

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.4  
(ID # 25986)

MEETING DATE:  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024

FROM : BOS DISTRICT 3

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON: Direct the Executive Office to initiate an E-Bike Safety Ordinance and to create and/or update enforcement and registration strategies. [All Districts] [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Executive Office to work with County Counsel to prepare an Electric Bike (E-Bike) Safety Ordinance as well as prepare possible amendments to other existing County Ordinances to establish regulations for e-bike usage in the Unincorporated Communities of Riverside County to promote the safe and responsible use of e-bikes.

ACTION:Policy

  
Supervisor Chuck Washington, Chair 9/12/2024

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: Spiegel  
Date: September 17, 2024  
xc: BOS-Dist. 3, E.O., CO.CO.

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board

By:   
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Summary**

Over the past decade, electric bicycles (e-bike) have become increasingly popular as an eco-friendly alternative mode of transportation with nationwide e-bike sales almost doubling between 2020 and 2021. Likewise, the use of e-bikes has steadily become more popular throughout the unincorporated area of Riverside County with many communities offering bike-friendly trails, multi-use paths, and scenic roads.

E-bikes are now used by all types of bike riders in Riverside County, including commuters, mountain bikers who need a little help getting up steep trails, riders with disabilities or other physical limitations, casual adult riders, and children. With more people using these bikes, it is essential to establish safety guidelines to prevent accidents and ensure that all road and path users are protected.

With the increased use of e-bikes, the county has also experienced an increase in complaints, especially regarding e-bikers sharing space with pedestrians, children, and elderly individuals in mixed-use areas, such as on public walkways, bike pathways and horse trails. Of particular concern are young riders under the age of 16 that may not be ready for the power of the e-bikes they are operating. Additionally, some young riders are operating e-bikes that have multiple power modes or aftermarket modifications that make them illegal, posing a threat to public safety.

While there have been legislative bills that have regulated e-bikes, such as Assembly Bill 1774, there are several local agencies within California who established independent ordinances to further ensure the responsible and safe use of e-bikes.

Passage of this item would direct the Executive Office to work with County Counsel to draft an ordinance that establishes additional safety regulations aimed to protect the community and encourage responsible use of e-bikes.

**Impact on Citizens and Businesses**

The purpose of an E-Bike Safety Ordinance is to ensure the safety of all community members by establishing safety regulations for the operation of e-bikes within Riverside County. The passage of such an ordinance would promote responsible e-bike use while protecting pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.