



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	9/8/2026
AGENDA SECTION:	New Business
SUBJECT:	Ordinance No. 1376- An Ordinance of the City of Folsom Adding Chapter 10.44 of the Folsom Municipal Code Regarding E-bikes and E-Conveyances (Introduction and First Reading)
FROM:	Police Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council introduce and conduct the first reading of Ordinance No. 1376- An Ordinance of the City of Folsom Adding Chapter 10.44 of the Folsom Municipal Code Regarding E-Bikes and E-Conveyances (Introduction and First Reading)

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

Over the past five years, sales of electric conveyances have increased dramatically nationwide. These include e-bikes, e-scooters, e-motorcycles, and other single-rider electric devices, with 2 million units reportedly sold in 2025. The Police Department has experienced a significant rise in calls for service involving e-conveyance riders, particularly juveniles, on roadways, in City parks, and on bike paths. These calls often involve dangerous, threatening, or destructive behavior.

In response to the increase in calls for service related to these vehicles as well as an increase in collisions involving them, Traffic and School Resource Officers implemented education campaigns beginning in 2023 and those continue today. Folsom Police Department has worked closely with the school district to educate children and parents about e-conveyance laws and we have utilized social media and traditional media outreach. Additionally, they have issued warning tickets and traffic citations for violations. Patrol officers have engaged in a proactive enforcement campaign this year, have issued citations, towed e-motorcycles, and made arrests for crimes perpetrated by persons on these vehicles.

Despite these efforts, complaints and reports of unsafe riding and damage to City parks from some e-conveyance users continue. Many cities across the state are implementing local ordinances to address improper riding behaviors and limit the use of e-bikes in city parks.

POLICY / RULE

Under Section 2.12 of the City Charter, amendments to the Folsom Municipal Code require review and approval by the City Council.

ANALYSIS

Staff proposes a narrowly tailored ordinance that addresses improper or dangerous riding behaviors and prohibits riding within City parks unless signage at the park states that it is specifically authorized. In drafting this ordinance, we consulted with City Parks and Recreation, Trail Planning, Folsom Cordova Unified School District, California State Parks, businesses and a local nonprofit cycling organization. This collaboration helped ensure the ordinance is well crafted and allows for safe, appropriate e-conveyance use by riders of all ages.

This ordinance generally restricts riding in parks, playgrounds, and schools while allowing the people managing these sites to designate e-conveyance paths or use areas.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This ordinance is expected to generate minimal revenue from fees and fines. Enforcement operational costs are already budgeted within normal personnel and equipment expenses.

ATTACHMENT

Ordinance No. 1376 - An Ordinance of the City of Folsom Adding Chapter 10.44 of the Folsom Municipal Code Regarding E-Bikes and E-Conveyances (Introduction and First Reading)

Submitted,

Adam Green, Chief of Police

Attachment 1

ORDINANCE NO. 1376

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FOLSOM ADDING CHAPTER 10.44 OF THE FOLSOM MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING E- BIKES AND E-CONVEYANCES

WHEREAS, the regulation of electric bicycles and electric conveyances are a public safety concern; and

WHEREAS, operators and riders of these devices involved in traffic collisions suffer more serious injuries when compared to traditional bicycle and vehicle collisions; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Vehicle Code provides authority for local agencies to regulate the use of electric bicycles and similar conveyances; and

WHEREAS, changes and amendments to the California Vehicle Code have limited the types of conduct that local agencies may regulate through ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to regulate the use of electric bicycles and electric conveyances on public property, including streets, highways, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, property owned by the City, off-street parking facilities, parks, and other public spaces.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Folsom does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to add chapter 10.44, “Electric Bicycles and Electric Conveyances”, to the Folsom Municipal Code. This ordinance regulates the locations electric bicycles and other conveyances can be used and prohibits specific unsafe riding actions.

SECTION 2 ADDITION TO CODE

Chapter 10.44, “Electric Bicycles and Electric Conveyances”, is hereby added to the Folsom Municipal Code to read as follows:

Chapter 10.44 ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC CONVEYANCES

Sections:

10.44.010 Purpose and intent.

10.44.020 Definitions.

10.44.030 Enforcement.

10.44.040 Prohibited and unsafe operation.

10.44.050 Parking.

10.44.060 Electric bicycle specifications; tampering prohibited.

10.44.010 Purpose and intent.

This chapter is enacted for the purpose of regulating the operation and parking of electric bicycles and electric conveyances on sidewalks, pedestrian facilities, bicycle lanes, public property, and public rights-of-way within the City. It is adopted pursuant to the authority reserved to local agencies under the California Vehicle Code and the City's police powers. This chapter is not intended to duplicate, contradict, or regulate any matter covered by the Vehicle Code or other applicable state law fully occupying the field, and shall be construed consistently with state law. Where state law governs the operation or equipment of a device, this chapter supplements state law only to the extent local regulation is authorized.

