

Town of Waitsfield

Traffic Ordinance

(As amended through 2026)

Adopted on May 11th

Will go into effect on July 11th

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Sections 1007 and 1008, and Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Sections 1971 and 2291 (1) (4) and (5), and Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 59, and such other general enactments as may be material hereto, it is hereby ordained by the Selectboard of the Town of Waitsfield that the following Traffic Ordinance is adopted for the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont.

ARTICLE I. DEFINITIONS

The definitions of Title 23, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Section 4 are incorporated by reference.

ARTICLE II. SCOPE

The ordinance establishes special traffic regulations on public highways within the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont.

ARTICLE III. TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to disobey the direction of a traffic control device except in response to the direction of a law enforcement officer.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally remove, injure, obstruct, deface, alter or tamper with any traffic control device.

Section 3. It shall be unlawful for any person to install any sign or device which may resemble or be mistaken for an official traffic control device, without prior approval of the Waitsfield Selectboard.

ARTICLE IV. SPEED REGULATIONS

Section 1. Paved Roads – On the basis of engineering and traffic surveys, the following speed limits are hereby established on paved highways within the Town:

T.H. #1 (Bridge Street & East Warren Road) – A maximum speed of 25 m.p.h. from the intersection of Vt. Route 100 (Main Street) easterly to the intersection of T.H.#3 (Joslin Hill Road), then a maximum speed of 40 m.p.h. from the intersection of T.H. #3 (Joslin Hill Road) easterly and southerly to the Warren town line.

T.H. #2 (North Fayston Road) – A maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. from the intersection of Vt. Route 100 (Main Street) to the Fayston town line.

T.H. #3 (Joslin Hill Road & North Road) – A maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. from the intersection of T.H. # 1 (East Warren Road) to the intersection of T.H. # 15 (Tremblay Road).

T.H. #12 (Old County Road) – A maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. for its entire length.

T.H. #15 (Tremblay Road) – A maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. for its entire length.

T.H.#23 (Carroll Road) – A maximum speed of 25 m.p.h. from the intersection of Vt. Route 100 to the Fayston town line.

T.H. #24 (Bragg Hill Road) – A maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. for its entire length.

VT Route 100 (Main Street)

Consistent with State-approved milepoint (MP) references:

- **Speed Limit: 40 m.p.h.**
Begins at MP 1.71 ± 0.28 miles south of Town Highway 39 (TH-39) (Lareau Road)
Ends at MP 2.28 ± 0.29 miles north of TH-39 (Lareau Road)
- **Speed Limit: 30 m.p.h.**
Begins at MP 2.28 ± 0.29 miles north of TH-39 (Lareau Road)
Ends at MP 4.16 ± 0.20 miles north of Town Highway 12 (Old County Road – south end)
- **Speed Limit: 40 m.p.h.**
Begins at MP 4.16 ± 0.20 miles north of TH-12 (Old County Road – south End)
Ends at MP 4.77 ± 0.08 miles north of Town Highway 12 (Old County Road – north end)

These speed limits are adopted to enhance safety and traffic flow through Waitsfield Village and surrounding areas and are intended to conform to State-established limits for this roadway. All other segments of VT Route 100 within Waitsfield not explicitly listed above are subject to the default **50 m.p.h.** speed limit, consistent with State-established standards.

Section 2. Unpaved Roads, Special Designated Speed Limits – On the basis of engineering and traffic surveys, the following speed limits are hereby established on unpaved highways within the Town:

T.H. #4 (Common Road) – A maximum speed of 30 m.p.h. for its entire length.

T.H. #7 (Center Fayston Road) – A maximum speed of 30 m.p.h. for its entire length.

T.H. #14 (Old Center Fayston Road) – A maximum speed of 25 m.p.h. for its entire length.

T.H. #26 (Brook Road) – A maximum speed of 30 m.p.h. for its entire length.

T.H. #31 (Rolston Road) – A maximum speed of 25 m.p.h. from the intersection of Vt. Route 100 (Main Street), extending easterly a distance of 0.83 mile, then a maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. from 0.83 mile east of Vt. Route 100 (main Street) to the intersection of T.H. #1 (East Warren Road).

Section 3. Unpaved Roads, Uniform Speed Limit – Pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Section 1007, a uniform speed limit of 35 m.p.h. is hereby established for all other unpaved highways within the Town. Roads included under the uniform speed limit for unpaved highways shall include:

T.H. #6 (Airport Road)

T.H. #8 (Meadow Road)

