



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Gustavo J. Romo, Deputy City Manager
DATE: October 21, 2025
SUBJECT: Public Hearing: Introduction and First Reading of Helmet Ordinance

Description: Consideration of ordinance requiring the use of protective helmets for operators and passengers of all human-powered vehicles and electric-assisted devices including, but not limited to, electric bicycles (“e-bikes”), electric scooters, traditional bicycles, unicycles, segways, nonmotorized scooters, skateboards, in-line skates, and roller skates.

Background and Analysis:

On September 2, 2025, staff presented a discussion item on this topic to the City Council with the option of including only electric-assisted devices or all human-powered vehicles, including non-motorized. The Council elected to include all human-powered devices.

The popularity of human-powered and electric-assisted devices including, but not limited to, e-bikes, e-scooters, skateboards, etcetera, has been on the rise. Although these popular devices provide an affordable, environmentally friendly, and convenient alternative to traditional vehicles, their growing use has been accompanied by increased hospital visits, reports of traffic collisions, sidewalk injuries (including traumatic brain injuries), and unsafe riding behaviors, particularly involving individuals not wearing protective gear.

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) classifies e-bikes into three categories (Class 1, 2, and 3) under Section 312.5. CVC Section 21213 requires helmets only for Class 3 operators of all ages. CVC Section 21212 provides that a person under 18 years of age may not operate a bicycle, nonmotorized scooter, skateboard, nor wear in-line or roller skates without a helmet. However, cities are permitted to enact stricter local ordinances to protect the public health, safety, and welfare under what is commonly referred to as the City’s “police power” (Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution). The courts have routinely upheld the ability of local governments to impose stricter safety standards where state law is silent or permissive, where the regulations do not conflict

with existing state law, or when the state does not seek to fully occupy the field of regulations in a particular area.

If enacted, the ordinance would be an exercise of the City's police power to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The City Council, therefore, has the authority to discuss extending the protective helmet safety requirements to all operators and passengers of human-powered and electric-assisted devices, including bicycles, nonmotorized scooters, skateboards, in-line skates, roller skates, electric bicycles, and electric mobility devices, regardless of age.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost to prepare this staff report is estimated at \$750.

Recommended Action:

Hold a public hearing;

Waive the first full reading and approve by title only, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Beaumont, California, Adding Chapter 10.35 – Use of Protective Helmets for Operators of Human-Powered and Electric-Assisted Devices, to the Beaumont Municipal Code".

Attachments:

- A. Ordinance
- B. Legal Ad