AGENDA | REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 05, 2026 at 3:00 pm

Apex Town Hall
3rd Floor Training Room A
73 Hunter Street, Apex, NC

Town Council Committee Members and Senior Executive Leadership

Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert, Chair | Councilmember Edward Gray, Committee Member
Town Manager: Randal E. Vosburg
Deputy Town Managers: Demetria John, Marty Stone, Shawn Purvis
Town Clerk: Allen Coleman | Interim Town Attorney: Brian Meyer

Public Safety Committee Objective: *Public safety policy direction in areas of interest including police, fire, EMS, and emergency management.*

1) **Call to Order, Welcome, and Review of Agenda**
   Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert, Chair

2) **Adoption of Special Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – October 01, 2026**
   JP Parris, Public Records Coordinator

3) **Discussion of e-Bikes and potential future ordinance amendments**
   Seth Kandl, Assistant Town Attorney, Town Attorney's Office

4) **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

DRAFT MINUTES

TOWN OF APEX
SPECIAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2026
3:00 PM

The Public Safety Council Committee of the Apex Town Council met for a Special Meeting on Thursday, October 01, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Training Room at Apex Town Hall, located at 73 Hunter Street in Apex, North Carolina.

This meeting was open to the public. Members of the public were able to attend this meeting in-person.

[ATTENDANCE]

Elected Body
Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert, Chair
Councilmember Ed Gray

Town Staff
Town Manager Randy Vosburg
Interim Town Attorney Brian Meyer
Town Clerk Allen Coleman
Deputy Town Manager Shawn Purvis
Assistant Town Manager Marty Stone
Assistant Town Manager Demetria John
Police Chief Ryan Johansen
Fire Chief Tim Herman
Emergency Management Coordinator Taylor Sanchez
Public Records Coordinator JP Parris
All other staff members will be identified appropriately below

[CALL TO ORDER]

Mayor Gilbert called the meeting to order **3:00 p.m.** and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

[OBJECTIVE/CHARTER OF THE COMMITTEE]

Mayor Gilbert noted this was the first meeting of the committee and went over the agenda. He said it was important to clarify for those in the room and the media that the Committee was not making a formal recommendation to Council regarding the Automated License Plate Reader Program (ALPR) during the meeting today.

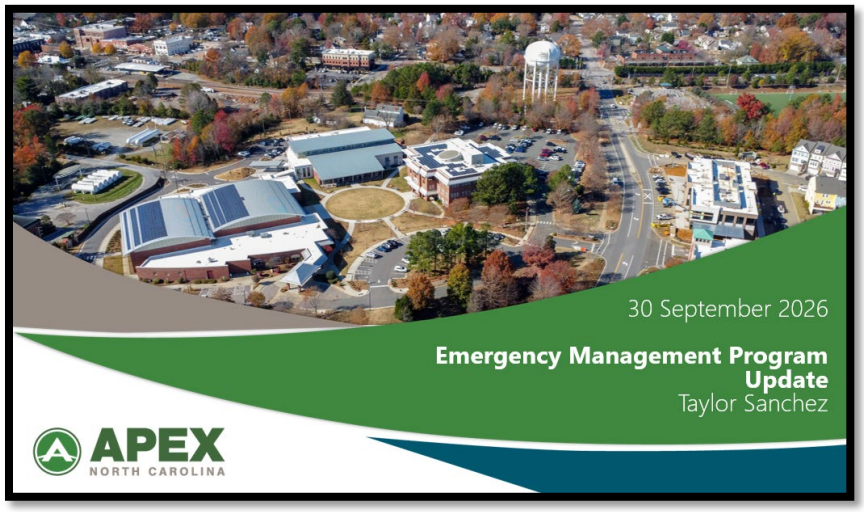
Councilmember Gray said he was excited to see interest in this meeting. He noted that the role of the elected body was to balance public safety policy with resident feedback. He said this committee would be focusing on how to ensure operations and resources are adequate for public safety and that it was important to help figure out how to maintain public safety advantages. He mentioned that a recent article had listed the Town of Apex as one of the safest communities in the state and he wanted to continue efforts in this direction. He said the committee will be helping to refine issues that will go back to Council for further development and echoed the Mayor's sentiments that aside from the Axon Drone Agreement, no other Committee recommendations would be made.

Town Clerk Coleman noted the objective of the Public Safety Committee and discussed the revised committee structure Council adopted in March of 2025. He said the purpose is to review policy recommendations related to police, fire, and emergency management. He noted the committee is broad in scope and not centered on specific topics but rather all items related to public safety as a whole.

[EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE]

Emergency Management Coordinator, Taylor Sanchez, provided the following presentation:

