



STAFF REPORT

CITY of YORBA LINDA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

DATE: JULY 15, 2025

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: DE ANNE WIGGINTON, CHIEF OF POLICE SERVICES/CAPTAIN
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SUBJECT: ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1114 – E-BIKE ORDINANCE

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve for first reading Ordinance No. 2025-1114 (Attachment 1) adding new Chapter 10.80 (Regulated Mobility Devices) to Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Yorba Linda Municipal Code regarding operation of regulated mobility devices such as electric bicycles (E-bikes).

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the use of electric bicycles and similar mobility devices has grown rapidly across the United States and within Yorba Linda. Between 2019 and 2022, national sales of e-bikes rose by more than 269%, with annual sales exceeding one million units. This trend reflects broader adoption of these devices as both recreational and transportation tools. However, the increase in popularity has also introduced new challenges related to public safety, youth ridership, high travel speeds, conflicts with pedestrians, and increased incidents on local trails.

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) provides definitions and classifications for e-bikes and similar personal mobility devices and authorizes local jurisdictions to further regulate their use within sidewalks, trails, and other public rights-of-way. In response to growing concerns, cities throughout California have adopted local ordinances that complement state laws with more tailored community standards.

Yorba Linda has experienced a noticeable uptick in the presence and use of e-bikes and related devices, especially in residential neighborhoods, near schools, and in public spaces such as parks and trails. In light of these concerns, the City is advancing a proposed ordinance to help promote safer and more consistent operation of these devices. As part of the City's effort to engage the community, several public outreach meetings have been conducted to educate residents, receive feedback, and build awareness of the City's intent to establish local regulations.

DISCUSSION

The ordinance introduces a comprehensive framework regulating a broad category of mobility devices, referred to collectively as “regulated mobility devices.” These include electric bicycles of all classes, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electrically motorized boards, low-speed vehicles, motorized scooters, and shared mobility devices.

The ordinance begins by outlining the purpose and intent of the proposed regulations, emphasizing the City’s commitment to ensuring safe use of mobility devices within publicly accessible areas and reducing unsafe behaviors. Definitions within the ordinance are aligned with the California Vehicle Code to ensure consistency, and include specific terms such as enforcement officers, shared mobility devices, and parks.

Operational standards are defined within the ordinance to prohibit a variety of unsafe practices. These include riding against traffic, exceeding speed limits of 25 mph, carrying passengers under the age of 16, failing to yield to pedestrians, operating without helmets for riders under 18, tampering with or modifying devices, and engaging in reckless actions such as swerving or attaching to moving vehicles.

The ordinance also authorizes the City Council to designate specific areas where the operation of these devices is prohibited, via resolution. Additionally, the City Engineer is empowered to install signage informing the public of such restrictions.

Lastly, the ordinance provides for limited exemptions, including those for public agency personnel operating in the course of official duties, and individuals with disabilities utilizing mobility devices as protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Traffic Commission reviewed the draft ordinance on June 2, 2025 and their input has been incorporated into the attached e-bike ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council may choose not to adopt the proposed e-bike ordinance; however, staff do not recommend this alternative. E-bike-related issues have been an ongoing concern in the community, and adoption of the ordinance would provide the Orange County Sheriff’s Department with the authority to enforce violations and enhance public safety.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- E-Bike Ordinance No. 2025-1114
