

County of San Mateo
Board of Supervisors

Ordinance Regulating E-Micromobility Devices

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COUNTY OF **SAN MATEO**



Overview of Ordinance

- Highlights existing State law related to electric bikes and other micromobility devices
- Affirms commitment to enforce those State laws
- Adds local regulations where needed and within local authority
 - Regulates “E-Micromobility Devices,” defined to include electric bicycles, electric scooters, electric skateboards, motorized bicycles, and motorized scooters
- Includes enforcement provisions

Highlights Existing State Law Requirements

- Electric bicycles and similar “micromobility devices” are subject to the “rules of the road”
- Must have adequate lights, brakes, helmets (18 and under)
- Motorcycles/mopeds require DMV registration, plates, license
- “Illegal motorcycles” include e-bikes modified from Class I/II/III requirements, other non-street legal devices

New Local Regulations

- Prohibits operating in an unsafe manner:
 - posing a danger to the operator or others
 - examples include:
 - acrobatics, tricks, wheelies, stunts, that pose a danger of serious bodily injury/death
 - carrying passengers when the device was not designed for passengers
 - carrying packages or other items that interfere with operation/control

New Local Regulations

- No parking in a manner that blocks a sidewalk/ pedestrian path, or on public property where bike parking is prohibited

Sidewalks

- Variety of approaches around State and in SMC cities
 - Walk the devices: no riding bikes, e-bikes, or other similar devices on sidewalks
 - Sidewalk riding allowed only if:
 - Road is unsafe/hazardous (as defined)
 - Max speed limit observed (e.g., x mph)
 - Other operational requirements met, such as walking within specified distance of pedestrians, single-file riding, use due care, audible signal
 - Users are younger than specified age (e.g., 10 years old)
 - No local regulations (generally allowed unless State law imposes requirements)

Enforcement

- Violations of local regulations subject to:
 - Infraction or Administrative Fines
 - \$100, \$200, \$500
 - Traffic safety education in lieu of fine
 - Potential impoundment option for minors with any violation

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