



## **Staff Report**

**RE:** Updates to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 15 Addressing E-bikes and Electric Motorcycles

**Department/Program:** Police Department

**Explanation:**

The popularity of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric motorcycles has increased significantly this year. As a result, the Ballwin Police Department is responding to calls almost daily regarding the operation of these vehicles on roadways and sidewalks.

Since January 2026, the City has experienced five crashes involving motor vehicles and e-bikes or electric motorcycles. In each case, the e-bike or e-motorcycle operator failed to follow the rules of the road and entered a roadway, intersection, or crosswalk without first ensuring it was safe to do so. Fortunately, most of the resulting injuries have been relatively minor.

Currently, Ballwin Ordinance 15-5 (Use of Toy Vehicles) and Article XI (Bicycles) do not adequately address the operation of e-bikes, electric motorcycles, and similar alternative transportation devices. We are requesting the Board of Aldermen authorize the City Attorney to draft legislation specifically governing these vehicles.

The updated ordinance should consider the following provisions:

- Define and classify electric bicycles, electric scooters, motorized bicycles, electric motorcycles, and other alternative transportation devices.
- Restrict Class 3 e-bikes (pedal-assist and throttle-equipped bicycles with a maximum pedal-assist speed of 28 mph and throttle speed of 20 mph) to operators age 16 or older.
- Require Class 3 e-bikes to be operated on roadways and prohibit their use on sidewalks, multi-use trails, and within City parks.
- Prohibit electric motorcycles and Razor-style minibikes from operating on public roadways and within City parks.
- Prohibit the operation of gas-powered minibikes and go-carts on roadways, sidewalks, and in City parks.
- Require helmets for all operators and passengers under 17 years of age.
- Establish age, registration, and licensing requirements as required by state law.
- Prohibit reckless operation, towing behind vehicles, and unauthorized operation on private property.
- Establish enforcement authority and penalties for ordinance violations.

Ultimately, parents and riders are responsible for the safe operation of e-bikes and electric motorcycles. Once the ordinance is updated, the Ballwin Police Department intends to conduct a comprehensive community education campaign to inform parents and riders about the rules, regulations, and safe operation of these vehicles.

**Recommendation:**

We recommend the Board of Aldermen authorize the City Attorney to draft legislation updating the Ballwin Ordinances governing electric bikes and motorcycles.

**Submitted By:** John Bergfeld, Chief of Police

**Date:** June 2, 2026