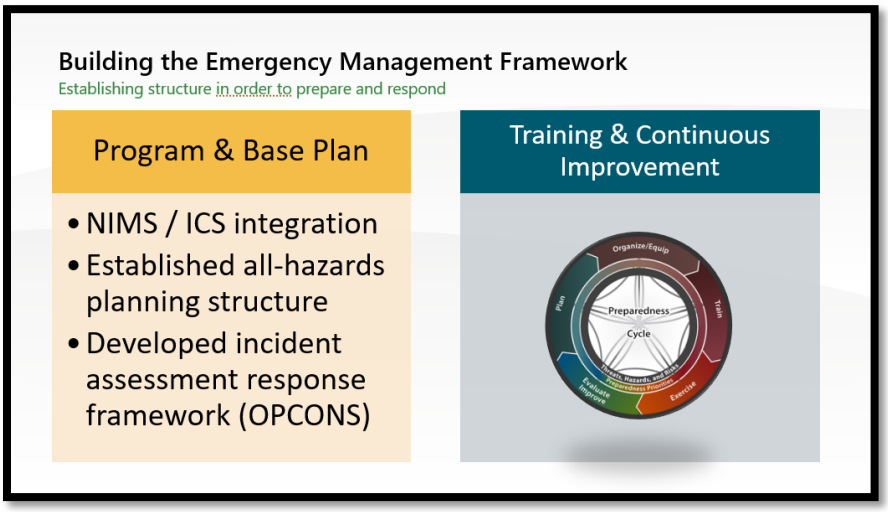
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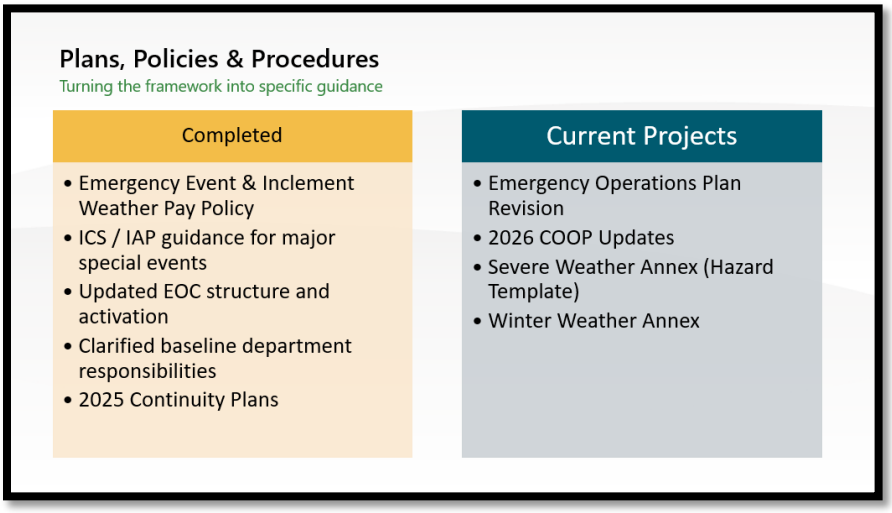
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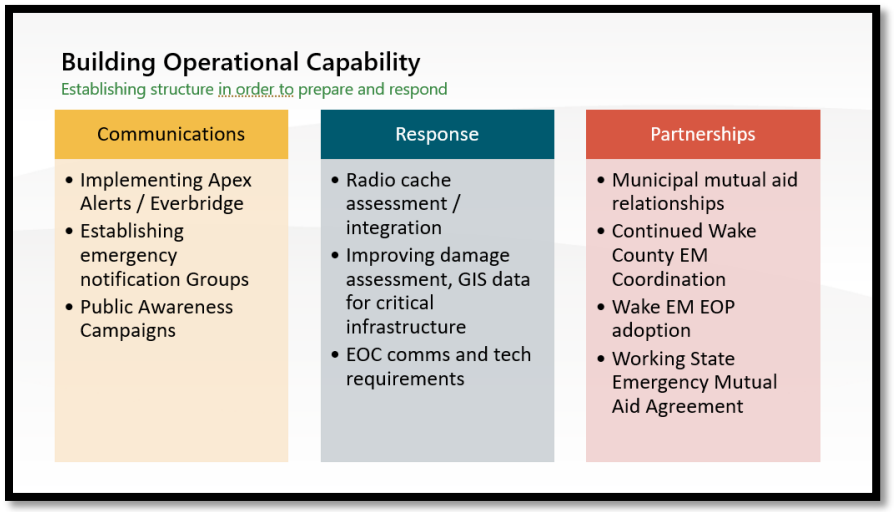
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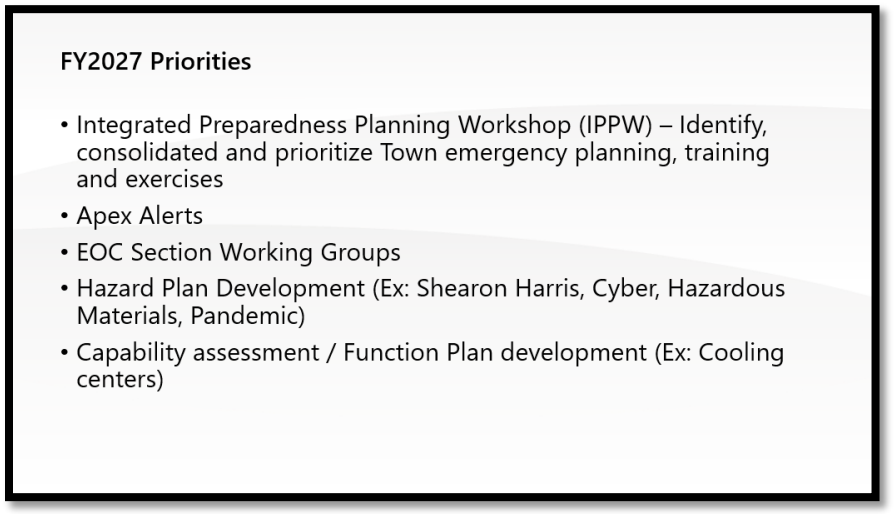
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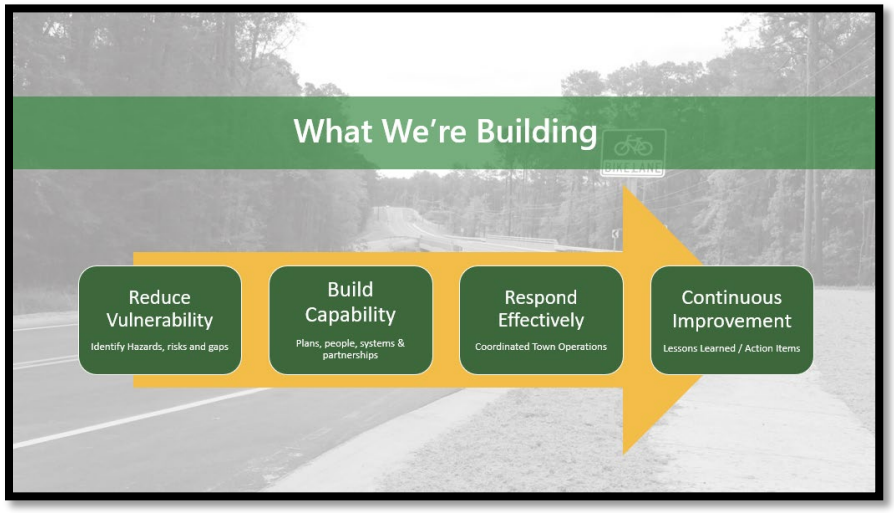
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Town Manager Vosburg noted there were a lot of foundational plans, and the emphasis moving forward is training staff and keeping these plans in motion so that all applicable team members were aware of the Emergency Management Plans.

