

# DRAFT E-BIKE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

## Summary

The following draft policy is a framework for a comprehensive E-Bike Registration Program designed to enhance safety, accountability, and responsible use of the City of Sanibel's Shared Use Path (SUP) system by e-bike users. As reflected in the 2026 Shared Use Path (SUP) Count Report, presented at the April 21, 2026, Council meeting, the City continues to experience increased usage of the SUP system by pedestrians, traditional bike riders and e-bike riders across the island. This growing demand creates a need for a clear regulatory framework for e-bike users to protect all SUP users while preserving the character and safety of Sanibel's transportation network.

This policy establishes a registration program, outlines permitted e-bike classes, defines user eligibility, and introduces enforceable safety standards and penalties.

## Policy Objectives

The proposed E-Bike Registration Policy is designed to:

- Improve safety for all SUP users through clear e-bike operational standards.
- Promote accountability by requiring visible registration decals.
- Provide enforceable guidelines aligned with City Code and Florida Statutes.
- Support equitable access for residents, workforce members, and visitors.

## Key Policy Components

### 1. Mandatory Registration and Identification

All e-bikes operated on City SUPs must be registered annually (January 1–December 31) through the Sanibel Recreation Center. Upon registration, each e-bike will receive a color-coded decal indicating its class, which must be prominently displayed on the front handlebar/gooseneck area.

This visible identification enables efficient compliance monitoring and supports enforcement efforts.

### 2. E-Bike Class Regulations

The policy defines three classes of e-bikes:

- **Class 1 (Pedal-assist, ≤20 mph)**
  - Permitted for residents, on-island employees, and non-residents (age 16+)

- Annual registration required
- **Class 2 (Throttle-assisted, ≤20 mph)**
  - Restricted to residents and on-island employees only (age 16+)
  - Annual registration required
- **Class 3 (Pedal-assist, ≤28 mph)**
  - Restricted to residents and on-island employees only (age 16+)
  - Annual registration required

### 3. Fee Structure

The proposed annual registration fees:

<b>E-Bike Class</b>	<b>Residents</b>	<b>On-Island Employees</b>	<b>Sanibel Business (Rentals, Resorts, etc.)</b>	<b>Non-Residents</b>
<b>Class 1</b>	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
<b>Class 2</b>	\$10	\$10	Not permitted	Not permitted
<b>Class 3</b>	\$10	\$10	Not permitted	Not permitted

\*The goal of the tiered fee structure is to prioritize safety while offering a balanced approach for managing emerging e-bike trends among residents, non-residents and supporting on-island employees (recruitment / retention) and Sanibel businesses. Staff considered a higher non-resident fee but were concerned it could discourage visitors while the island is still recovering. Staff seeks Council direction on the appropriate non-resident fee.

### 4. Application and Eligibility Requirements

Applicants would complete an application and must also provide:

- **All:** Documentation of e-bike class (bill of sale or manufacturer specifications)
- **All:** Signed acknowledgment of the SUP Code of Conduct
- **Residents:** Proof of residency or property ownership, or valid Sanibel address
- **Residents:** List of authorized e-bike operators, residing at Sanibel address, (ages 16+)
- **On-Island Employee:** Proof of on-island employment (such as current paystub)
  - Employers registering e-bikes for employees must also agree to revoke permits and remove decals within 10 days of employment termination, ensuring ongoing compliance.
- **Sanibel Business:** Proof of current Business Tax Receipt (BTR)

### 5. Safety and Code of Conduct

All registered users must agree to a Shared Use Path Code of Conduct emphasizing:

- Abide by posted speed limits throughout SUP system. Compliance with all City regulations.

- Comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations.
- Yielding to pedestrians and giving an audible signal when passing.
- Stay to the right of yellow line and be alert to any obstacles on the SUP.
- SUP users should wear no more than one more earbud or other listening device.
- At night, bicycles must be equipped with a white light on the front and a red light on the rear.

## **6. Enforcement and Penalties**

Graduated enforcement framework consistent with existing code:

- First offense, the person liable for the violation shall be issued a written warning advising such person of the violation; provided, however, no civil penalty shall be assessed for a first offense.
- Second offense, a civil penalty of \$100.00, plus a filing fee of \$10.00; provided the penalty is paid within 15 days after issuance of the ticket. In the event the penalty is paid after 15 days, the payment required shall be a civil penalty of \$125.00, plus a filing fee of \$10.00.
- Third offense, a civil penalty of \$350.00, plus a filing fee of \$10.00.
- Fourth or subsequent offense, a civil penalty of \$500.00, plus a filing fee of \$10.00.

## **Implementation Considerations**

- Development of registration forms and decal system
- Public education campaign prior to implementation (updating website, videos, signage, print materials, etc.)
- Coordination with law enforcement for enforcement protocols
- Program review after the first year to assess effectiveness
- Proration of fees if implemented prior to January 1, 2027