T.H. #9 (part of Meadow Road)
T.H. #10 (Floodwoods Road)
T.H. #11 (Armstrong Road)
T.H. #16 (Class 4 portion – Ronk Road)
T.H. #16 (Class 3 portion – East Road)
T.H. #17 (part of East Road)
T.H. #19 (Bushnell Road)
T.H. #20 (Long Road) T.H. #21 (Reed Road)
T.H. #22 (Farr Lane)
T.H. #25 (Hastings Road)
T.H. #27 (Cross Road)
T.H. #29 (Butternut Hill Road)
T.H. #30 (Kingsbury Road)
T.H. #32 (Bundy Road)
T.H. #34 (Ryle Road)
T.H. #35 (Sherman Road)
T.H. #36 (Bowen Road)
T.H. #37 (Parsonage Lane)
T.H. #38 (Dugway Road)
T.H. #39 (Lareau Road)
T.H. #40 (Ski Valley Road)
T.H. #40 (Schuss Road)
T.H. #40 (Snowshoe Drive)
T.H. #41 (part of Ski Valley Road)
T.H. #42 (Palmer Lane)
T.H. #43 (Raphael Road)
T.H. #45 (Pine Brook Road)
T.H. #46 (part of Ski Valley Road)
T.H. #28 (Palmer Hill Road)
T.H. #29 (Dana Hill Road)
T.H. #47 (Riverview Road)
T.H. #48 (Wallis Drive)

Section 4. The above speed limits for paved and unpaved highways shall be posted in accordance with the standards set forth in Title 23, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Section 1007, and the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices as amended from time to time.

ARTICLE V. STOP AND YIELD INTERSECTIONS

Section 1. The following intersections shall be designated as "STOP" intersections, and shall be so signed:

T.H. #1 (Bridge Street) entering the covered bridge on either side
T.H. #4 (Common Road) entering T.H. #3 (Joslin Hill/North Road)
T.H. #16 (East Road) entering T.H. #3 (Joslin Hill Road)
T.H. #18 (Common Road) entering T.H. #3 (Joslin Hill Road)
T.H. #26 (Brook Road) entering T.H. #3 (Joslin Hill Road)
T.H. #4 (Common Road) entering T.H. #1 (East Warren Road)
T.H. #15 (Tremblay Road) entering T.H. #3 (North Road)

T.H. #26 (Brook Road) entering T.H. #4 (Common Road)
T.H. #27 (Cross Road) entering T.H. #3 (Joslin Hill Road)
T.H. #27 (Cross Road) entering T.H. #4 (Common Road)
T.H. #28 (Palmer Hill Road) entering T.H. #4 (Common Road)
T.H. #34 (Ryle Road) entering T.H. #4 (Common Road)

Section 2. The following intersections shall be designated as "YIELD" intersections and shall be so signed:

T.H. #3 (Joslin Hill Road) entering T.H. #1 (East Warren Road)
T.H. #8 (Meadow Road) entering T.H. #3 (North Road)

ARTICLE VI. CROSSWALKS

Definition:

A crosswalk is defined as that portion of the roadway ordinarily included within the prolongation of curb and property lines at street intersections, or that portion of a roadway clearly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines marked on the surface.

Designated Crosswalk Locations:

The following intersections are designated for marked pedestrian crosswalks:

- Town Highway #1 (Bridge Street) at its intersection with VT Route 100 (Main Street)
- Town Highway #22 (Farr Lane) at its intersection with VT Route 100 (Main Street)

Additional crosswalks may exist or be established along VT Route 100 (Main Street) and other town roads. All marked and unmarked crosswalks at intersections shall be subject to the provisions outlined below.

Section 1. Vehicles to Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalks

In accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1052, drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing within any marked or unmarked crosswalk, slowing down or stopping as necessary to ensure pedestrian safety.

Section 2. Yielding in Absence of Traffic Signals

When traffic-control signals are not in place, not operational, or do not provide an exclusive pedestrian walk phase, drivers must yield to pedestrians who are on the half of the roadway the vehicle is traveling, or approaching so closely from the opposite half as to be in danger.

Section 3. No Passing of Stopped Vehicles at Crosswalks

When a vehicle is stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross, other vehicles approaching from the rear must not overtake or pass the stopped vehicle.

ARTICLE VII. PARKING REGULATIONS

Section 1. It shall be unlawful to park at any time on either side of T.H. #1 (Bridge Street) from the intersection of Vt. Route 100 (Main Street) easterly for a distance of forty-five (45) feet.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful to park on the south side of T.H. #1 (Bridge Street) from a point two hundred fifteen (215) feet east of Vt. Route 100 (Main Street) easterly to the covered bridge.

Section 3. It shall be unlawful to park at any time on T.H.#24 (Bragg Hill Road) between the intersection of Vt. Route 100 (Main Street) and the Fayston town line.

Section 4. It shall be unlawful to park on T.H. #1 (Bridge Street) between the intersections of Vt. Route 100 (Main Street) and the covered bridge, and within any municipal parking lot between the hours of 12:00 AM. and 7:00 AM. from November 15th to April 30th.

Section 5. It shall be unlawful to park on T.H. #12 (Old County Road) at any point on the north side from its southern intersection with Route 100 (Main Street) and on the south side 125 feet from the intersection. It shall also be unlawful to park on the south side during any snow event.

Section 6. Any vehicle parked in violation of the provisions of this Article may be summarily removed at the owner's expense, by order of any law enforcement officer, road commissioner, or Selectboard member.

Section 7. Any vehicle removed pursuant to Section 6 of this Article shall be subject to the provisions governing abandoned motor vehicles under Title 23, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Sections 2151 through 2157, including notification to the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles and disposition in accordance with those provisions.

Section 8. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to make unlawful vehicular stops in obedience to the direction of a law enforcement officer or for causes beyond the control of the operator.

