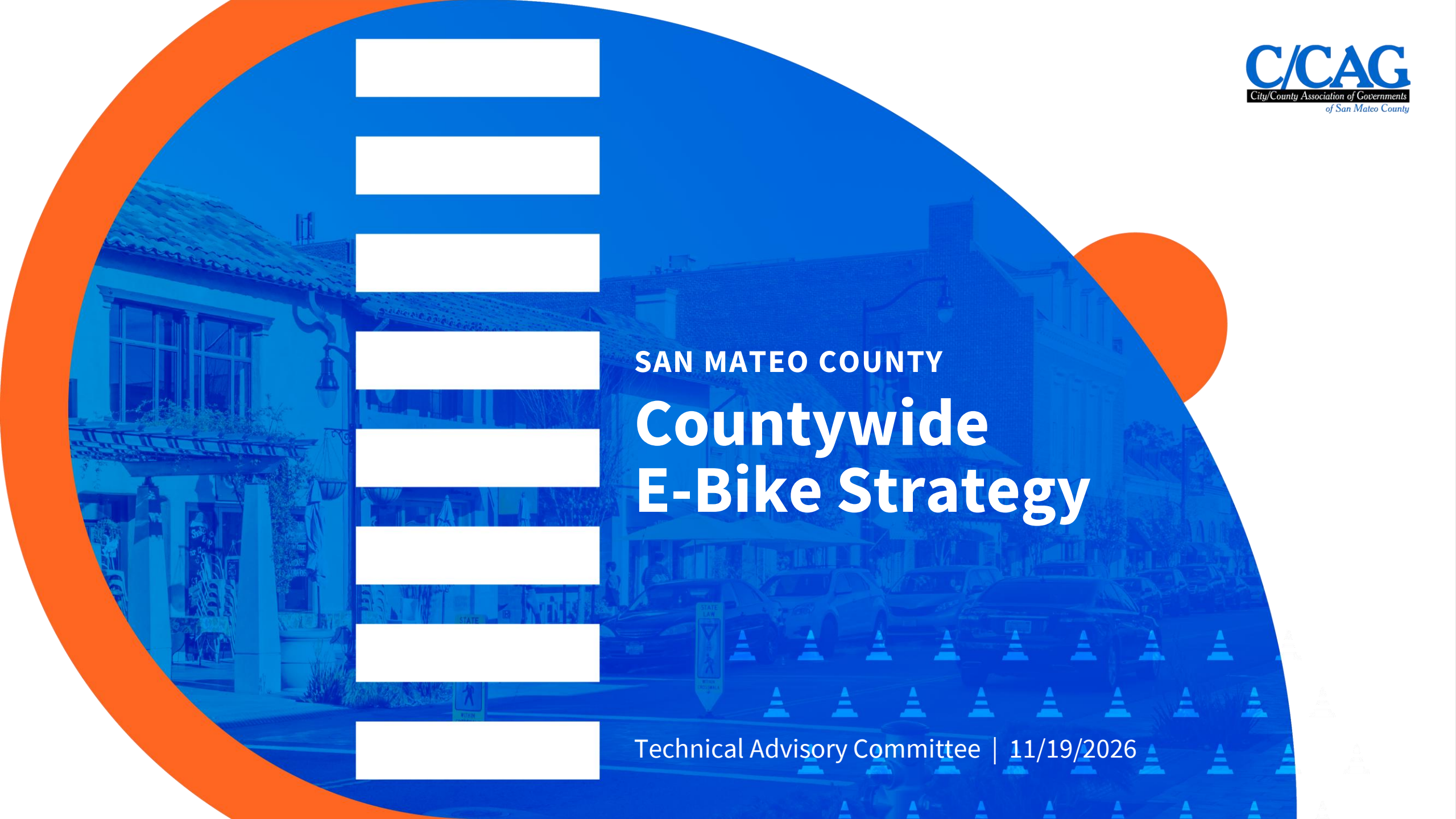


SAN MATEO COUNTY

Countywide E-Bike Strategy

Technical Advisory Committee | 11/19/2026



Agenda

01 Project Overview

02 Model E-Bike Ordinance

03 C/CAG's Recommendations

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Section 1

Project Overview

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Real safety concerns

High profile-crashes

Several serious and fatal youth crashes have increased urgency around e-bike and e-moto safety

Not just enforcement

Safety risks are shaped by device characteristics, facility design, and rider behavior, so solutions need to go beyond enforcement alone

