



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

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Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

August 26, 2025

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles; Hon. Heather Hutt, Councilmember, CD 10;
Hon. Traci Park, Councilmember, CD 11; Hon. Nithya Raman, Councilmember, CD 4;
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilmember, CD 5

Via email to all the above

Re: Request to Revise LAMC Section 56.15 - Ban E-bikes on Sidewalks & Boardwalks

Dear Mayor Bass and Councilmembers Hutt, Park, Raman and Yaroslavsky:

As you know, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition, founded in 2009, of all fourteen neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, located in Districts 5 and 11 and portions of Districts 4 and 10. Collectively, WRAC's Member Councils represent over 500,000 Angelenos.

WRAC's Member Councils are very concerned about injuries resulting from accidents and collisions occurring or potentially occurring between pedestrians and electric vehicles (e-bikes) on sidewalks and boardwalks on the Westside of Los Angeles. Commentary indicates that injuries from pedestrian collisions with e-bikes is on the rise.¹ Our Members also note the lack of a clear prohibition on riding such vehicles on sidewalks in the L.A. Municipal Code, making enforcement difficult or impossible. In contrast with Los Angeles, several Southern California cities have passed ordinances expressly banning e-bikes from riding on sidewalks, including the cities of Santa Monica, Inglewood, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Manhattan Beach.

As a result, a majority of our Member Councils have passed the following motion, or modified versions in keeping with its spirit, which is an adopted position of WRAC:

"The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) supports banning all classes of e-bicycles (e-bikes) from riding on a sidewalk or a boardwalk in the City of Los Angeles, to address serious public safety concerns and reports of rising accidents, injuries and deaths from collisions between e-bikes and pedestrians.

"To accomplish this objective, WRAC supports the Los Angeles City Council passing, and the Mayor approving, an ordinance updating Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 56.15.

"BICYCLE RIDING – SIDEWALKS to read (additions in *italics/underlined*):

"1. No person shall ride, operate or use a bicycle, unicycle, skateboard, cart, wagon, wheelchair, roller skates, or any other device moved exclusively by human power, on a sidewalk, bikeway or boardwalk in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. (Amended by Ord. No. 166,189, Eff. 10/7/90.) *No person shall*

¹See: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2950105925000051> and <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/crashes-involving-teens-on-ebikes-scooters-on-the-rise-in-southern-california/>

ride, operate or use any class of electric bicycle (e-bike) on a sidewalk or boardwalk in the City of Los Angeles. (Amended by a new Ordinance passed by the LA City Council.)

“2. No person shall ride, operate or use a bicycle, electric bicycle (e-bike) or unicycle on Ocean Front Walk between Marine Street and Via Marina within the City of Los Angeles, except that bicycle, electric bicycle (e-bike) or unicycle riding shall be permitted along the bicycle path adjacent to Ocean Front Walk between Marine Street and Washington Boulevard. (Amended by Ord. No. 153,474, Eff. 4/12/80.) (Amended by a new Ordinance passed by the LA City Council.)

“3. No person shall operate on a beach bicycle path, or on an area of a beach which is set aside for bicycle, electric bicycle (e-bike) or unicycle use, any bicycle, electric bicycle (e-bike) or tricycle which provides for side-by-side seating thereon or which has affixed thereto any attachment or appendage which protrudes from the side of the bicycle, electric bicycle (e-bike) or tricycle and is used or designed to carry another person or persons thereon. (Amended by a new Ordinance passed by the LA City Council.)

“WRAC further requests that Councilmembers representing WRAC member councils (Park, Yaroslavsky, Hutt and/or Raman) bring a motion in Council requesting amendment of Municipal Code Sec. 56.15 as set forth above.”

The above motion, or modified versions in keeping with its spirit, has been passed by the following WRAC Member Councils: Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC, Brentwood CC,* Del Rey NC,* NC Westchester/Playa,* Pacific Palisades CC,* Venice NC, West LA-Sawtelle NC, Westside NC, Westwood NC* (*modified versions²). No WRAC Member Councils have opposed this motion.

For all these reasons, we urge the Mayor to propose to the City Council and/or to support a measure to ban e-bikes from sidewalks and boardwalks, and for Councilmembers representing WRAC Member Councils (Hutt, Park, Raman and/or Yaroslavsky) to bring the requested motion in Council to amend LAMC Sec. 56.15 to ban e-bikes from sidewalks and boardwalks in Los Angeles.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz

Robin Greenberg, Chair and Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

² In their modified versions, Member Councils called for a ban on riding e-bikes on sidewalks to be included in the Municipal Code, without specifying exact proposed revisions to LAMC Sec. 56.15 (as above), with some also calling for enforcement of the proposed ban by LAPD and/or for enforcement of rider age limits (Brentwood CC, Pacific Palisades CC and/or Westwood NC).