This chapter is not intended to regulate the use of electrically motorized mobility devices utilized by persons with disabilities as an aid to mobility such as, but not limited to, electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters as defined in California Vehicle Code Section [407](#) and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), utilized by persons who by reason of physical disability are otherwise unable to move about as a pedestrian.

10.44.020 Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates otherwise or requires a different meaning:

Bicycle lane. The portion of the roadway which has been separated from any vehicular lanes by a solid white line or other pavement marking or defined for bicycle riders by appropriate signage or other traffic control devices.

Bicycle path. Means the same as that term is defined in Vehicle Code section 231.5, as may be amended or superseded.

Electric conveyance (“e-conveyance”). Includes, but is not limited to, any electrically motorized scooter, electrically motorized board, motorized bicycle or electric motorcycle which is propelled at least in part by electrical energy, or any other device propelled by an electric motor and designed to transport one or more people. E-conveyances do not include electric vehicles that are intended to be operated on the roadways and registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles under the California Vehicle Code.

Electric bicycle (“e-bike”). Means the same as that term is defined in Vehicle Code Section 312.5, as may be amended or superseded.

Electrically motorized board. Means the same as that term is defined in Vehicle Code Section 313.5, as may be amended or superseded.

Electrically motorized scooter. Means the same as that term is defined in Vehicle Code Section 407.5, as may be amended or superseded.

Motorized bicycle. Means the same as that term is defined in Vehicle Code Section 406, as may be amended or superseded.

Electric motorcycles (“eMoto”). Means the same as that term is defined in Vehicle Code Section 436.1, as may be amended or superseded.

Public right-of-way. Means any place of any nature which is dedicated, or otherwise intended, for use by the general public for pedestrian and/or vehicular travel, and includes, but is not limited to, a street, sidewalk, walkway, curb, crossing, intersection, parkway, bicycle path, trail, highway, boulevard, road, roadway, tunnel, bridge, parking lot, thoroughfare, alley, lane, pedestrian overpass, or any other similar public way.

Roadway. Means the same as that term is defined in Vehicle Code section 530, as may be amended or superseded.

Sidewalk. Means the same as that term is defined in Vehicle Code section 555, as may be amended or superseded.

10.44.030 Enforcement.

A. Administrative enforcement. A violation of this chapter is designated as an administrative violation subject to enforcement pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 1.09. A violation of this chapter is designated as a Level A violation, as that term is described in Section 1.09.012. The monetary sanction levied for a violation of this chapter shall be \$50 for a first violation, \$100 for a second violation of any provision of this chapter within one year, and \$500 for each additional violation of any provision of this chapter within one year.

B. Parent/Guardian Liability. Whenever a person charged with violation of this chapter is under the age of 18, the enforcement authority shall provide copies of all notices and orders specified in Title 1 to that person’s parent(s) and/or legal guardian. The parent(s) and/or legal guardian of a minor who is charged with a violation of this chapter is a responsible person for purposes of any administrative sanction levied under Chapter 1.09. Any administrative sanction levied for violation of this chapter may be levied against the minor and the parent(s) and/or legal guardian of the minor. The parent(s) and/or legal guardian shall have the right to a hearing and judicial review as set forth in Chapter 1.09. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this section and Section 1.09.028, the terms of this section shall control.

C. Violation as an Infraction. Violation of this chapter is an infraction, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$50 for a first violation, \$100 for a second violation of any provision of this chapter within one year, and \$500 for each additional violation of any provision of this chapter within

one year. A minor's parent(s) and/or legal guardian is not subject to criminal liability under this subsection.

D. Remedies Cumulative. The remedies and penalties provided for violation of this chapter are cumulative, alternative, and nonexclusive. The use of one does not prevent the use of any other criminal, civil, or administrative remedy or penalty authorized by or set forth in the Folsom Municipal Code. None of the penalties or remedies authorized by or set forth in the Folsom Municipal Code shall prevent the city from using any other penalty or remedy under state law that may be available to enforce this chapter or to abate a public nuisance.

E. Separate violations. Where multiple violations have occurred or are occurring, each separate act in violation of this chapter constitutes a separate violation and shall be subject to a separate sanction.