Ongoing conversations

In San Mateo County, there have been ongoing conversations among leaders and stakeholders regarding how to respond to these concerns

Real benefits

Removing barriers

E-bikes reduce barriers to bicycling and allow people to make trips that may not feel practical on a standard bicycle

Mode shift

E-bikes also replace trips that otherwise would have been made by car, especially commute and personal errand trips

Cost savings

E-bikes are cheaper to operate than cars

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A countywide strategy to align e-bike policies and practices

- E-bike use is growing across San Mateo County
- Local agencies are facing similar policy issues
- Several serious and fatal youth crashes have increased concern



C/CAG's e-bike delivery strategy

Resources to support agencies with local implementation:



STAKEHOLDER FACILITATION



ANALYSIS & MONITORING



GRANTS & FUNDING



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



POLICY SUPPORT

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C/CAG's e-bike delivery strategy

A model for how the agency can support local implementation:



STAKEHOLDER FACILITATION

ANALYSIS & MONITORING

GRANTS & FUNDING

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

POLICY SUPPORT

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Project Timeline

Q3 2026

- Introduce project at the Transportation Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) meeting
- Review model ordinance and design guidelines with staff

Q4 2026

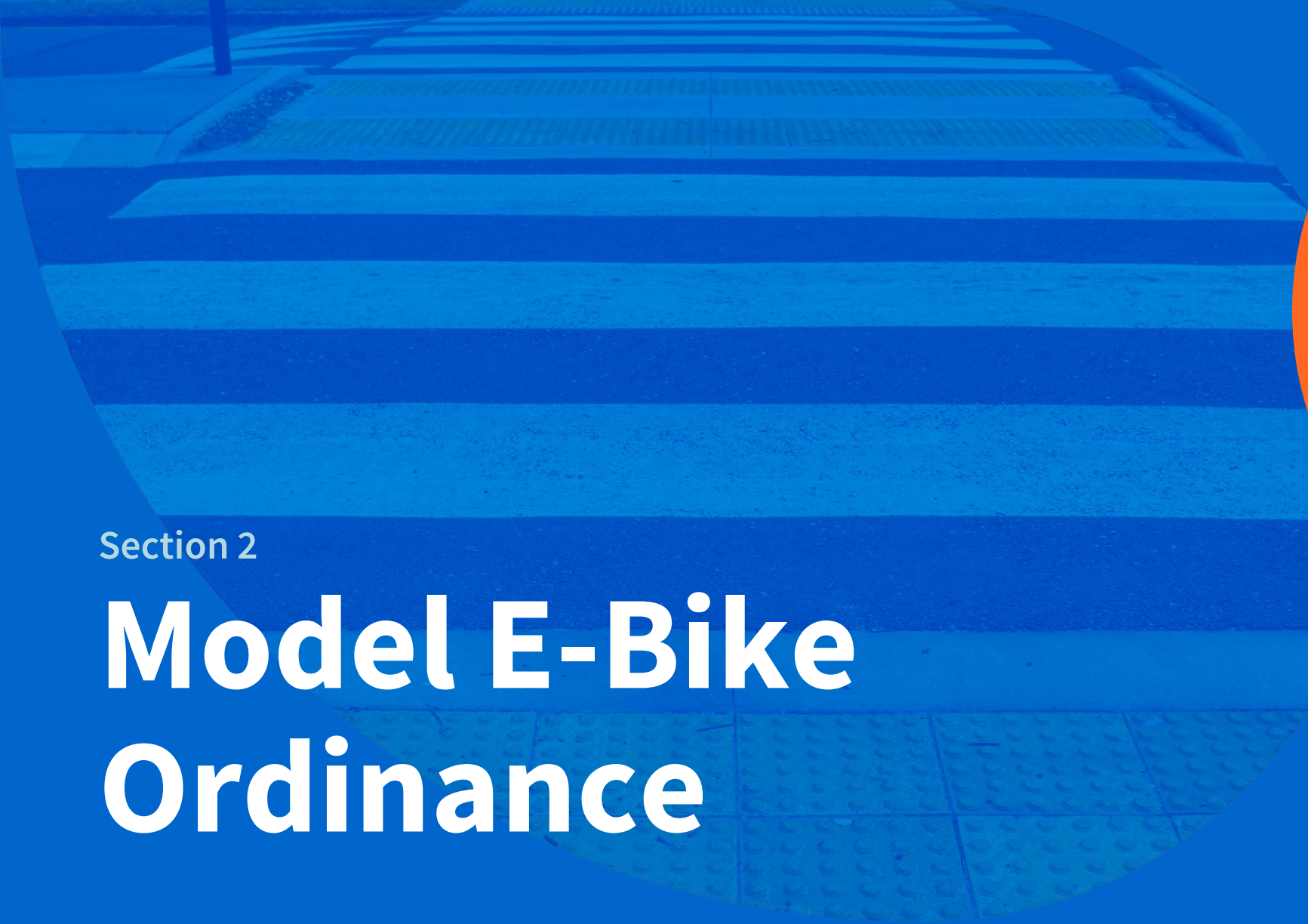
- Model ordinance becomes available
- Drafting countywide strategy

