compliance of the law (far right hand side of roadway and the posted speed limit is not over 35 miles per hour) and the operator and vehicle are not a traffic hazard or posing a danger to themselves or others.

It is never a good idea to ride the handicapped scooter in the roadway, but when you must, be vigilant and safety minded at all times.

Thank you,

Constable Ken Jones

