
CITY OF TEMPE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**Council Meeting Date: 12/08/2016**
Agenda Item: 6B5

ACTION: Introduce and hold the first public hearing to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 7 of the Tempe City Code relating to Bicycles and Light Motorized Vehicles, by adding new Articles VI and VII regulating the operation of electric bicycles and light motorized vehicles. The second and final public hearing is scheduled for January 12, 2017. (Ordinance No. O2017.05)

FISCAL IMPACT: Violation of this ordinance would result in a minimum fine of \$100 per occurrence.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Ordinance No. O2016.05.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: 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 worked 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 had 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 proposed ordinance includes the following regulation:

- 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.

ATTACHMENTS: Ordinance

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