F. Enforcement. The police chief or designee shall enforce the provisions of this chapter.

10.44.040 Unsafe Operation Prohibited.

(A) Every person riding an e-bicycle or e-conveyance upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights, and shall be subject to all of the duties, applicable to them under the laws of the state, under the provisions of this code, and under any other applicable rule of the road.

(B) It shall be unlawful and a violation of this chapter for any person to operate an e-bicycle or e-conveyance by doing any of the following on any sidewalk, pedestrian facility, park, bicycle lane, bicycle path, public property, or public right-of-way, or on private property held open to the public for pedestrian, bicycle, or vehicular use:

1. Intentionally swerving or riding around stopped or slow traffic in a manner that creates a hazard or unreasonably obstructs the sightlines or visibility of other roadway users.
2. Operating an e-bicycle or e-conveyance in a manner it was not designed for, including carrying passengers on an e-bicycle or e-conveyance not intended to carry passengers or carrying more passengers than the number the e-bicycle or e-conveyance is designed or equipped to carry.
3. Not obeying posted signs, signals, or markings.
4. Intentionally lifting one or more wheels of an e-bicycle or e-conveyance into the air while riding on a public right-of-way.
5. Attempting to perform any acrobatic trick or stunt in any public right-of-way.
6. Operating on any public right-of-way, against the direction of traffic, except when passing in a safe manner.
7. Operating at a speed greater than as provided in the Vehicle Code or, if no such speed limit is provided in the Vehicle Code, 15 miles per hour on any public right-of-way, or at

any speed greater than is reasonable or prudent under the conditions then existing, taking into account the safety of persons, animals, and property.

8. Failing to yield to pedestrians on a sidewalk, walkway, trail or path.
9. Operating an e-bicycle or e-conveyance while holding and operating a handheld wireless telephone or an electric wireless communications device unless the wireless telephone or electric wireless communications device is specifically designed and configured to allow voice-operated and hands-free operation, and it is used in that manner while riding.
10. Operating an e-bicycle or e-conveyance upon any playground, park, or school ground unless signage at the site states that operation of e-bicycles and/or e-conveyances is specifically authorized.
11. Operating an e-bicycle or e-conveyance in any location, or during any hours, posted as prohibiting such operation under this chapter.
12. When posted, no person shall operate an e-bicycle or e-conveyance at any city special event.

C. The prohibitions on (i) lifting one or more wheels into the air while riding and (ii) attempting to perform any acrobatic trick or stunt shall not apply in a closed area, officially designated for such riding, with signage at the site stating that operation of e-bicycles and/or e-conveyances is specifically authorized.

10.44.050 Parking.

No person shall leave an e-bicycle or e-conveyance lying on its side on any sidewalk, nor park an e-bicycle or e-conveyance upon the public right-of-way, or against a building, or at a curb, so that there is not an adequate path for pedestrian traffic. Where no-parking signs are posted, no person shall park an e-bicycle or e-conveyance on a public roadway in the area designated by those signs.

10.44.060 Electric bicycle specifications; tampering prohibited.

A. An electric bicycle shall meet the following criteria:

1. Comply with the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (16 C.F.R. 1512.1 et seq.);
2. Operate in a manner so that the electric motor is disengaged or ceases to function when the brakes are applied or operate in a manner such that the motor is engaged through a switch or mechanism that, when released or deactivated, will cause the electric motor to disengage or cease to function.

B. A person shall not tamper with or modify an electric bicycle so as to change the speed capability of the device, or otherwise alter, modify, or adjust the motor settings to increase the speed of the device, unless he or she replaces the label indicating the appropriate classification.

SECTION 3 SCOPE

Except as set forth in this Ordinance, all other provisions of the Folsom Municipal Code shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4 SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council declares that it would have passed each section irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective.

SECTION 5 NO MANDATORY DUTY

This Ordinance is not intended to and shall not be construed or given effect in a manner that imposes upon the City or any officer or employee thereof a mandatory duty of care towards persons and property within or without the City, so as to provide a basis of civil liability for damages, except as otherwise imposed by law.

SECTION 6 EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from and after its passage and adoption, provided it is published in full or in summary within twenty (20) days after its adoption in a newspaper of general circulation in the City.

This ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the City Council on September 8, 2026, and the second reading occurred at the regular meeting of the City Council on _____, 2026.

On a motion by Councilmember _____ seconded by Councilmember _____, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Folsom, State of California, this ____ day of _____, 2026, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s):

NOES: Councilmember(s):
ABSENT: Councilmember(s):
ABSTAIN: Councilmember(s):

Justin Raithel, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK