

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

May 4, 2026

Dear Honorable Members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

I write in strong support of the proposed ordinance on e-bike safety proposed by Supervisors Speier and Mueller to regulate electric micromobility devices in San Mateo County. As Chair of the California Association of Youth Commissions (CAYC) and the Hillsborough Youth Commission, I serve as a representative of youth across our county and state who are directly experiencing both the benefits and growing risks of e-bike use. Please find a video [here](#) of my testimony as I am unable to attend the e-bike study session tomorrow.

Our statewide [2026 CAYC Teen E-Bike Safety Survey](#), one of the first large-scale student-led surveys of adolescent e-bike use in California, with 270 respondents in grades 5–12, illustrates that youth are beginning to ride as early as elementary school, with more than one-third starting before the age of 12. At the same time, 66% of teens do not know what class of e-bike they ride, more than half do not know its speed capability, and 64% report receiving no formal safety training. Moreover, 71% of riders report having crashed or fallen, and over half know someone who has been injured. These findings demonstrate the issue is not simply behavior, but a lack of understanding and structure.

It is important to note that teens respect and trust law enforcement, and most want to ride safely. What they lack are clear expectations, consistent enforcement, and accessible education. Without those guardrails, unsafe behaviors, such as sidewalk riding, failure to yield, wheelies and tandem riding, and use of modified or illegal devices, become normalized, putting both riders and pedestrians at risk.

The proposed ordinance appropriately reinforces existing state law and clarifies expectations around safe riding, including yielding to pedestrians, following traffic laws, and operating in a manner that prioritizes public safety. Keeping e-bikes off sidewalks and ensuring riders understand the rules of the road are essential steps to protect both pedestrians and riders.

Importantly, this ordinance does not take e-bikes away from youth. It makes riding safer. E-bikes offer independence, sustainability, and access. Yet, access without structure creates risk. This ordinance strikes the right balance by allowing youth to ride while establishing necessary protections: clear definitions, enforceable safety standards, and education-based interventions alongside penalties.

The data is clear, and the need is immediate. I urge the Board to act now to put these common-sense guardrails in place before more preventable injuries occur.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to youth and public safety.

Sincerely,
Anya Dalal
Chair, [California Association of Youth Commissions](#)
Chair, [Hillsborough Youth Commission](#)