With the continued rise in gas prices and finding easier places to park, the City of Gainesville and college communities throughout the State of Florida are seeing a significant increase in the public’s use of bicycles and mopeds. The Gainesville Police Department supports and encourages the safe operation and would like to take an opportunity to educate and inform the community on laws and safety issues pertaining to the use of mopeds.

**Moped Definitions:**

Mopeds have a displacement of 50cc or less, two-brake horsepower or less, and are not able to go faster than 30 mph on a level surface, as defined by Florida State Statutes. If a vehicle exceeds any of these categories, it will likely be classified as a motorcycle and different rules will apply.

**Driver Eligibility:**

Moped operators must be at least 16 years old and hold at least a Class E License to operate a moped on public streets or roadways. A learner’s license is not sufficient. (Mopeds fit the definition of motor vehicle in 322.01(26).

A motorcycle endorsement is not required to operate a moped.

Mopeds must be registered annually and a tag must be purchased.
Operating Information

When riding a moped, keep the following things in mind:

- Any person operating a moped upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place; and under the conditions then existing shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except under any of the following situations:
  - When overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
  - When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.
  - When reasonably necessary to avoid any condition, including, but not limited to, a fixed or moving object, parked or moving vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, animal, surface hazard, or substandard-width lane, that makes it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge.

- Any person operating a moped upon a one-way highway with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway as practicable.

- No person shall propel a moped upon and along a sidewalk while the motor is operating.

- The operator of a motorcycle shall not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.

- No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

- Moped operators have the same rights and duties as motor vehicle operators and can also receive citations for traffic violations.
• Wear a helmet.

• Wear protective eye gear.

• A horn and mirror are required safety equipment for a moped.

• Don’t drive on bicycle lanes, trails, and interstate highways.

• Make sure your moped has an operating headlight and taillight.

• No person shall operate a vehicle while wearing a headset, headphone, or other listening device, other than a hearing aid or instrument for the improvement of defective human hearing.

Further information regarding laws and safety tip can be obtained through the following links:


• The Officers with the Gainesville Police Department are committed to promoting safe roadways. Officers will be aggressively enforcing rules of the road and actively educating the public on the laws and safety issues surrounding moped safety.

REMEMBER – Ride Safe Gainesville!