Mr. Sanchez mentioned various methods of communication, such as Ready Wake Alerts, Apex Alerts, and the Nixle registry, which would allow registration to receive emergency information for specific events.

Town Manager Vosburg said the Town began working with the Risk Management Division of Human Resources after a safety review was conducted last year. He said there was a special project focused on potential safety gaps in facilities and looking at security and safety upgrades. The project also looked at smaller solutions, such as peepholes, glass upgrades, and after-hours building security.

Mayor Gilbert asked how much time goes into planning for a special event.

Mr. Sanchez said it depended on the event. He said some events constitute additional planning, particularly if the event involves groups who have historically suffered violence, or roads need to be blocked off, or there will be large amount of people present. He said Incident Action Plans (IAP's) are also developed, which outline response structure, communications plans, and assist with coordinating with local partners to integrate if needed.

Town Manager Vosburg said a lot goes on in the background for most events, and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is typically activated at a low level to help monitor and respond if elevation is needed.

Councilmember Gray said a tough part of the job is planning for every aspect. He said it requires thinking of anything that can happen, contingencies, what each response would be, and then ultimately hoping to never have to put the plans in motion. He was excited about the reorganization of the EOC and clarifying lines of accountability. He asked where the function of Public Information or Townwide Communications fit in the structure.

Mr. Sanchez said that they would be part of the joint communications center. He said it would sometimes be the Public Information Officer for Public Safety, and sometimes the Communications Director with the primary factor being the type of incident or event.

Councilmember Gray asked about budget planning for Emergency Management.

Town Manager Vosburg said the current budget moved some of the line items out of the Fire Department and into the Town Manager's Office, some things were still with Fire, and some were moved to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources budget for items relating to special events, which is where the special events team currently resides.

Councilmember Gray said he wanted to make sure Emergency Management doesn't fall behind other priorities, because it can't be done after the fact. He said this was a good time to look at planning for the next budget, with the Strategic Plan next Thursday, October 08.

Mayor Gilbert asked if there was room for tabletop exercises specifically related to emergency management response techniques and education.

Mr. Sanchez said FEMA has trainings for elected officials, and he could tailor something similar for a future training for elected officials if that would be helpful.

Mayor Gilbert said that he had went through a variety of emergency management trainings during his time at the Apex Police Department (APD) and said other elected officials would likely benefit from similar education and training.

Assistant Town Manager John said this was the first year of Emergency Management under the Town Manager's Office, and this would be a good time to get a year in review and look back on things as well.

[DISCUSSION OF E-BIKES AND POTENTIAL FUTURE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS]

Mayor Gilbert said there's a lot of e-bikes around the community, and he hears concerns from community members frequently.

Chief Johansen said the purpose of this discussion was to talk about some state law changes and get an idea of where the committee wants to go from here and what next steps may look like to ensure the Town remains compliant while also meeting the needs and vision of the elected body.

Town Manager Vosburg said some neighboring communities have passed ordinances regarding e-bikes, and recent state law defined the different levels of e-bikes. He said some laws govern e-bikes depending on where they are, and there are challenges as to what can be enforced and what resources would need to be dedicated to it.

Chief Johansen said a big change is that e-bike regulations will fall to municipalities in December. He said he was glad the Police Department was brought to the table to help pass ordinances that increase safety while understanding enforcement and capacity challenges. He added most folks on e-bikes are minors and may not stop when asked to by Police Officers, which presents additional challenges and concerns.

Councilmember Gray said there are a lot of questions from the community about the kids they see around town on e-bikes. He said with a lot of enforcement legislation being passed down, this may be a good time to figure out the way forward including education and awareness. He said while some laws may not require additional legislation, they may require input on getting ahead of problems that may arise. He said the job of Council is to think ahead, because if not they will run into problems quickly. He said this is an example of something where not figuring it out could turn into a larger problem.

