



E-BIKE SAFETY

Traffic Safety Commission

City of Chula Vista

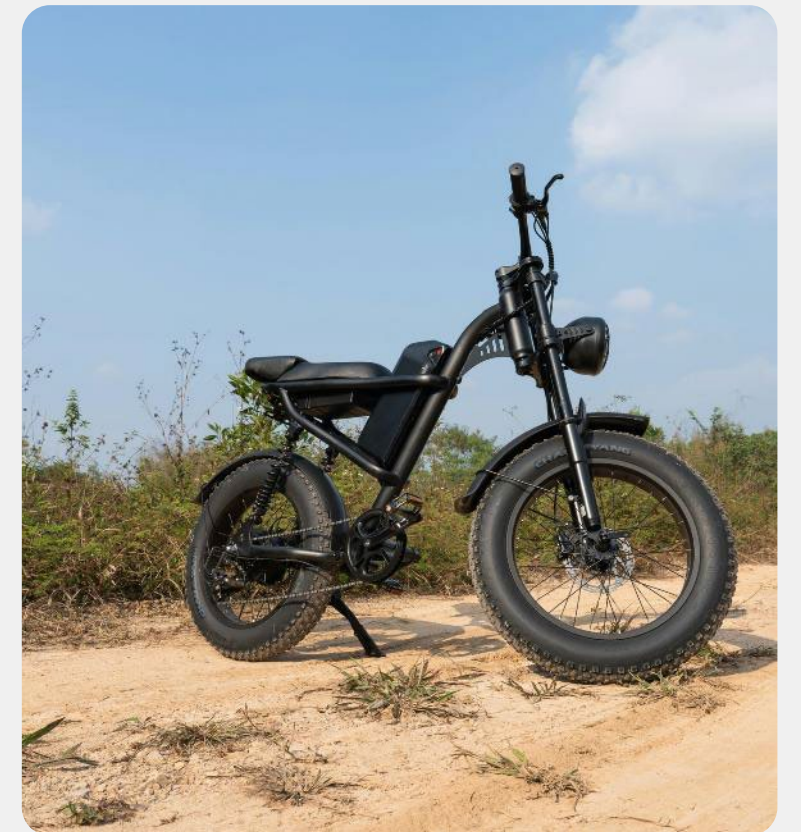
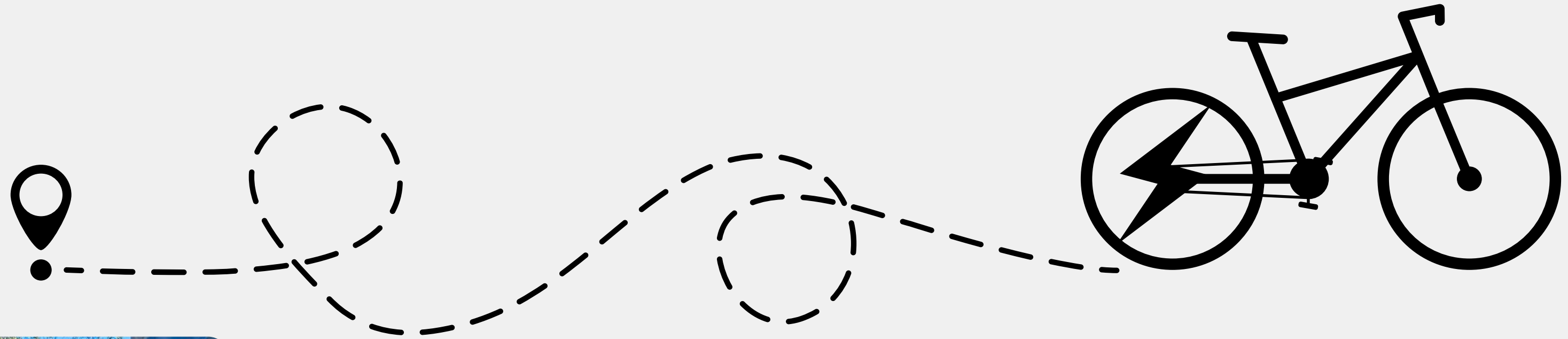
Electric Micromobility Vehicle Ordinance

