



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE



Date: June 26, 2024

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ORDINANCE WOULD REGULATE E-BIKES ON SIDEWALKS

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has voted in favor of a new ordinance aimed at enhancing transportation safety and sustainability in Santa Cruz County.

The ordinance, which was approved in first reading Tuesday, expands existing County code to specify that electric bicycles (eBikes) as well as certain motorized vehicles such as mopeds may not be driven on sidewalks in unincorporated areas of the county, helping ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

"The adoption of this ordinance signifies our commitment to fostering sustainable transportation options while prioritizing public safety," Supervisor Manu Koenig said.

"By updating our County code to reflect the evolving landscape of transportation, we're taking proactive steps to ensure that all residents can safely enjoy our public spaces," Supervisor Zach Friend said.

Once finalized, the ordinance would prohibit the operation of eBikes on County-owned sidewalks, unless those sidewalks have been designated as bikeways. To assure the safety of eBike operators, the proposed ordinance includes an exception in limited circumstances to allow eBikes on sidewalks where no pedestrians are present and no bikeway is available.

The ordinance is expected to return to the Board for a second reading and final adoption on August 13.

The County reminds transportation network users to follow rules of the road, including requirements for motorists to allow three feet of space if passing cyclists. In addition, youth under 18 are required to wear a safety helmet, and youth under 16 are prohibited under State law from riding Class III eBikes (all Class III eBike users must wear helmets). Sidewalk rules [vary by jurisdiction](#).

For an eBike training video, please visit [click here](#).