Town Manager Vosburg said this was a time to get the ball rolling and get some general directions on things and see if there was a need for potential ordinance changes. He said the plan was to focus on communication and education within the community.

Councilmember Gray said he would like any advice from the Police Department (APD) on how they feel the problem should be addressed. He said he hears questions about e-bikes often.

Mayor Gilbert said he likes the community engagement aspect, there's a lot of unknowns and there's also safety issues. He said it's important to find a way to meet the need of transportation for kids while keeping safety at the front of the issue. He said it was also important not to put officers in bad positions regarding enforcement.

Councilmember Gray said for the committee, he would ask staff to provide a survey of municipalities' ordinances/regulations regarding e-bikes, including age of operation requirements, speed, and differences between rules for different e-bike classes. He said a framework would be good to get an assessment of what is within Council's legal authority, and it would be good to look at options.

Assistant Town Manager John said the legal framework would be led by the Police Department (APD) and the Town Attorney's Office (Legal).

Town Manager Vosburg asked if the Committee would like for this topic to return at a future committee meeting.

Councilmember Gray said yes, it's important to narrow down what the conversations should be at the Council level, and the committee structure was changed to help the conversation flow where staff could address questions and data points before it all comes to the full elected body. He said in his opinion the focus could be narrowed down so that things can be more productive and can lead to a decision. He said Council trusts staff to bring them the information they need. He said it could be a future meeting, and not the November meeting, unless staff feels like that meeting would provide enough time. He added it is important to see other ideas and ways other communities are addressing the issues and did not want to rush the product.

Chief Johansen said there are some other things that will need to be addressed sooner rather than later. He said beginning in December, e-bikes would be considered and allowable mode of transportation on any Town Roadways and/or Greenways unless Town Ordinances prohibited them specifically. He said the issue from his view was more so from a liability perspective verse enforcement. He said that helmets would not be required for Class 1 and Class 2 Drivers unless an ordinance was passed specifying otherwise.

Councilmember Gray said to bring any urgent items such as ordinances need to comply with new legislation, and other related policies to the Committee as quickly as possible. He said there are some things that Council is more comfortable taking additional time to gather more information on and make the right decision.

Town Manager Vosburg said they could gauge the next committee dates at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Gilbert asked about the next steps.

Assistant Town Manager John said Town staff could bring this item back in November and have other aspects presented at a later date if that was the desire of the committee.

Town Manager Vosburg said they will also work on a Communications plan regarding what the town would be doing in response to the December 1st changes as set by the State Legislature.

[DISCUSSION OF TOWN COUNCIL REFERRED ITEMS]

[a. AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR) PROGRAM]

Councilmember Gray said it was important to understand that there is a history on this item already. He said the idea began in 2023, with Council authorizing a pilot program to see the issues and test it out. Council had heard from Chief Johansen several times, and when referring this matter to committee, the elected body was trying to figure out the policy issues for things that haven't had a chance to be addressed, and Council has not had the opportunity to ask all of their questions.

Councilmember Gray said it seemed similar to courts addressing the fourth amendment. He said this issue was about balancing public safety and privacy. He said he was a public defender and former prosecutor, and the Mayor has law enforcement experience and that their combined experience equipped them to review and provide recommendations on this matter. He said he didn't know if there was a perfect balance to privacy vs. public safety benefit, but automated license plate readers does solve crimes and has been proven in our community even recently.

Councilmember Gray said the ALPR software can also provide closure to victims and assist with loss of property. He said a big issue for a lot of people is if this is "over-surveillance" and the Town having overreaching authority. He said during his conversations with the Chief of Police, it is his opinion that he understands the concerns presented and is not trying to minimize them but that the Chief is trying to balance, similar to the elected body, the public safety benefits.

Councilmember Gray said residents and community members speak often at Council meetings about their concerns, and those concerns are legitimate. He said the Council is working to refine set policy guidelines that would be in place at the end of the Town's trail period. He said it was important to remember that when this item was presented originally, it was presented as a trail and that it was always the intention that policies would be adopted to govern the usage if that was the direction desired by Council.

Councilmember Gray said the first area of policy should be facing outward, such as how to manage access to the information and data being gathered. He said it was important to understand who can get the data and how. He said he has had meetings with individuals

with concerns and that is one of their main points – who has access to the data. He said addressing this item in a policy, with a defined scope of what is given away and who has external access, might be a start to addressing some of the concerns presented.

Councilmember Gray said the second component was the internal management of data and information. He said this could be centered on gathering the data, use of data, and evaluating procedures already in place. He said the internal side is also very important. He said concerns about false arrests from ALPR are also attributable to human error. He said there's also concerns about using ALPR for illicit personal reasons, and it's important to use examples like that as a way to build the proper checks.

Councilmember Gray said it was also important to ensure the policy, while providing the appropriate checks and balances, also did not create additional hurdles for law enforcement and public safety officials in investigating matters of significance. He said those are the two main areas where this should be focusing. He said it was also a transparency issue, regarding what is being used in the investigations. He said recently one of his clients was accused of a crime he did not commit, and ALPR assisted in securing the acquittal. He said while the cameras are on everyone, they also capture valuable evidence for law enforcement.

Councilmember Gray said the direction of whether to continue using Flock and/or ALPR software was not a simple question, and the issue is not easy. He said it was a balance of public safety verses privacy rights. He said resident and community members' privacy rights are something that he is very passionate about, and fights about them professionally every day in his day-job. He added there was no greater responsibility of the Apex Police Department than using everything at their disposal to solve crimes and bring victims closure.