April 9, 2026



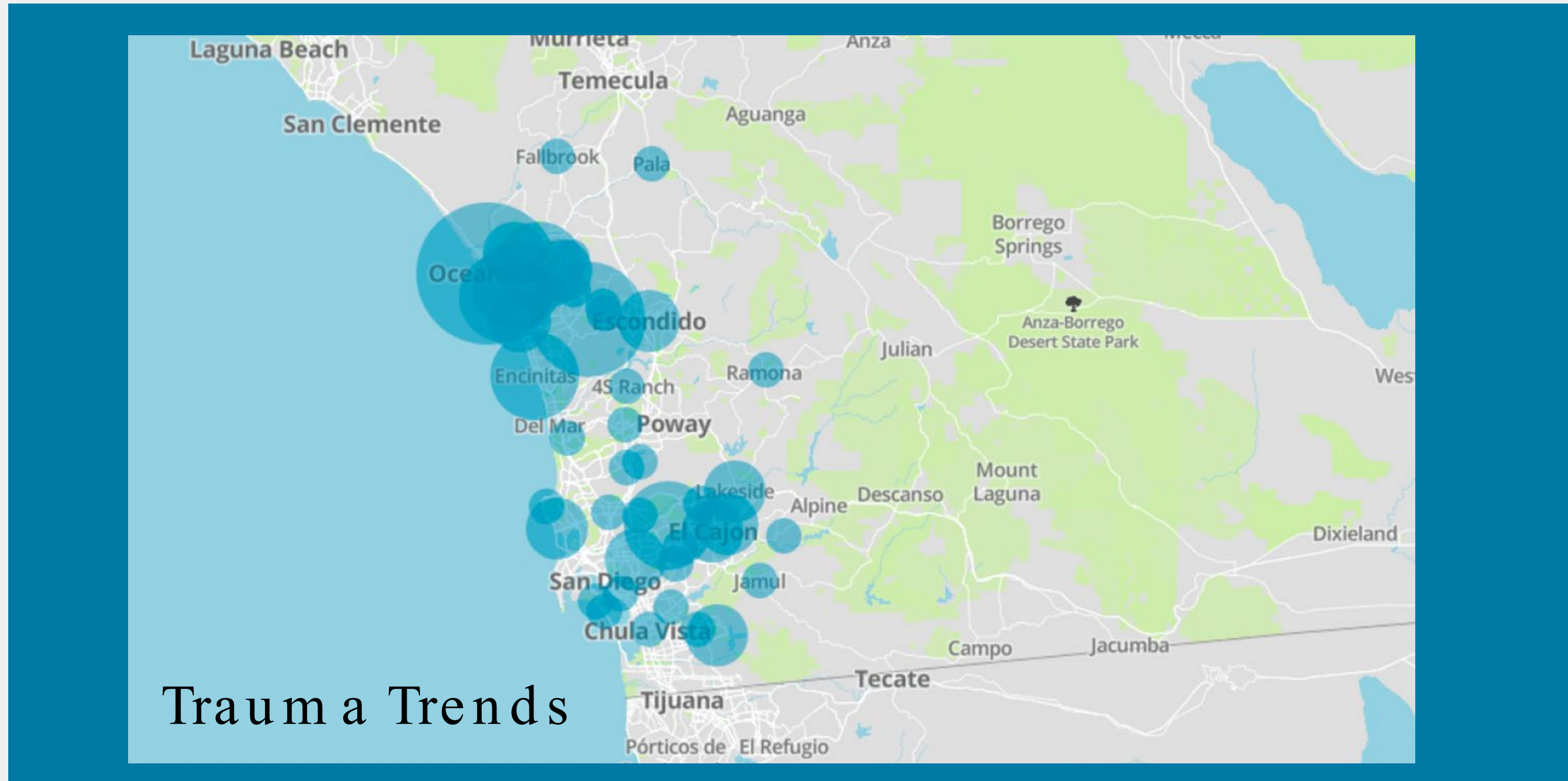
CITY OF
CHULA VISTA





Electric Bike Accidents

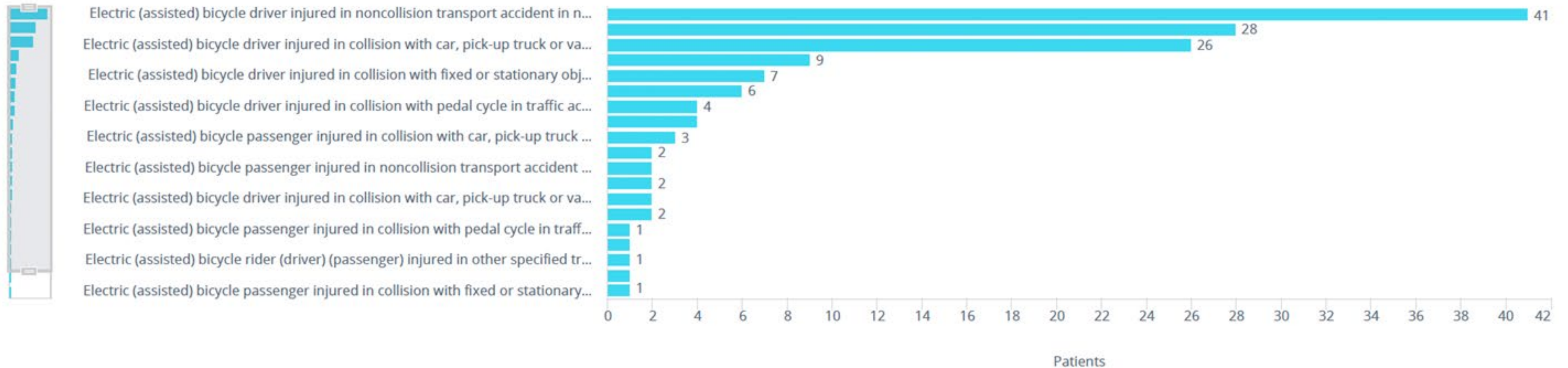
Rady Children's Hospital Data



Electric Bike Accidents

Rady Children's Hospital Data

E-Code Distribution






0% progress

Map

Modules

- ① What is an E Bike? 11 min
- ② Maintaining Your E Bike 7 min
- ③ Safety Equipment 7 min
- ④ 5 Need to Know Principles 8 min
- ⑤ Rules of the Road 10 min
- ⑥ In Case of a Collision 5 min
- ⑦ Teen & Parent Awareness 6 min
- ⑧ Closing Video 9 min
- ⑨ Test



Why E -bike Safety is Important



E-Bike Popularity & Risks

- E-bikes reach 20–28 mph—much faster than traditional bikes
- Children under 12 often lack the coordination, judgment, and reflexes for safe riding
- A 10-year-old on an e-bike is essentially piloting a motorized vehicle, not a toy



Why E -bike Safety is Important



Physical & Cognitive Limits

- Kids are still developing motor skills and decision-making abilities
- E-bikes are heavier, accelerate quickly, and require advanced handling
- Even with helmets, crashes at e-bike speeds cause serious injuries



Why E -bike Safety is Important



Common Injuries

- **Head trauma** : concussions, skull fractures, traumatic brain injury
- **Broken bones** : wrists, arms, collar bones, legs, spine
- **Internal injuries** : abdominal trauma, internal bleeding
- **Facial injuries** : dental damage, eye trauma, facial fractures
- Road rash and soft-tissue injuries



Why E -bike Safety is Important



Why Kids Are Vulnerable

- Weaker, developing bones break more easily
- Smaller size means they're easily thrown off bikes
- Underdeveloped reflexes and poor hazard judgment increase risks



Why E -bike Safety is Important



Bottom Line

- E-bikes are not safe for children under 12
- High speeds and serious injury risks outweigh the benefits
- Pediatricians, trauma surgeons, and road safety experts strongly advise against e-bike use for young children



E-bike Basics



What is an Electric Micromobility Vehicle?

- Electric micromobility vehicles, such as electric bicycles (e-bikes) and motorized scooters have a battery-powered motor.
- There are three classifications or types of e-bikes.
- An e-bike is equipped with fully operable pedals and a battery-powered motor that does not exceed 750 watts of power.
- All E-bikes must have functional pedals.
If there are no functional pedals, it is an E-Motorcycle.



E-bike Basics

Class 1 E-Bike



- ✔ Pedal-assist only
- ✔ Bike with electric motor only engages while operator/rider is pedaling
- ✔ Max Speed 20 MPH

Class 2 E-Bike



- ✔ Motor assists when pedaling or by throttle
- ✔ Bike with electric motor can be engaged at anytime with or without operator/rider pedaling
- ✔ Max Speed 20 MPH

Class 3 E-Bike



- ✔ Pedal-assist only
- ✔ Bike with electric motor only engages while operator/rider is pedaling
- ✔ Max Speed 28 MPH

E-bike Basics



Motorized Scooters

- ✓ A self-propelled vehicle, typically with two wheels, that is powered by an electric motor
- ✓ Max speed of 15 MPH
- ✓ Driver License/Learner's Permit required
- ✓ Under 18 years old must wear a helmet

New City Regulations

While California State Law provides regulations for micromobility vehicles, the City of Chula Vista is introducing local updates to improve safety for riders and pedestrians, while continuing to encourage recreation and active transportation.

WHAT HAS CHANGED ?

Regulations	California State Law	Chula Vista New Ordinance
Minimum age to operate/ride Class 1 & 2 e-bikes	No restrictions	Must be at least 12 years old
Transporting passengers	No restrictions	Must be at least 18 years old
Sidewalk operations for Class 1 & 2 e -bikes	Allowed	Prohibited in business districts & as signed
Sidewalk operations for Class 3 e -bike	Allowed	Prohibited

WHAT IS NOT CHANGING ?

Existing California State Law Regulations – Remaining in Effect in Chula Vista
ADA exemptions continue to apply.
Motorized scooters may not be used to transport passengers or operated on sidewalks.
Helmets are required for riders under 18 on Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes.
Helmets are required for all riders on Class 3 e -bikes.




New State Law

Assembly Bill 2234

- Cities & Unincorporated County in San Diego County
- 12+ Years Old for Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes
- 60 Day Warning Period, then \$25 Fine
- Parents/Guardians Liable for Violations by Minors
- 30-Day Minimum Public Information Campaign
- Ends January 1, 2029



CA Vehicle Code: E -Bike Classes

Current Laws:			
	Motor	Helmet Required	Operator Age
Class 1 E-bike	Pedaling Needed Shuts off at 20 MPH	Under 18 years	All
Class 2 E -bike	Pedaling Optional (Throttle)Shuts off at 20 MPH	Under 18 years	All
Class 3 E -bike	Pedaling Needed Shuts off at 28 MPH	All	16+ years

New Electric Micromobility Rules

Chula Vista's Ordinance

- Adds Definitions to Chapter 10.08
- Consolidates rules in Chapter 5.67
- Adds rules in Chapter 10.73 (Electric Micromobility Vehicles)



New Electric Micromobility Rules

Passengers

- 18+ years old to operate with passengers and electric bicycle passengers need to ride on a seat for passengers

Exemptions

- Disabled people using a motorized device for mobility or similar
- Public Agency Personnel while performing their official duties



Where Riding is Prohibited

DON'T Ride On:

- Sidewalks in a business district or where restrictions are posted (same as existing regulations for bicycles)
- All sidewalks for Class 3 electric bicycles and motorized scooters
- Motorized scooters outside of designated bike lanes on roads posted 40 mph or more
- Motorized scooters operating faster than 15 mph
- Motorized scooters without a valid Driver's License or Permit
- City-owned Parking Structures unless passing through or going to a parking space
- Any paths, trails, or courts in City parks unless posted that it is allowed (existing rule)

