



Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	September 3, 2026
Agenda Item:	Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Bicycle Helmet Requirements for Children Under Age 16.
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Kevin Boehm, kboehm@whitewater-wi.gov , 262-473-0122

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

A member of the Common Council requested that the City consider the creation of an ordinance requiring children under the age of sixteen (16) to wear a protective helmet while operating or riding bicycles, electric bicycles, electric scooters, skateboards, scooters, roller skates, in-line skates, and similar recreational devices within the City of Whitewater. The proposed requirement was presented to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board at its August 19, 2026 meeting for initial review and discussion.

At its August 19, 2026 meeting, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board discussed the proposed helmet requirement and recommended that the matter be forwarded to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission. The Board recommended requiring individuals under the age of sixteen (16) to wear a helmet while operating or riding electric bicycles, electric scooters, and similar electric or motorized recreational devices.

The original proposal contemplated applying the requirement on public roadways, sidewalks, bicycle paths, park trails, and other public rights-of-way within the City. Helmets would be required to be properly fitted and fastened and meet recognized national safety standards.

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission is being asked to review the proposed helmet requirement and the recommendation of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a recommendation to the Common Council regarding whether the City should establish a helmet requirement for individuals under the age of sixteen (16), including which devices should be subject to the requirement.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

August 19, 2026 – Park and Recreation Advisory Board:

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed helmet requirement for individuals under age sixteen (16). The Board recommended forwarding the matter to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission with a recommendation to require helmets for individuals under age sixteen (16) while operating or riding electric bicycles, electric scooters, and similar electric or motorized recreational devices.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission review the proposed helmet requirement and the recommendation of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a recommendation to the Common Council regarding whether individuals under the age of sixteen (16)

should be required to wear a helmet while operating or riding electric bicycles, electric scooters, and similar electric or motorized recreational devices within the City of Whitewater.

If the Commission recommends moving forward, staff further recommends that the proposed ordinance language be reviewed by the City Attorney and Police Department prior to consideration by the Common Council.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)
