



City Council Report

Date: December 8, 2025
To: City Council
Through: Candace Cannistraro/Deputy City Manager
From: Andrea Moore, Director
Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department
Subject: Proposed Electric Bicycle Updates to Park and Transportation Regulations Ordinances

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to request City Council approval of the proposed ordinances (Exhibit A and Exhibit B) to update the public park regulations and City traffic code regulations to allow the use of certain electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric scooters (e-scooters) in City parks and/or shared-use paths, subject to certain limitations. The proposed ordinances will provide updates to Park Regulations 6-10-2, 6-10-4, 6-10-7, and 6-10-8 and City Traffic Code Regulations 10-1-8, 10-1-9, 10-1-14, and 10-1-16.

Background

Currently, e-bikes and e-scooters are not permitted in City of Mesa parks. The City recognizes e-bike usage has grown in popularity across the United States as a means of recreation and transportation. Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities has received multiple citizen requests over the years related to the use of e-bikes and electric scooters in parks. Revising the Code to allow certain motorized electric vehicles, setting forth clear regulations for where these motorized electric vehicles are allowed, clearly defining a motor vehicle and a motorized electric vehicle, and outlining safe operation requirements is necessary to meet the changing needs of our community.

Discussion

Updating City Code to consider allowing e-bikes in parks was discussed with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on November 13, 2024, and again on November 12, 2025. An overview from the Police Department of laws and education related to electric bike use took place at the Transportation Advisory Board on September 16, 2025. No formal action was taken by either board. Then, the Public Safety Committee was given an overview of these code updates on October 23, 2025, and the committee suggested some additional changes that were incorporated into the code updates and was overall

in favor of these ordinances going before Council. A discussion of the primary changes in the updated regulations follows:

The ordinance will amend the prohibited activities and restrictions to allow for the use of class 1 and class 2 e-bikes and e-scooters in parks. The ordinance will prohibit the use of class 3 e-bikes and any other type of motorized electric vehicle. The ordinance also provides clarification on safe operations of motorized electric vehicles in parks with a focus on operating at a safe speed, areas available for use, and giving pedestrians the right-of-way.

The park ordinance will also change the language of multi-use path to shared-use path to remain consistent with City Traffic Code and allow class 1 e-bikes, class 2 e-bikes, electric standup scooters, and motorized skateboards on share-use paths. This update also emphasizes that pedestrians have the right-of-way.

The traffic code ordinance will amend regulations to allow class 1 and class 2 e-bikes and e-scooters in parks with a speed limit of five miles per hour. The transportation ordinance introduces a helmet requirement where a person under the age of eighteen (18) years old driving, riding or operating a class 1 or class 2 e-bike or an e-scooter must wear a protective helmet.

The proposed changes to the public park and traffic code regulations are intended to facilitate patron enjoyment of the park system, assist with enforcement tools when inappropriate use occurs, and to provide clarity on allowable uses of e-bikes and e-scooters within the park system and shared-use paths.

If Council adopts the ordinances, the effective date will be 30 days after adoption. This will allow time for increased time for education of park patrons as to the new policies, procedures, and possible penalties.

Alternatives

City Council can recommend additional or different changes to the Mesa City Code Title 6, Chapter 10 public park regulations and to the Mesa City Code Title 10, Chapter 1 City traffic code regulations.

No action shall have the effect of leaving all portions of City Code as they currently exists.

Fiscal Impact

These changes are not expected to have a significant fiscal impact.

Coordinated With

The report and draft ordinance were completed in coordination with the City Attorney's Office, Transportation Department, Police Department, and Mesa Fire and Medical Department.