Councilmember Gray said these decisions are tough, and that's why they come to Council. He said it was important to receive advice and recommendations from staff on the ways to proceed, especially regarding the internal and external data and use policies, including refining existing ones. He said without a policy to answer the scope, the Council could not determine if they need ALPR.

Councilmember Gray said ALPR is also in squad cars, and those are also going to be used to determine license plate registration. He said to him there isn't a difference between an ALPR camera on a parked car and one mounted on a pole. He also mentioned that Home Owner's Association (HOA)'s had asked questions about the placement of potential ALPR or other visual cameras facing into or out of the neighborhood to provide greater safety measures. He said these are all real questions that can be used to determine the path forward.

Councilmember Gray said he would have office hours on October 22nd at Apex Town Hall to hear the communities' comments on Flock and ALPR. He wanted to hear all of the perspectives. He said he had not made up his mind and also wanted to wait for policy recommendations. He said cops in Apex hate bad cops more than anything. He said he wants

to know how to identify a bad cop in this system and also address the privacy concerns. He said once those answers were presented and the recommendations were refined, then it could all be voted on. He said the subject matter experts in Law Enforcement should be at the table providing those recommendations and assisting Council with determining the best path forward.

Mayor Gilbert said it comes down to public trust regarding a tool used by the Police Department. He said he was thankful that the Council had chosen to send this to the public safety committee for further research and recommendation. He said other communities had no followed that process and it was important to not only hear from the Police Department but also the community to get thoughts and perspectives. He said it was important to go on record and not that just because he was a former employee at Apex Police Department (APD) did not mean he would automatically side with them or support the recommendation of staff. He said he understands ALPR is a public safety tool, one of many, and was optimistic that a middle ground could be found here in Apex. He said there is not enough information to determine one way or another if the program was good to continue or not. He said it was also important to the separate the software from the vendor, too.

Councilmember Gray said he recognizes there is an implicit bias from everyone, and his door mat says, "comes back with a warrant". He said Council may have a bias, but at the end of the day they still have to do the right thing. He said doing this is not easy, and a lot of people are going to be mad either way. He said no matter what, they would do the right thing by balancing public safety and privacy interests and needed more time to receive information and all perspectives. He said doing that would allow Apex to remain high in the rankings of great and safe places to live as recently announced by a media outlet.

Town Manager Vosburg said it was important to zoom out to discuss timeframe and look at decision points. He said the current contract was scheduled to expire on January 31st, 2027, and that that would be the first checkpoint to be mindful of as the committee determines next steps. He said the first possibility would be to continue the program as is, and that would have to come before Council for authorization. He said staff could end the program as another option. He said a third alternative could be to switch to another vendor, but that decision may need to be made quicker if they wanted to ensure continuity within the Police Department's field operations. He said an additional option was to look for an in-house solution, but there were many questions about if that was possible. He said the role of the public safety committee was to provide information on what they needed from staff in order to make a recommendation on either of the options mentioned or even others that have not been mentioned or thought of.

Councilmember Gray said Chief Johansen has been able to help with the data points. He said it's important to know the crimes being solved, and data (such as 60% lower motor vehicle theft as an example). He said he also wanted to know the reason behind those data points, and what the underlying reason for those reductions would be. He said the concern to answer is if the improvements are worth the use of the system. He said community

members in the "DeFlock" mindset understand it does help with crime, but may not believe it is worth the privacy loss. He said understanding more on the benefits from the Apex Police Department could help bring the conversation to the middle. He said Chief Johansen has a desire to protect the community, not police the community, and that he believes this could be accomplished. He said it's important to understand the dynamics of the problem and have the time to figure out these issues. He said once they have those additional data points and facts the Committee would be in a position to make a recommendation to the full Council.

Mayor Gilbert said he personally has heard a lot of concerns from the community. He said it may help to have a list of concerns from the community, and have the Town respond regarding their specific relevant to Apex. He said he wants to find a solution and that many of the concerns presented seem to be more national issues that may or may not be applicable to Apex.

Chief Johansen said there was a lot of the Police Department's officers present today at the meeting beause this is rare opportunity. He said this is a tool that enables Police Officers to deliver on their mission of providing safety and solving crime. He said taking it away would make their jobs harder. He said a middle ground is usually the best way, but the solution does not exist in a vacuum. He said the community, elected officials, and officers needs and concerns will evolve over time. He said the Police Department has done their best to balance the issues, but they continually work on how the department uses these tools and balance their use.

Chief Johansen said he looks at this as two different components, alerts and database. He said alerts flag a car that is already in a state database, which means it flagged a vehicle already associated with a crime. He said the Police Department is tasked with protecting Apex, and this helps Police Officers to do just that. He said the centralized database is where most of the concerns are that he has heard and seen. He said the evidence is critical in solving crime, but there are concerns about data retention, vendor, usage and access, etc. He said time is of the essence, so they will bring back information on all components necessary so that the community can make an informed recommendation. He noted that the usage of ALPR has created lots of good in the community from his viewpoint.

Councilmember Gray said he wanted to note that he did not get a photo of a car when he used it during an investigation to get an acquittal, but rather only the picture of a license plate. He said there is a difference between the cameras and the software programs utilized. He added that anything to help them answer questions would be of great value and looked forward to receiving more information from the Police Department.

Town Manager Vosburg said the focus seemed to be on the database and how to move forward with that. He said Chief Johansen can provide some additional information regarding what the committee has requested, and they can determine the next steps at the end when planning the future meetings.

