



Public Safety Committee Report

Date: October 23, 2025
To: Public Safety Committee
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 Public Safety Committee support 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 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 10-1-16.

Background

Currently, e-bikes 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. 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. 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 in parks. The ordinance will prohibit the use of class 3 e-bikes, electric scooters, and any other motorized electric vehicle not listed as allowed.

The ordinance also provides clarification on what safe operation of permitted motor vehicles and motorized electric vehicles in parks entails with a focus on operating at a safe speed, areas available for use, and giving pedestrians and people using a mobility device 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 or people using a mobility device have the right-of-way.

The traffic code ordinance will amend regulations to allow class 1 and class 2 e-bikes in parks. 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 electric bicycle or class 2 electric bicycle shall at all times wear a protective helmet on their head in an appropriate and safely secured manner.

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 of the park system occurs, and to provide clarity on allowable uses of e-bikes and electric scooters within the park system and shared-use paths.

If the Public Safety Committee supports the ordinances, they will be placed on a City Council Meeting agenda for discussion and consideration. If approved by the City Council, 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

The Public Safety Committee 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. Staff will incorporate committee feedback into the ordinances before the presentation to City Council.

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.