

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO
OLATHE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 10
(THE OLATHE TRAFFIC CODE)**

The proposed ordinance would create one new section and amend five sections in the Olathe Traffic Code (“Code”) in accordance with 2026 Kansas legislation. It also would make changes to two other sections and repeal one section to address issues raised by residents and the Olathe Police Department.

1. Amendments Based Upon 2026 Legislation

The proposed ordinance creates one new section and amends five sections to reflect continuing state law and legislation passed by the 2026 Kansas Legislature:

- Section 10.01.001 (Definitions) is amended to reflect changes made by 2025 Senate Substitute for HB 2372 to specify that “authorized emergency vehicles” include law enforcement vehicles owned by the federal government;
- Section 10.01.126.1 (Obstructing License Plates) is amended to reflect changes made by 2026 SB 403;
- Section 10.01.126.5 (Unlawful Use of a Mobile Telephone While Operating a Vehicle in a School Zone or Road Construction Zone) is created to reflect the new crime created by 2026 House Substitute for SB 366;
- Sections 10.01.169 (Special Restrictions on Lamps) and 10.01.172 (Highway Construction and Maintenance Vehicles) are amended to reflect changes made by 2026 House Substitute for SB 366 allowing highway construction and maintenance vehicles to display amber, green, or white lights and stationary construction and maintenance trailers to display white and blue lights while in a road construction zone. and
- Section 10.01.201.1 (Failure to Comply with Traffic Citation) is amended to reflect changes made by 2026 HB 2467 and previous legislation.

2. Amendments to Other Sections

The proposed ordinance also amends the following sections:

- Section 10.01.085 (Stopping, Standing, or Parking Prohibited in Specified Places) by extending the prohibition on stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle so as to block access to a streetside mailbox to include from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. This change was requested by the Olathe Police Department due to later mail deliveries.
- Section 10.01.135.4 (Unlawful Operation of All-Terrain Vehicle, Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle, or Work-Site Utility Vehicle) by allowing these vehicles to be driven on any road with a speed limit of 30 miles-per-hour or less, provided that:
 - The operator of the vehicle has a valid driver's license;
 - The owner maintains insurance for the vehicle that meets the state minimum requirements for motor vehicles; and
 - The number of occupants of the vehicle is limited to the number of factory seats installed.

This change would treat these vehicles similarly to how golf carts and micro utility trucks are already treated under the Code. This change was requested of the City Council by residents.

Current Section 10.01.135.8 (Unlawful Operation of a Work-Site Utility Vehicle) would also be repealed as its provisions would be drawn into Section 10.01.135.4 by the above amendments.

- Section 10.01.175.1 (Engine and Braking Noise) by clarifying that this section prohibiting the use of loud mechanical exhaust braking/deceleration devices also applies to compression release engine braking systems (commonly known as "jake breaks"). When this section was originally added to Title 10 in 2004, the intent was to address jake breaks and model language was used to attempt to do so. However, over time it has become apparent that the language needs to be updated to properly cover jake breaks. The amendments would bring the language in line with updates to state law and model language, as well as multiple other Kansas cities that have prohibited the use of jake breaks within their jurisdiction. This change was requested of the City Council by a resident.