[AXON AGREEMENT]

Mayor Gilbert noted this was not Flock, and the interview room cameras are required by law, so a decision is needed. He asked Chief Johansen for further information.

Chief Johansen said this is not purchasing drones; the town has had a drone program for many years. He said this allows easier tracking of the drones and would allow more transparency regarding use of drones. He said managing so many events requires technology and that the drones are used for monitoring large crowds.

Chief Johansen said it was important to note that the drone software also a "fresh pursuit" aspect of them, to assist in chasing suspects, which is safer for all parties. He added they are also used for missing person searches. He said the drones are not used for surveillance, and all flights are logged and categorized by the police department.

Town Manager Vosburg said it was important for Council and the Committee to recognize that everything the Chief mentioned would still happen regardless on whether the Council supported approval. He said the software would help with easier tracking of flights, which is currently done manually. He said the use of drones by more than just the Police Department would not be changed by this contract.

Mayor Gilbert said the drone program was needed.

Councilmember Gray said he uses trust, but verify, and there was a need for the camera in interview rooms in the name of justice. He said records and logs of the flights are also important for investigations. He said this is about making the processes efficient to help answer questions. He said the flight logs can confirm whether a drone is a public or private operator and if it wasn't Axon there may not have been a concern either by any of Council. He said Axon also does the Town's body cameras and this was an important resource for the Town. He said he would recommend Council approve this contract and hoped this conversation would clarify what the contract is actually for and the various components of it.

Councilmember Gray recommended full approval of the Agreement, and **Mayor Gilbert** concurred.

CLERK NOTE: The item will be sent back to the full Council on October 13, 2026 under Town Council Committee Reports and Recommendations.

[LEGISLATIVE UPDATES]

Town Clerk Coleman noted a few major legislative updates from the recent session of the North Carolina General Assembly. He said the first item to report on was the 2026 Appropriations Act, which was the state's budget bill for those that may be unfamiliar with that term or reference. He stated that piece of legislation included a $1,750 one-time bonus

for eligible Law Enforcement Officers, changes to license plate readers, and the repeal of the traffic stop data reporting requirement.

Town Clerk Coleman said their were two additional provisions included in the appropriations act which may have town budget implications. He said more specifically there was language included that would allow municipalities to provide local salary supplements to the Administrative Office of the Courts or their local District Attorney's Office. He referenced a situation earlier in the budget cycle where a candidate for District Attorney had submitted a request to the Town for funding a position in the District Attorney's Office. He said this language would allow the Town to consider such a proposal, however, this was not mandatory and the Town would not be required to provide a supplement.

Town Clerk Coleman continued by stating additional laws were enacted that were more operational in nature including changes to the Special Separation Allowance for Law Enforcement Officers, when criminal background checks would be required for certain employees working with children, personnel-file review requirements when hiring law enforcement officers, and changes to the involuntary commitment process.

Town Clerk Coleman also stated there were several pieces of legislation that were filed as potential impacts but those should not be interpreted as current law. He said the House Bill No. 42 "Back the Blue Act", which had not become law, but proposed additional law enforcement bonuses, which may come back in the future. He said House Bill 437 regarding public camping was vetoed by Governor Stein, so it does not impose any requirements on the Town unless future legislation occurs.

Mayor Gilbert said he appreciated the updates and wanted to see the traffic stop data still being collected, even with Senate Bill 257 (state appropriations bill) repealing that required reporting.

Chief Johansen confirmed the Apex Police Department would still collect that data.

Councilmember Gray said the funding for staff at the Administrative Office of the Courts was something that came out of a very different bill. He added he was happy it was still permissive, as the data is very relevant for the municipality.

[FUTURE MEETING DATES DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION]

Town Clerk Coleman asked if the Committee wished to establish a regular meeting schedule, and if so, how they would like to schedule it.

Councilmember Gray said with the policy questions and development for the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) conversation, he didn't want to have it be rushed. He said a meeting in November may be appropriate.

Mayor Gilbert said they have asked for a lot of information and staff need to be given time.

Town Clerk Coleman said that other committees were starting to establish standard meeting dates and times at least through the fiscal year (June 2027) and that given the committees follow-up items it may be appropriate for the committee to meet monthly until some of the time sensitive items are resolved. He said the current meeting was being held on the First Thursday of the month and suggested that the First Thursday may be a starting point.

Town Manager Vosburg said the first checkpoint is the e-bike piece for December 1st. He said their best option to adopt anything prior to that would be the November 10th Regular Meeting. He said this item could be the things that needed to be determined prior to December 1st, and other aspects could come back later. He said the first Thursday would be November 5th.

Chief Johansen asked if the Committee wanted the e-bike recommendations to come back to the committee or be scheduled for a Council Work Session.

Councilmember Gray said yes, so staff should prepare to bring back any policy recommendations related to e-bikes to the Committee before a recommendation was made to the full Council.

Interim Town Attorney Meyer said without a definition for e-bikes the ordinances may not have the necessary teeth, but they could bring those recommendations to the November 5th committee meeting as well.

Town Clerk Coleman asked if there would be another meeting in November for ALPR recommendations.

Town Manager Vosburg said it may be best to bring that item back to committee after November. He said it could be pushed from committee to Council in December or January.

