



Agenda Item No: 3.a

PLACENTIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 5, 2026

Submitted by: Frank Garza

From: Police Department

Subject:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLACENTIA, ADDING CHAPTER 13.77 (ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICES) TO TITLE 13 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE PLACENTIA MUNICIPAL CODE

Financial Impact:

None.

Summary:

The proposed ordinance adds Chapter 13.77 to the Placentia Municipal Code to regulate the operation of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and other electric mobility devices within the City. The ordinance is intended to address increasing safety concerns related to the growing use of these devices, particularly in parks, school zones, sidewalks, and commercial areas.

The ordinance provides clear definitions, establishes operational rules, sets speed limits, designates permissible areas of use, and outlines enforcement mechanisms, including the potential seizure and release requirements.

Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the City Council:

Waive full reading, by title only, and introduce for first reading Ordinance No. O-2026-07, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Placentia, California, adding Chapter 13.77 (Electric Bicycles and Electric Mobility Devices) to Title 13 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Placentia Municipal Code.

Strategic Plan Statement:

This item conforms to Strategic Plan Goal No. 2: Public Safety, to provide a safe, family-friendly environment through proactive policing, efficient fire and emergency medical services, disaster preparedness, and strong community partnerships that protect residents, businesses and visitors.

Discussion:

The use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and other electric mobility devices has increased significantly in recent years throughout the City of Placentia, reflecting broader statewide and national trends. These devices provide important benefits, including expanded mobility options, reduced vehicle emissions, and increased recreational opportunities. However, their

growing popularity, particularly among younger riders, has also led to a rise in safety concerns related to speed, rider behavior, and conflicts with pedestrians and motorists.

The City has received complaints and observed issues related to unsafe operation, including excessive speeds on sidewalks, failure to yield to pedestrians, and use in prohibited or sensitive areas such as parks, school zones, and commercial districts. Additionally, advancements in technology have made higher-speed devices more accessible, further increasing the potential for collisions and injuries.

Currently, state law, including the California Vehicle Code, provides a general framework for the classification and operation of e-bikes; however, it allows local jurisdictions to adopt regulations tailored to their specific community needs. The proposed ordinance is intended to supplement state law by establishing clear, locally enforceable standards governing the operation of electric mobility devices within the City.

The proposed Chapter 13.77 establishes comprehensive regulations addressing definitions, operational requirements, permissible areas of use, speed limitations, and safety standards. It also includes provisions to prohibit unsafe riding behaviors, require helmet use consistent with state law, and clarify where different classes of e-bikes may be operated.

To enhance public safety and accountability, the ordinance also introduces enforcement mechanisms, including administrative citations and limited seizure authority for electric bicycles operated by minors when violations pose an immediate or substantial safety risk. The inclusion of parental responsibility provisions further reinforces accountability and encourages safe riding practices among youth.

Importantly, the ordinance provides flexibility by authorizing the City Traffic Engineer or designee to designate restricted areas, adjust speed limits in high-use pedestrian environments, and install appropriate signage. This allows the City to respond to evolving conditions and community needs without requiring frequent amendments to the Municipal Code.

The ordinance has been drafted to ensure consistency with state law while addressing local concerns, and it includes exemptions for individuals with disabilities and public agency personnel performing official duties.

Overall, the proposed ordinance seeks to balance the benefits of electric mobility devices with the need to protect public health, safety, and welfare. By establishing clear rules and expectations, the City aims to reduce collisions, improve shared-use safety, and provide law enforcement with practical tools to address unsafe behavior.

Financial Summary:

None.

Attachments

[Ordinance No. O-2026-07 - E-Bike.docx](#)

[EBIKEOrdinancePP.pptx](#)