ARTICLE VIII – BRIDGE WEIGHT AND HEIGHT LIMITS

Section 1. Village Covered Bridge also known as the Great Eddy Covered Bridge (T.H. #1 Bridge Street) No vehicle shall cross the Great Eddy Covered Bridge on Bridge Street (Town Highway #1) if the gross vehicle weight exceeds three (3) tons or the vehicle height exceeds 9 feet 6 inches, except as provided in Section 3 below. Vehicles causing damage due to excessive weight or height shall be subject to penalties and liability for repairs.

No more than one vehicle shall occupy the Village Covered Bridge (Great Eddy Bridge) at any time. Vehicles approaching the bridge from either direction shall yield to any vehicle already on the bridge before proceeding.

Section 2. Pine Brook Covered Bridge on T.H. #3 North Road

No vehicle shall cross the Pine Brook Covered Bridge on Town Highway #3 if the gross vehicle weight exceeds ten (10) tons or the vehicle height exceeds 8 feet 9 inches, except as provided in Section 3 below.

No more than one vehicle shall occupy the Pine Brook Bridge at any time. Vehicles approaching the bridge from either direction shall yield to any vehicle already on the bridge before proceeding.

Section 3. Exemptions

The restrictions outlined in Sections 1 and 2 shall not apply to:

- Emergency vehicles actively responding to a call for service, including fire apparatus, ambulances, and law enforcement vehicles.

- Town-owned vehicles engaged in official municipal operations, such as road maintenance, infrastructure inspection, or public works duties, provided such use is necessary and unavoidable.

Section 4. Signage. Appropriate signage indicating weight and height limits shall be maintained at both approaches to each covered bridge listed in this Article.

ARTICLE IX – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Each violation of a provision of this ordinance shall be deemed a separate offense.

Section 2. A person who violates a provision of this ordinance shall be fined in accordance with penalties provided by state statutes, in conformance with Title 23, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 24, except that violations involving covered bridge weight or height limits shall be subject to the enhanced penalty provisions set forth in Article X of this ordinance.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable, and if any provision hereof be adjudged invalid, such judgment shall not affect the validity of any other provision.

Section 4. Any other traffic ordinance or regulation heretofore adopted by the Town of Waitsfield is hereby amended.

Section 5. This ordinance refers to the General Highway Map of the Town of Waitsfield, prepared by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, as periodically revised and updated.

Section 6. This ordinance was adopted by the Selectboard at its meeting of October 5, 1987; and amended at its meetings of August 4, 1997, June 10, 2002, February 5, 2007, October 7, 2019, October 12, 2020, with notices published in *The Valley Reporter* newspaper and copies filed in the records of the Town of Waitsfield at the time of its adoption and each amendment.

ARTICLE X. COVERED BRIDGE VIOLATIONS — PENALTIES AND DAMAGE RECOVERY

Section 1. Authority and Purpose. These provisions are established pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1397a and 23 V.S.A. § 1434(c) to protect the structural integrity, historical character, and public safety of Waitsfield's covered bridges — specifically the Village Covered Bridge (Great Eddy Bridge, T.H. #1) and the Pine Brook Covered Bridge (T.H. #3). These provisions are intended to deter violations that risk irreparable harm to these irreplaceable public structures.

Section 2. Civil Penalties for Violation of Posted Limits. In accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1434(c), any operator of a vehicle that exceeds a posted weight or height limit on a covered bridge shall be subject to a civil penalty of:

Section 2(a). \$1,000.00 for a first offense;

Section 2(b). \$2,000.00 if the violation results in substantially impeding the flow of traffic;

Section 2(c). Double the applicable penalty for a second or subsequent conviction within a three-year period.

Section 3. Liability for Repair Costs. In addition to any civil penalty assessed under Section 2 of this Article, the Town may seek the full actual cost of all damages, without limitation, through a civil action in small claims or superior court. Recoverable costs may include but are not limited to:

Section 3(a). Structural repair/replacement costs;

Section 3(b). Emergency stabilization expenses;

Section 3(c). Temporary traffic-control measures;

Section 3(d). Engineering inspection costs;

Section 3(e). Administrative and legal expenses associated with recovery.

Section 4. Strict Liability. Civil liability for repair costs under Section 3 of this Article shall apply regardless of intent and whether the operator:

Section 4(a). Damaged municipal property knowingly or unknowingly;

Section 4(b). Claims unfamiliarity with posted limits; or

Section 4(c). Claims reliance on outdated GPS mapping or routing.

Section 5. Enforcement. Violations under this Article may be enforced by the Washington County Sheriff's Department, Vermont State Police, the Waitsfield Town Constable, or other authorized municipal officials. Enforcement actions may include:

Section 5(a). Issuance and enforcement of a municipal complaint through the Vermont Superior Court;

Section 5(b). Civil damages recovery through small claims or Superior Court.

As amended by the Waitsfield Selectboard on the 11th day of May 2026 and effective as of the 11th day of July 2026.

Brian Shupe, Chair

Larissa Ursprung, Vice-Chair

Chach Curtis

Fred Messer

David Babbott-Klein