WE ARE HERE

Q1 2027

- Release Draft Countywide Strategy
- Workshop: Develop an e-bike action plan for your city/agency

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Section 2

Model E-Bike Ordinance

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Two 2026 state laws shape e-bike rules in the county

Assembly Bill 2595

Creates a San Mateo County e-bike safety pilot program, including:

- Authority to restrict e-bike use by children under 12
- Warning period
- $25 fines after the warning period
- Public education and reporting requirements

Senate Bill 1167

Tightens statewide e-bike sales rules starting January 1, 2027, including:

- No e-motos sold or marketed as e-bikes
- Labels that add brand and manufacturer to class, speed, and wattage
- Label installation limited to retailers and repair shops
- No change to Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes

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San Mateo County updated its own e-bike rules

What Ayden's Law Regulates

Adds rules for e-bikes in unincorporated San Mateo County, including:

- Unsafe operation,
- Sidewalk riding,
- Device tampering,
- Unlawful higher-powered devices, etc.

Devices, Fines, and Enforcement

Takes effect January 1, 2027, with:

- Coverage of e-scooters, e-skateboards, and mopeds as well as e-bikes
- Enforcement by the Sheriff's Office
- Graduated fines of $50, $200, and $500

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Shared Provisions in C/CAG and County Ordinances

Provision	C/CAG Model Ordinance	County Chapter 7.80
Prohibition on unsafe or reckless operation (Section 4)	✓	✓
Passenger restrictions (Section 4)	✓	✓
Sidewalk riding with a speed limit (Section 6)	✓	✓
Yield and audible signal when passing on sidewalks (Section 6)	✓	✓
Graduated fine schedule (Section 8)	✓	✓
Education alternative to fines (Section 8)	✓	✓
Appeal process that considers ability to pay (Section 8)	✓	✓
Parent or guardian joint liability for a minor's fine (Section 8)	✓	✓
Impound of devices ridden by cited minors (Section 8)	✓	✓
Prohibition on riding illegal motorcycles (e-motos) (Section 2)	✓	✓

Source: Fehr & Peers, Ordinance Templates and Guidance (Document B), 2026.

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Differences Between C/CAG and County Ordinances

Provision	C/CAG Model Ordinance	County Chapter 7.80
Under-12 age limit for Class 1 and 2 e-bikes (Section 5)	✓	
General operating rules, e.g., rights and duties, traffic control (Section 3)	✓	
Pedestrian-only areas (Section 6)	✓	
Shared use path speed limits (Section 6)	✓	
Temporary and special event restrictions (Section 7)	✓	
Data monitoring and reporting (Section 8)	✓	
Impound of devices that do not meet state definitions (Section 8)	✓	
Covers e-scooters, e-skateboards, and other e-micromobility devices		✓
Civil action against parents for property damage caused by minors		✓
Prohibition on parking that blocks sidewalks		✓
Prohibition on altering serial numbers		✓

Source: Fehr & Peers, Ordinance Templates and Guidance (Document B), 2026.

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C/CAG has developed a model ordinance



Approach

Acknowledges the role that e-bikes play in the transportation network while addressing unsafe behaviors



Provisions

General device operations, prohibited behaviors and devices, sidewalk operations, and enforcement



Ready to Adopt

Uses CVC definitions where possible and relates to county and state policy

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The ordinance covers six topic areas

General Operating Rules

Rider rights and duties on roadways, sidewalks, and paths, including following posted signs

Standards of Safe Operation

Existing state rules on reckless riding, speed, direction of travel, and passengers

Minimum Age for Class I & II

State pilot program that limits Class 1 and 2 e-bike use by riders under 12

Location-Specific Rules

Where and how people may ride on sidewalks, shared use paths, and pedestrian-only areas

Special Event Rules

Temporary restrictions for events, construction, and other short-term conditions

Enforcement and Monitoring

Education-first enforcement, graduated fines, and countywide data tracking

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Section 3

C/CAG's Recommendations

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Principles for an effective ordinance

Rules work when they are clear, memorable, and consistent across jurisdictions.