Town Clerk Coleman confirmed the recommendation of a standing meeting the first Thursday each month at 3:00 p.m. at Town Hall. He stated that it was his understanding the e-bikes topic and research would be on the November agenda, and ALPR would tentatively be on the December agenda. He said the dates of those committee meetings would be: November 5, 2026, December 3, 2026, January 7, 2027, and so forth being the first Thursday of each month.

Town Manager Vosburg said the Committee may want to eventually adjust and have it be every other month, which is what other committees are doing. He said at present he concurred with the Town Clerk and the points already made that their were several timely items they needed to be addressed. He said funding was going to be the next big thing, which would be coming up soon after the new year at the start of the budget process.

Town Clerk Coleman said the schedule can be amended, but wanted to get to a set schedule when possible to help with planning.

Town Manager Vosburg said staff would bring what they have regarding ALPR on December 3rd.

Chief Johansen asked for any further clarification regarding what staff should bring back to those meetings.

Councilmember Gray said there would probably be more questions as they work through these conversations and that those could be shared with the Town Clerk or Town Manager for distribution.

Town Clerk Coleman said there would be a recap sent with follow-up items to ensure everything that needs to be there is included.

[CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT]

Mayor Gilbert said that concluded the Town's first public safety committee meeting and appreciated the turnout by the public and Town staff.

Town Clerk Coleman asked for members of the media to go downstairs to the Council Chambers where they would have opportunities to conduct interviews with Public Safety Committee members and staff.

Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Jacques K. Gilbert
Mayor

JP Parris
Public Records Coordinator

Reviewed and submitted for approval by Town Clerk Allen Coleman.
Minutes approved on _____.



Public Safety Committee
November 5, 2026

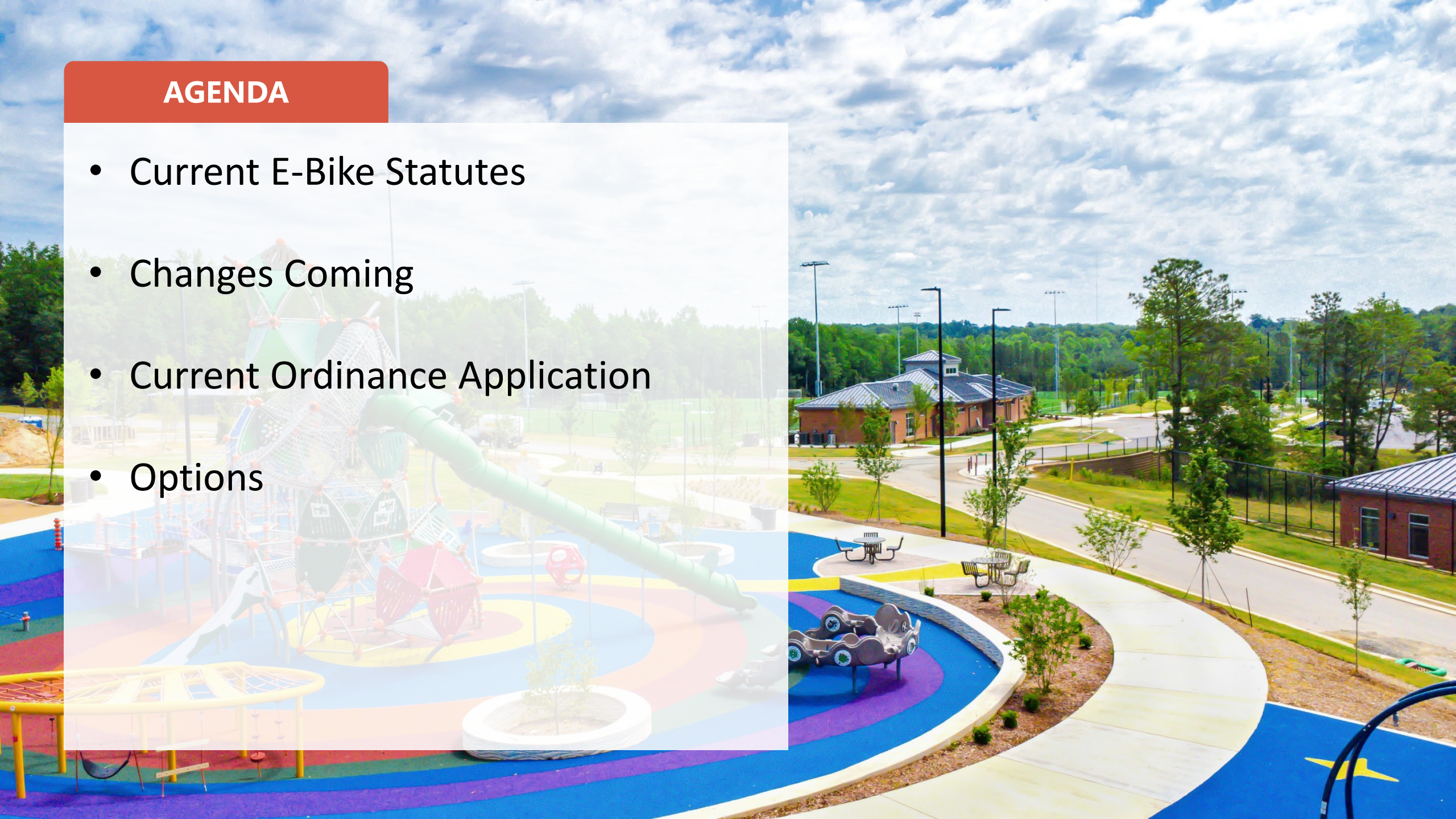
E-Bike Legislation

Current Landscape and Changes on the Horizon

APEX
NORTH CAROLINA

AGENDA

- Current E-Bike Statutes
- Changes Coming
- Current Ordinance Application
- Options



Where We Stand



Where We Stand - Current Landscape

- Current definition: through November 30
  - Two or three wheels; seat or saddle for the rider.
  - Fully operable pedals for human propulsion.
  - Electric motor of no more than 750 watts.
  - Maximum speed on a level surface, powered solely by the motor: no greater than 20 mph.

