

**Increasing Public Awareness Of District Of Columbia Laws Governing Mopeds And Motor Scooters
(Latest Update February 2013)**

On December 18, 2012, the District Council passed the “Motorized Bicycle Amendment Act of 2012.” This legislation, among other things, repeals the definition of “moped,” adds a class of vehicles called “motor driven cycles,” and changes requirements for registration, inspections, insuring, and licensing of these various kinds of vehicles. DMV reported to PCB on January 15, 2013 that the recommended updates would be postponed until after the expected enactment of the new legislation. MPD pledged to work with DMV in developing new materials once the law is enacted.

While PCB understands that implementing the suggestions below before the new law goes into effect would be wasteful, many of the recommendations made by PCB remained pending prior to the passage of the new law. Therefore, the table below is presented as it was in last year’s annual report to show what the implementation status was prior to the passage of the new law. In addition to the information from last year, MPD notified PCB that prior to the law’s passage, it had posted the previous version of its flyer and other relevant informational material on the MPD website at “Safety & Prevention > Traffic Safety > Streets > Mini-bikes and Other Small Vehicles.” MPD had also issued a special order in November 2012 providing guidance to its officers on enforcement issues relating to these kinds of vehicles.

Recommendation	Status
The District, through DMV and with input from MPD, other interested District agencies, and community stakeholders, should consider developing an informational brochure that, as simply as possible, explains the differences between, and requirements for, motorcycles and motorized bicycles. The brochure should highlight and emphasize that motor scooters capable of speeds higher than thirty five miles per hour are considered motorcycles under District law, regardless of the vehicle’s appearance or its designation by the manufacturer as a “moped” or “motor scooter.” The brochure should also make clear that those mopeds and motor scooters classified as motorized bicycles under D.C. law are still subject to registration, insurance, and inspection requirements.	<p>Pending. DMV reported in January 2011 that staff cuts limited the agency’s brochure production capacity to copying existing information and, therefore, the updated brochure recommended by PCB was placed on hold. DMV anticipates eventually having the eliminated position restored and being able to produce the suggested brochure.</p> <p>Although MPD reports having developed a flyer and a poster in the spring of 2009 (prior to the issuance of PCB’s policy recommendation), consistent with PCB’s recommendation, PCB still hopes that MPD will provide input as DMV develops the suggested brochure.</p>
DMV should make copies of the brochure available for general distribution at each of its service locations and should supply the brochure to anyone who seeks to register a moped or motor scooter in the District.	<p>Pending. DMV stated it would make the recommended brochure available in DMV service centers once the production capacity has been restored.</p>

<p>DMV should offer copies of the brochure to motor scooter, moped, and motorcycle dealerships in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and encourage distribution to customers to ensure that prospective motor scooter and moped operators are made aware at the outset of D.C. legal requirements governing these vehicles.</p>	<p>Adopted in part, pending in part. DMV reported that once the brochure is created, it will refer area dealerships to its website. DMV stated further that it would distribute its chart, entitled “Non-Traditional Motor Vehicles and DC Law,” at the Washington Auto Show WANADA Seminar for area dealerships. DMV added a link to the chart to the section of the agency’s website that contains information for dealers.</p>
<p>DMV should prominently display the brochure on its website, such as through inclusion of a link to it in the “Did You Know” sidebar on its home page.</p>	<p>Adopted in part, pending in part. As above, the brochure has not been produced. However, DMV reports adding a link to its “Non-Traditional Motor Vehicles and DC Law” to the “Did You Know” section of the homepage.</p>
<p>MPD should have copies of the brochure available for distribution at each of its district stations and should consider having officers carry a limited number in their police cruisers for distribution to persons ticketed or warned for failing to comply with the relevant laws.</p>	<p>Adopted in part, pending in part. MPD reports that the spring 2009 poster was distributed to recreational centers and posted at police districts’ stations. MPD further reports that the spring 2009 flyer is available at police districts and has been distributed to police officers.</p>
<p>MPD should include a link to the new brochure on the existing MPD traffic safety page that currently provides information about mopeds, motor scooters, and other non-traditional motor vehicles.</p>	<p>Pending. Although MPD reports that this was completed in 2009, prior to the release of PCB’s report and recommendations, PCB hopes that if DMV produces a new brochure, MPD will continue to feature a link from MPD’s website to the new materials.</p>
<p>DMV should consider developing a public service announcement explaining the requirements for lawful and safe operation of mopeds and motor scooters in D.C. for possible airing on the District’s cable television channel or other appropriate media.</p>	<p>Not adopted. DMV reports that it does not currently have the capacity to produce public service announcements.</p>