The model ordinance improves safety while preserving the mobility e-bikes provide.

Education first

Warnings, education campaigns, and safety courses come before escalating fines

Signage supports enforcement

Location-specific rules and path speed limits apply only where signs give notice

Realistic administration

Provisions stay workable for law enforcement agencies with limited resources

Shared data

Jurisdictions track collisions and enforcement so the county can see patterns no single city could

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General Operating Rules

Restates Existing State Law | **New Local Law**

Provisions

- Gives riders the rights and duties of drivers
- Applies roadway standards to sidewalks and paths
- Requires obeying signs and pavement markings

Considerations

- Whether counsel finds restating state law appropriate in your jurisdiction
- Upkeep if state law changes
- Education on existing law as an alternative

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Standards of Safe Operation

Restates Existing State Law | New Local Law

Provisions

- Prohibits reckless riding
- Prohibits riding too fast for conditions
- Prohibits wrong-way riding
- Limits passengers and holding onto vehicles

Considerations

- Possible preemption under Vehicle Code §21
- Whether it is enforceable only as an infraction
- Upkeep if state law changes

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Minimum Age for Class 1 and 2 E-Bikes

Restates Existing State Law | **New Local Law**

Provisions

- Bars riders under 12 from Class 1 and 2 e-bikes
- Issues warnings only for the first 60 days
- Sets a $25 fine, waived after a safety course
- Makes parents liable for the fine
- Requires 30+ days of outreach before start

Considerations

- Confirm champions for obligations
- Works best if every county agency adopts it
- Police or Sheriff data feeds a countywide report due January 1, 2030
- Lessons from the San Diego pilot report
- State authority expires January 1, 2031

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Location-Specific Rules

Restates Existing State Law | **New Local Law**

Provisions

- Allows sidewalk riding where no bikeway exists
- Sets a 10 mph sidewalk limit and yielding rules
- Prohibits riding in pedestrian-only areas
- Sets a 15 mph limit on shared use paths

Considerations

- Sidewalks may be the only option without low-stress bikeways
- Whether state law allows a sidewalk limit below 10 mph
- Signs needed for pedestrian-only areas and path limits
- State options of 10, 15, or 20 mph on paths

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Temporary and Special Event Rules

Restates Existing State Law | **New Local Law**

Provisions

- Lets staff set limits for events or construction
- Enforces limits only where signs are posted

Considerations

- Whether to delegate this authority to staff
- Temporary signs for each restriction

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Enforcement, Penalties, and Monitoring

Restates Existing State Law | **New Local Law**

Provisions

- Allows warnings, citations, or diversion
- Sets fines up to $50, $200, and $500
- Offers a safety course instead of a fine
- Requires appeal rights and ability-to-pay review
- Requires annual collision and citation reports
- Allows removal of out-of-class devices

Considerations

- Which officials enforce, with police or Sheriff input
- Whether fines matching County rules are defensible
- Who provides the safety course
- Staff time and privacy needs for data sharing
- Optional cost recovery for vehicle removal

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Preparing for Adoption

Working Group

- Public works, police, counsel, and others as appropriate
- Review the draft together
- Flag implementation questions early

Adoption

- First reading
- Council or board public meeting
- Second reading at a later meeting
- Publish, then take effect

Public Education

- Webpage summarizing the rules
- Outreach with schools, police, and community groups
- Repeat for new riders
- Required if adopting Section 5 (Minimum age adjustment for Class 1 or 2 e-bikes)

Signs and Maps

- Signs, maps, and pavement markings
- Focus where rules vary by location
- Show rules where behavior needs to change

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Next Steps

- Convene your working group and review the draft with counsel
- Plan your adoption schedule
  - Several elements go into effect January 1, 2027
- Attend upcoming Transportation Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) Meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm
- C/CAG will conduct the following:
  - preparing staff report and presentation templates
  - monitor adoption of the local ordinance

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Thank you!

Questions?

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