

Memorandum



City of Tempe

Date: October 24, 2016
To: Mayor and Council
Through: Councilmembers Lauren Kuby, David Schapira, and Vice Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage
From: Kristin Gwinn, Council Aide
Subject: **Electric Bicycles Working Group Recommendation**

BACKGROUND:

On March 17, 2016, the Mayor and Council approved the request to create a City Manager's Working Group exploring potential regulation of electric bicycles and other light motorized vehicles. There are currently no regulations for these vehicles at the state or municipal level but their popularity continues to grow. In a multi-modal city like Tempe, electric bikes are becoming increasingly common and in the interest of public safety, baseline regulations must be put in place to ensure public safety.

The Working Group met with staff from Transportation, the Police Department, and City Attorney's office and reached out to community stakeholders including residents and representatives from local businesses and organizations such as Lectric-Cycles, The Bicycle Cellar, and Tempe Bicycle Action Group. Additionally, the Working Group coordinated with a national organization called People for Bikes that has been working with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to develop language that could serve as a template regionally and statewide in the regulation of electric bicycles.

The Working Group discussed various issues including safe speeds, classification of various types of vehicles, and the interaction between light motorized vehicles, pedestrians, and horses on our multi-use paths. Recent laws passed in other jurisdictions were explored as possible models for Tempe, and the attached ordinance includes some language from a recent California law which is now a model for state and local laws across the country.

ORDINANCE:

The attached ordinance includes the following provisions:

- Defines electric bicycles and electric personal assistance mobility devices as compared to other light motorized vehicles.
- Grants electric bicycles all rights and duties applicable to bicycle riders, including yielding right of way to pedestrians.
- Limits electric bikes to speeds of 28 miles per hour or posted speed limit on roads and bike lanes and 20 miles per hour on shared or multi-use paths.
- Prohibits anyone under the age of 16 from riding an electric bicycle and requires that any rider or passenger under the age of 18 wear a protective helmet.
- Designates violation of this article as a civil violation with minimum fine of \$100.

DIRECTION:

Respectfully request that Council approve and forward the attached ordinance to the next available Regular Council Meeting for public hearing and vote.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

Councilmember Lauren Kuby
Councilmember David Schapira
Vice Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage

STAFF ASSISTING THE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Director of Public Works, Transportation/Traffic Engineering
Sue Taaffe, Public Works Supervisor
Bill Amato, Police Legal Advisor
Amanda Nelson, Public Information Officer
Elizabeth Higgins, Chief of Staff – Mayor and Council
Kristin Gwinn, Council Aide

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ASSISTING THE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

Lectric Cycles - Chris Head, Electric Bike Manufacturer
The Bicycle Cellar – Bike Sales
Tempe Bicycle Action Group – Ryan Guzy
Darryl Jacobson Barnes – Circle G HOA
Chris Boyles – Calle de Caballos HOA