

Peninsula Community Planning Board
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Date: September 12th, 2023

TO: Todd Gloria, City of San Diego Mayor
Dr. Jennifer Campbell, Councilmember District 2
Everett Hauser, City of San Diego Transportation Division
Cody Petterson, San Diego Unified Board of Trustee District C

Subject: Request for the Implementation of E-Bike Regulations for the City of San Diego

On behalf of the Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB), we would like to express our deep appreciation for your continuous commitment to enhancing the safety and quality of life for the residents of our beautiful city.

We are writing to bring to your attention an issue of growing concern within our community, which is the safe and responsible use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) on San Diego's roads and pathways. In recent months, our neighboring city, Encinitas, has taken commendable steps to create a set of e-bike regulations aimed at ensuring the safety of both e-bike riders and other road users. We believe it is now essential for San Diego to follow suit and implement similar regulations.

The regulations established by the City of Encinitas have proven effective in promoting responsible e-bike usage. We kindly request that the City of San Diego consider adopting these regulations, which we believe will significantly enhance safety on our roads and provide clear guidelines for e-bike riders.

We believe individuals under 12 years of age should be banned from operating electric bicycles of any class, a crucial step in ensuring the safety of our youngest riders. We recognize the need for the city of San Diego and San Diego Unified School District to establish an e-bike license program, including an online written test and state-issued photo identification for individuals without a valid driver's license, promoting responsible e-bike usage. Additionally, the establishment of a stakeholders working group, composed of various relevant parties, is a commendable approach to collaboratively develop recommendations for an e-bike training program and license.

Here are the key provisions from the city of Encinitas that we recommend adopting.

Helmets are required for cyclists aged 17 and under.

Follow traffic lights, signs, and signals, even on e-bikes.

Use the bike lane if riding slower than traffic; exceptions for turns, passing, hazards, right-turning cars.

Sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians only; dismount and walk e-bikes.

Yield to pedestrians at crosswalks.

Match average traffic speed, slow down around pedestrians.

Stop at red lights and stop signs.

No weaving in and out of traffic.

Don't ride against traffic flow.

Ride to the right edge of the road when practical.

Use reflective equipment at night.

Use bike lane if available; keep up with traffic.

No passengers on e-bikes unless equipped with an extra seat or child safety seat.

We believe that implementing similar regulations in San Diego will contribute to the safety of all road users and foster a more harmonious coexistence between e-bike riders and pedestrians, as well as other vehicles. We kindly request your support and leadership in pursuing the adoption of these regulations within the City of San Diego.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to further discussions and collaboration to ensure the safety and well-being of our community members. This letter was approved (00-00).

Sincerely ,

Frederick Kosmo
PCPB-Chair