



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL  
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: April 14, 2026

SUBJECT: INTRODUCE FOR FIRST READING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA ADDING CHAPTER 12.38 TO THE LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH THE LA MESA ELECTRIC BICYCLE SAFETY PILOT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE SECTIONS 21214.7, 312.5, AND 22651.08

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council introduce for first reading an ordinance adding Chapter 12.38 to the La Mesa Municipal Code to establish the La Mesa Electric Bicycle Safety Pilot Program pursuant to California Vehicle Code sections 21214.7, 312.5, and 22651.08

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this item.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Maintain a community where residents and visitors feel safe.

BACKGROUND:

On January 27, 2026, the City Council directed staff to draft an ordinance establishing rules governing the use of electric bicycles ("e-bikes") within the City to protect the health, safety, and welfare of e-bike riders and the general public.

In September 2024, the State of California enacted Assembly Bill 2234, which authorizes cities within San Diego County to develop and implement Electric Bicycle Safety Pilot

**Report to Mayor and Councilmembers**

**Date: April 14, 2026**

**Page: 2 of 3**

Programs. The legislation permits participating jurisdictions to regulate the operation of electric bicycles, including the authority to:

- Prohibit persons under 12 years of age from operating Class 1 or Class 2 electric bicycles
- Establish violation and enforcement procedures
- Require safety education or training programs
- Collect and report specific data related to the program

Pursuant to state law, the pilot program authority sunsets on January 1, 2029, unless extended by the Legislature.

Locally, the City of La Mesa has experienced a growing number of e-bike-related incidents. In 2025, the City received 52 e-bike-related calls for service, and since 2023, there have been six collisions involving e-bikes. These data points demonstrate a need to evaluate and strengthen the City's regulatory framework to better support rider safety, encourage responsible operation, and reduce risks to both e-bike users and the broader community.

**DISCUSSION:**

The proposed ordinance establishes the La Mesa Electric Bicycle Safety Pilot Program and adopts regulations consistent with the authority granted under AB 2234 and the California Vehicle Code. Key components include:

- Minimum age requirements for operating Class 1 and Class 2 electric bicycles
- Safety education or training requirements for violators
- Enforcement mechanisms and administrative cost recovery consistent with state law
- Data collection and reporting obligations
- An authorization for peace officers to remove certain unlawfully operated vehicles pursuant to California Vehicle Code section 22651.08

The ordinance is intended to support safe riding practices, reduce the number of collisions and near-miss events, and promote responsible e-bike use within the community.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends the City Council introduce for first reading an ordinance adding Chapter 12.38 to the La Mesa Municipal Code to establish the La Mesa Electric Bicycle Safety Pilot Program pursuant to California Vehicle Code sections 21214.7, 312.5, and 22651.08

**Report to Mayor and Councilmembers**  
**Date: April 14, 2026**  
**Page: 3 of 3**

Reviewed by:



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Greg Humora  
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



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Amanda Lee  
Assistant City Manager

- Attachments:
- A. Electric Bicycle Ordinance
  - B. Assembly Bill No. 2234