Parking Rules

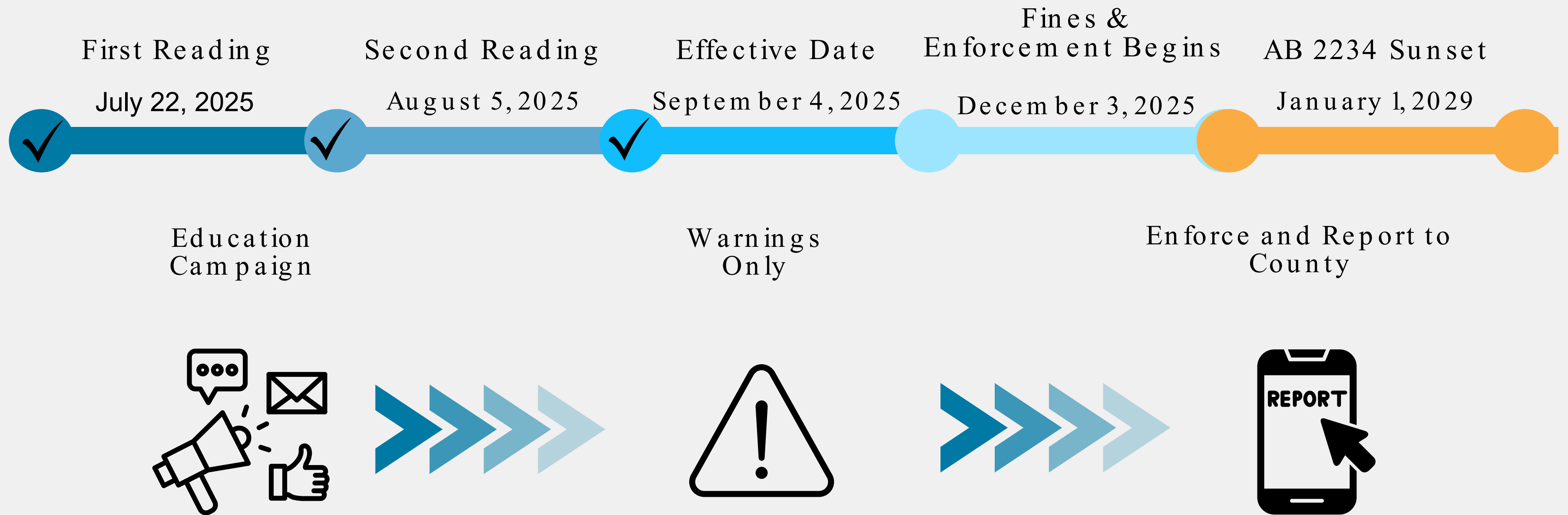
DO Park:

- In designated areas with signage or markings and anywhere not stated below that doesn't block pedestrians
- Vehicle in upright position

DON'T Park in:

- Landscaped areas with grass, shrubs, or other vegetation (landscaped parkways by sidewalks)
- Areas with signage or markings restricting parking
- Sidewalks within:
 - 10 feet of a curb ramp or driveway
 - 15 feet of a crosswalk
 - 10 feet of curb at a bus stop, loading zone or ADA parking space
 - 5 feet of street furniture requiring pedestrian access (benches)
 - A transit platform or waiting area

Timeline



Violations

Operating Class 1 or Class 2 E -bike underage (less than 12)

\$25 Fine

OR

Complete Electric Bicycle Safety and Training Program

All other Violations

1st Infraction

\$50

2nd Infraction

\$100

3rd Infraction

\$250

- ➔ Parents or legal guardians of an unemancipated minor that violates the chapter are also liable for payment of the fine.
- ➔ If an electric micromobility vehicle owner is not present or can not be present after a violation in a reasonable amount of time, the vehicle can be confiscated and stored at owner's expense
- ➔ Ordinance provides for impounding of an electric micromobility vehicle for up to 30 days

Road Rules



21200CVC – Bicycle Riders have the same rights and requirements as motor vehicle drivers.

- 21200CVC – Bicycle Riders have the same rights and requirements as motor vehicle drivers.
- Follow Traffic Signals
- Obey Speed Limits
- Stop at Stop Signs
- Ride on Right Side of Road

21200.5CVC – Impaired Riding

- Convictions for those under 21 may result in Driver's License Suspension

- 21208CVC – Bicyclists traveling slower than traffic must use the Bike Lane
- 21960CVC – Cannot ride on Freeways
- 27400CVC – Cannot ride with headphones or earplugs in both ears.
- 21203CVC – Cannot “hitch on” to a moving vehicle.
- 21205CVC – Cannot carry items that prevent them from keeping one hand on the handlebar
- 21950CVC – Must yield right of way to pedestrians within crosswalks (marked and unmarked)

Road Rules



E-Motorcycles:

- Motorcycle License/Permit required to operate on the road – violations subject to 30-day impound.
- Registration Required to operate on the road – violations subject to impound.
- Must have helmet, insurance, and all required equipment to operate.
- Turn signals, head and tail lights, reflectors, etc.



E-BIKE SAFETY



QUESTIONS?

