



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 26-07
March 26, 2026
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 26-07: Community Engagement Plan for E-Bike Regulations in Parks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report. No action necessary.	

STAFF:	Amelia Tjaden, Management Analyst Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager Sam Harb, Parks Operation Manager
EXHIBITS:	1. E-Bike Regulations Community Engagement Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an overview and seek Commission feedback on the community engagement plan for developing e-bike regulations in parks and open spaces.

- Mercer Island has seen an increase in usage of e-bikes, electric scooters (e-scooters), and electric motorcycles/electric dirt bikes (e-motorcycles/e-dirt bikes) over the past two years.
- In November 2025, staff conducted a study session with the PRC and the OSCT to discuss regulations for e-bikes and e-scooters in parks and open spaces on the Island ([PRC 25-17](#)). The PRC and OSCT met again in January 2026 requested more information be provided and that staff engage the community more broadly on potential regulations.
- As such, the City will conduct a comprehensive outreach campaign to engage the community on the development of e-bike regulations. The purpose of this agenda item is to share the community engagement plan for developing e-bike regulations and to solicit Commissioner feedback.
- The community engagement plan will include online and in-person engagement opportunities, posts on social media and in the MI Weekly, as well as, engagement through other City-distributed newsletters.
- Staff will return in Fall 2026 to present findings from the community engagement efforts and restart the development of e-bike regulations in parks and open spaces.

BACKGROUND

Mercer Island has seen an increase in usage of electric bikes (e-bikes), electric scooters (e-scooters), and electric motorcycles/electric dirt bikes (e-motorcycles/e-dirt bikes) over the past two years. Many of the riders are 12-15 years of age and often demonstrate unsafe riding behaviors, creating a danger to themselves and others.

On May 2025, the City Council amended the 2025-2026 Work Plan to include the development of an ordinance regulating the operation of e-bikes and e-motorcycles on the Island ([AB 6688](#)). The following actions have been taken thus far:

- In September 2025, the Mercer Island City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25C-24 establishing regulations for e-motorcycles ([AB 6772](#)).
- In November 2025, staff conducted a study session with the PRC and the OSCT to discuss regulations for e-bikes and e-scooters in parks and open spaces on the Island ([PRC 25-17](#)).

- In January 2026, staff conducted a study session with the PRC and the OSCT to discuss a proposed policy for e-bike regulations in parks and open spaces. As a result of this meeting, the PRC and the OSCT requested more information be provided and that staff engage the community more broadly on potential regulations.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Per the direction of the PRC, the City will conduct a comprehensive outreach campaign to engage the community on the development of e-bike regulations. The purpose of this agenda item is to share the community engagement plan for developing e-bike regulations and to solicit Commissioner feedback.

Exhibit 1 provides an overview of the Community Engagement Plan. In short, the plan includes:

- Let's Talk page with information about the development of e-bike regulations.
- An online survey to collect data on the community's use of the City's park and trail system, the operation of e-bikes, and perceptions of proposed regulations. The questions will largely follow the 2022 statewide survey on [E-Bike Use on DNR- and WDFW-Managed Lands](#).
- In person engagement opportunities at ~5 events, dependent on Commissioner and staff availability.
- Promotion on social media, the MI Weekly, and other City-distributed newsletters

Commissioner Input

Staff is seeking Commissioner feedback on the topics addressed in the community engagement plan.

Discussion questions for the meeting include:

- What information do Commissioners need from the community to develop regulations for e-bikes?
- Are there specific populations Commissioners would like staff to engage with?
- Are there other opportunities for engagement Commissioners would like to see?

NEXT STEPS

Upon receiving Commissioner input, staff will create materials for the community engagement campaign. Staff anticipate that the Let's Talk page and survey will go live in early April. Staff will then broadcast this information on City social media pages, in the MI Weekly, and in other City-distributed newsletters. Finally, staff and Commissioners will attend in-person events through the spring and summer to engage directly with community members.

Staff will return in Fall 2026 to present findings from the community engagement efforts and restart the development of e-bike regulations in parks and open spaces.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report. No action necessary.