



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Recreation Department

City Council Meeting Date: February 3, 2026

To: City Council
From: Andrea Miller, Recreation Director
Date: January 21, 2026

SUBJECT: Continued E-Bike Discussion

BACKGROUND: At the November 4, 2025, City Council meeting, Councilmember Johnson requested that the City Council consider holding another discussion on the use of Class 2 e-bikes on the Shared Use Path (SUP). After a brief discussion, the City Council agreed to discuss e-bikes again after the 2025-2026 "season" concludes.

During City Council discussion at the December 16, 2025, City Council meeting, Mayor Miller requested that the topic of e-bike use on the SUP be placed as an agenda item prior to the end of season. After a brief discussion, the City Council agreed and the City Manager stated he would target the e-bike discussion for the February 2026, City Council meeting.

At both the November 4, and the December 16, 2025, City Council meetings, Councilmember DeBruce informed the City Council that she would recuse herself from City Council discussions on e-bikes as she owns a business that rents e-bikes.

Review of Recent E-Bike Discussions

At the request of the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) discussed six areas related to e-bikes at its May 16, 2024, meeting and compiled recommendations that were presented to the City Council on June 4, 2024. At that meeting, Council asked PRAC to revisit several at its June 20, 2024, meeting and provide feedback at the July 16, 2024, City Council meeting.

The City Council considered PRAC's recommendations on July 16, 2024, and directed staff to draft an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 66 Traffic, Article V Bicycles, Micromobility Devices, Motorized Scooters, and Mopeds to:

1. Authorize the City Manager to establish speed limits on the SUP based on the conditions of the SUP.
2. Post bicycle speed limits using pavement markings and vertical signs.
3. Reduced the age for someone to operate a Class 1 e-bike on the SUP from 18 years old to 16 years old.

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4. Minor text amendments for clarification.

Ordinance 24-014 was drafted as directed and was approved at 2nd reading on September 9, 2024, with an effective date of October 1, 2024.

Background Documents

Several documents are included in the agenda packet for City Council's reference. These include:

- 1) Chapter 66 Traffic, Article V Bicycles, Micromobility Devices, Motorized Scooters, and Mopeds
- 2) Ordinance 24-014 and PRAC 2024 Recommendation
- 3) Six E-Bike Related Questions for Consideration (2024 Discussion)
- 4) List of Shared Use Path Completed Projects
- 5) Sanibel Police Department Shared Use Path Incident Matrix and Speed Reports
- 6) Public Comment

2026 Proposed Florida Legislation Related to Electric Bikes (E-Bikes)

The 2026 Legislative Session has seen two Bills filed that, if approved, would regulate the use of electric bikes.

The current version of [House Bill 243](#) – Electric Bicycles (HB 243) and current version of [Senate Bill 382](#) – Electric Bicycles – (SB 382) proposes to:

- Require persons operating an e-bike on a shared pathway to yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before passing a pedestrians.
- Prohibit persons operating an e-bike on an area designated for pedestrians from exceeding 10 mph when riding within 50 feet of a pedestrian.
- Create an Electric Bicycle Safety Task Force that is to recommend improvements to state law for the regulation of e-bikes to encourage the safe operation of e-bikes to prevent accidents/injuries.
 - o The Task Force will be required to produce a report to the Governor and Legislature by October 1, 2026, with their recommendations.
- Establish requirements for law enforcement agencies/departments to record/report traffic crashes involving e-bikes. Reports are to include:
 - o Date/time of crash.
 - o The e-bike class that was involved in the crash.
 - o The age of the operator.
 - o If the operator had a valid driver's license or permit at the time of the crash.
- Require each law enforcement agency/department to submit a report for all e-bike crashes that occurred within the jurisdiction from the time the law is enacted through September 30, 2026. The report must be submitted to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles by October 15, 2026.

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

RECOMENDED ACTION: Council discussion and direction to staff

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