Where We Stand - Why Classification Matters Today

- A qualifying e-bike is excluded from “motor vehicle,” unless a provision specifically says otherwise.
- A device outside the e-bike definition requires analysis under the moped / motorcycle definitions.
- If it is a moped: operator must be at least 16; DMV registration and liability insurance apply.
  - Moped operators and passengers must wear required helmets.
  - Operators must comply with N.C.G.S. Chapter 20.

Where We're Going



Where We're Going – Statutory Changes

- Two or three wheels; seat or saddle for the rider.
- Fully operable pedals for human propulsion.
- Electric motor of no more than 750 watts **AND meets one of the three statutory classes**.
- ~~Maximum speed on a level surface, powered solely by the motor: no greater than 20 mph.~~

Where We're Going – Three Classes

- CLASS 1 | Pedal assistance only; motor assistance ceases at 20 mph.
- CLASS 2 | Motor may propel without pedaling; assistance ceases at 20 mph.
- CLASS 3 | Pedal assistance only; motor assistance ceases at 28 mph.

Where We're Going – Statutory Requirements

- Existing bicycle rule: G.S. 20-171.9 addresses parents/guardians knowingly permitting riders or passengers under 16 without a helmet on specified public facilities.

- New Class 3 rule: every operator or passenger UNDER 18 must wear a helmet meeting federal safety standards.

Where We're Going – Location Access

- Default permission: all roadways, bicycle lanes, and multiuse paths.
  - State parks, historical sites, and other DNCR properties may have separate restrictions.

- Sidewalks: not automatically given access as blanket statewide sidewalk authorization.

Where We're Going – What This Means

- This is both a deregulation and a local regulation authority bill:
  - It removes class 3 e-bikes from being regulated as mopeds/motorcycles.
  - Pushes regulation of e-bikes to local government control.

Ordinance Application



Ordinance Application – What Already Applies

- Apex Ord. 20-3 - 16 and under required to wear helmet when riding bicycle on public property (roads, greenways, sidewalks).

- Apex Ord. Chapter 20 prohibitions for riding in public streets:
  - On handlebars,
  - With no hands on handlebars,
  - more than two abreast.

Ordinance Application – Speed Limits

- Apex Ord. 20-143 - Bicycles on sidewalks/paths 5 feet or less must:
  - Operate at a speed no greater than 10 MPH.
  - Operate with due caution .
  - Yield to pedestrians.

- Apex Ord. 15-7 - Motorized vehicles prohibited in public parks or greenways unless specifically authorized by signage.
  - Current signage restricts speed to 10 MPH.

What We Can Do



What We Can Do – Municipal Authority

- Express authority to regulate e-bikes on multiuse paths and sidewalks within municipal limits.
- May restrict one or more e-bike classes on sidewalks/pathways and establish speed limits.
- Local governments may require helmets for operators/passengers under 18 on Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes.

What We Can Do – Learn From Our Neighbors

Jurisdiction	Reported / published approach	Review significance
Cary	Greenways permit e-bikes while partly human-propelled; 15 mph greenway limit; sidewalks with caution and pedestrian yielding.	Pedaling condition, speed cap, sidewalk conduct.
Holly Springs	June 2026 rules permit qualifying lower-speed e-bikes on sidewalks/greenways; 15 mph limit; exclude e-motos.	Distinction between e-bikes and motor vehicles; prior 20-mph descriptions may require updating.
Wake Forest	January 2026 ordinance bars covered devices from sidewalks; allows greenways and multiuse paths at 10 mph; helmets under 16.	Different rules for sidewalks versus greenways.
Huntersville	September 2026 ordinance includes helmets for riders/passengers under 18 and a $50 local citation provision.	Example of a newer age-based helmet and penalty framework.

- **Speed limits for attribution versus enforcement**
- **Juvenile prosecution challenges and civil penalty options (parent/guardian focused)**
- **Helmets as a critical protection for vehicle drivers**

What We Can Do - Options

No Action:

Hold what we have… Our current ordinances already apply to bicycles and motor vehicles where needed.

- Benefits: Allows resources to be concentrated where imminently needed while allowing us to monitor the new environment for needs.
- Risks: Confusion about expectations and applicability.

What We Can Do - Options

Minor Action:

Make minor ordinance amendments such as definitions and references to clarify applicability. E.g. add e-bike definition, references to bicycle is inclusive of e-bikes, and clarify Ord. 15-7 motor vehicle restriction.

- Benefits: Makes expectations clear while still being responsive to changing environment. Opportunity to learn and monitor without straining resources.
- Risks: May omit a needed response.

What We Can Do - Options

Major Action:

Create full ordinance scheme applicable to e-bikes.

- Benefits: Comprehensive response that can be applied in a single legislative change.
- Risks: Resource intensive. May over regulate or unnecessarily regulate areas. Can create expectations of enforcement or other enforcement issues. May still require follow-up due to omitted or uncontemplated needs.

What We Can Do – Aim Small, Miss Small

Discussion.

Questions?