



E-BIKES SAFETY ACTION PLAN

March 12, 2026

Overview

Receive an update on City's E-bike Safety Action Plan, including legislative outreach and the development of an E-bike permit program at New Brighton Middle School, and provide feedback on next steps.



Legislative Outreach

In April 2025 Mayor sent letter of support for proposed State legislation to improve E-bike safety focused on:

- A minimum age of 14 for the operation of Class 2 E-bikes
- Create a written test and permit requirement administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles for riders under 16
- Encourage the integration of traffic safety education into school curriculum.

Safety Concerns

	 CLASS 1	 CLASS 2	 CLASS 3
Pedal Assist	✓	✓	✓
Throttle		✓	
Max Speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph

Class 2

- No age restriction
- Throttle + speed = *potentially less rider engagement*

Class 3

- Age restricted to 16+

Safety Concerns:

- No permit or test required for any Class ebike
- Local regulation is challenging, given Capitola's size

Capitola PD Initiatives

Education & Outreach:

- New Brighton Middle School E-bike Permit Program Partnership between CPD & NBMS to ensure E-bikes brought to school and stored on campus comply with state law and are age appropriate
- Annual presentation at New Brighton Middle School
- Social media safety campaigns
- Multi Service Officer (MSO) embedded in the school to build relationships with students and staff



Capitola PD Enforcement

January 2025- March 2026

- 8 E-bike related traffic accidents
- 9 E-bike related Citations issued
- 8 “traditional” bike incidents

*PD is exploring other ways to capture data while we transition to nw records management system.



Next Steps

- Staff will continue to implement E-bike Safety Action Plan and support partnership with NBMS pilot permit program
- Regular updates to City Council, this effort does not resolve itself as a continuous influx of students move through middle school.



QUESTIONS??
