



The City of *Saline*

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Memorandum

From: Acting City Manager Cole
Date: September 8, 2025
Subject: 25 -133 Ordinance 877 Electric Bikes, Electric Skate Boards and Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices

Background Brief:

In recent years, the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes), electric skateboards, and personal assistive mobility devices has grown significantly in downtown Saline and across the region. This ordinance responds to that growth with the dual goals of enhancing safety and accessibility while supporting the vitality of our downtown.

In alignment with the City of Saline's FY25-FY28 Strategic Plan goals particularly those focused on community wellness, economic vitality, and downtown vibrancy - the ordinance provides clear regulations for how and where electric mobility devices may be used. The ordinance permits Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes on sidewalks outside of the downtown core, prohibits electric skateboard use on sidewalks citywide, and provides for reasonable exceptions for individuals using personal assistive mobility devices or adaptive technology compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The policy was crafted with input from the Police Department, Community Development, City Attorney, and residents. Enforcement will be education-first, supported by officer briefings, a reference guide for class identification, and a complaint-based model that reserves citations for repeat or dangerous behavior. Special care has been taken to avoid disproportionate enforcement, particularly among youth and low-income riders. Officers will have discretion in gray-area cases and have been instructed to prioritize engagement and guidance when possible.

From a design and planning standpoint, this ordinance is not intended to be a barrier to downtown activity. Rather, it is a foundational step toward a more comprehensive micromobility strategy, which could include marked bike lanes, slow-speed zones, and safer trail connections in the future. Short-term design improvements are also under evaluation by staff, such as sharrows and temporary traffic-calming measures.

Finally, the ordinance explicitly excludes ADA-compliant devices from enforcement, allowing powered wheelchairs and similar mobility aids to continue to access sidewalks and shared-use paths. The City's broader mobility vision will remain inclusive and evolve with the changing needs of residents and visitors alike.

To support public understanding, the ordinance will be accompanied by a community education campaign this fall. This includes a joint school safety program with Saline Area Schools and an evening Town Hall at City Hall to answer questions and promote respectful use of shared public spaces.

Adoption of this ordinance positions Saline to lead in smart, equitable mobility policy and ensures our infrastructure, enforcement, and design standards remain aligned with our values and vision.

Previous Action: August 16, 2025

Economic Impact: N/A

Budget Line Items: N/A

Amendment Required: N/A

Recommended Motion:

MOVED

SECONDED

To **acknowledge** receipt and to **postpone** until October 20, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Electric Bicycles, Electric Skateboards, and Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices v2 CLEAN.pdf](#)