

ORDINANCE #2025-03  
Creating Chapter 11-8- Roadway Safety Ordinance

The Common Council of the City of Ladysmith do ordain as follows:

1. That SEC. 11-8 shall be created to read as follows:

**11-8-1 - WHEN STANDING OR LOITERING IN ROADWAY OR HIGHWAY PROHIBITED.**

(1) No person shall be on a roadway or road right-of-way for the purpose of soliciting money, goods or services from the operator of any vehicle or a ride from the operator of any vehicle other than a public passenger vehicle.

(2) No person shall stand or loiter on any roadway if such act interferes with the lawful movement of traffic.

(3) No person shall be on a bridge or approach thereto for the purpose of utilizing such bridge or approach for fishing or swimming when signs have been erected by the Director of Public Works indicating that fishing or swimming off such bridge or approach is prohibited.

**11-8-2 - ENTERING OR STAYING UPON ROADWAYS OR HIGHWAYS RESTRICTED.**

(1) Purpose. Pedestrians are increasingly using roadways in ways for which the roads were not designed. These uses include approaching vehicles when in use or staying upon medians for purposes other than crossing the roadway. These activities create safety hazards for pedestrians and distract drivers, making automobile crashes more likely. This ordinance is designed to decrease the safety hazards by restricting such activity. These safety concerns are most acute on the busiest streets within the City of Ladysmith, identified as arterial streets or highways, and some streets intersecting with those arterial streets. This ordinance applies to those "covered roadways" identified in sub. (7) herein.

(2) Definitions. As used in this ordinance,

"Covered Roadway" is defined in sub. (7) herein.

A vehicle is "in operation" when it has an operator, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(41).

A "median" is a paved or unpaved area dividing a street or highway that separates lanes of traffic traveling in opposite directions, or in the case of left- or right-hand turn lanes, vehicles traveling in the same direction.

(3) No person, other than a person in or on a vehicle, shall be on a covered roadway listed in sub. (7) and approach any vehicle in operation, except a vehicle that is legally parked at the curb or the shoulder.

(4) No person shall be upon a median of a covered roadway listed in sub. (7) unless that person is in the process of crossing the roadway in a crosswalk. It is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section if a person stays on the median through two consecutive opportunities to cross the roadway in a legal manner under this Chapter and the state traffic laws adopted herein.

This may include a change in the traffic control signal or lack of traffic, as applicable. After such two consecutive opportunities, such person shall not be considered to be "using the safety zone or crosswalk to cross the roadway" for purposes of the exception in sub. (6)(b).

(5) No operator of a vehicle shall park, stop or leave standing a vehicle on a covered roadway

listed in sub. (7) where prohibited or suddenly decrease the speed of said vehicle or deviate from a traffic lane for the purpose of responding to persons violating subs. (3) or (4).

(6) Exceptions. This ordinance does not apply to (a) persons on the sidewalk, (b) persons using the crosswalk to cross the roadway, (c) persons engaged in law enforcement or rescue activities, including providing assistance to an injured or disabled vehicle or person, (d) persons utilizing the roadway for pedestrian or bicycle purposes where no dedicated sidewalk or bicycle lane is present as long as their use does not interfere with traffic, (e) persons entering a vehicle as an invited passenger where it is lawful to do so, including activity permitted under Wis. Stat. § 346.29(1) (taxi), (f) persons engaged in repair or maintenance activities on the roadway under the direction or authority of the City of Ladysmith, County of Rusk or the State of Wisconsin; or (g) streets or portions thereof that have been closed pursuant to a street use permit or other express authorization from the City.

(7) Covered Roadways. This ordinance applies only to covered Roadways and their rights-of-way, which are those Roadways or portions of Roadways listed in subs. (a) and (b) below:

(a) The following roadways are designated as the streets, arterial streets and highways within the City of Ladysmith that have the most traffic, and are covered roadways under this ordinance:

US Highway 8 (Within City Limits)

STH 27 (Within City Limits)

Miner Avenue (from W. 9<sup>th</sup> St. to E. 8<sup>th</sup> St.)

Worden Avenue (from W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. to E. 8<sup>th</sup> St.)

Lake Avenue (from E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. to E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. & including US Highway 8)

E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (from Worden Avenue to Edgewood Avenue)

E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (from Lake Avenue to Fritz Avenue)

1<sup>st</sup> St. (from Lake Avenue to College Avenue)

W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (from Pederson Avenue to Fritz Avenue)

W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (From Pederson Avenue to Fritz Avenue)

W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. (From Pederson Avenue to Worden Avenue)

Port Arthur Road (Within City Limits)

Falge Park Drive

Veteran's Parkway (Memorial Park Drive)

College Avenue (From STH 27 to Port Arthur Rd. and from STH 27 to 1<sup>st</sup> St)

Lindoo Avenue (From 1<sup>st</sup> St to E. 6<sup>th</sup> St.)

Fritz Avenue (From STH 27 to W 1<sup>st</sup> St.)

Corbett Ave (From Falge Park Drive to W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.)

Doughty Rd.

(b) In addition to the roadways designated above, this ordinance applies to any roadway that intersects with any of the covered roadways, but only for the first two hundred (200) feet of the intersecting roadway from the covered roadway, as measured along the center line of the intersecting roadway from the point the intersecting roadway touches the right of way of the covered roadway.

(8) This ordinance shall be effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

(9) Any person violating this ordinance may be required to forfeit not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300). Officers are encouraged to provide a warning for a first offense.

10 yes by 0 no vote at a regular meeting of the Common Council held the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

Signed: Robert Grotzinger  
Robert Grotzinger, Mayor

Attest: Sara Nelson  
Sara Nelson, Clerk