



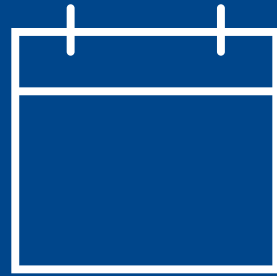
Gearing up for stricter e-bike laws: A playbook for cities

League of California Cities
Annual Conference & Expo
Sept. 24, 2026

TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Background
- Recent legislation and a regional pilot program
- Local ordinance informed by data
- Phased implementation
- What's next

BACKGROUND



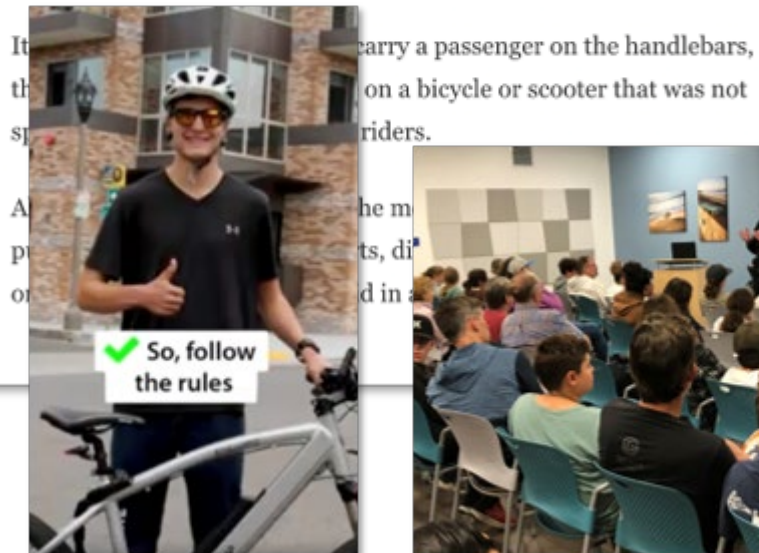
PREVIOUS E-BIKE LAWS

The San Diego Union-Tribune

New e-bike rules take effect in Carlsbad

BY PHIL DIEHL
MAY 7, 2022 5 AM PT

CARLSBAD — New laws intended to rein in the rapid increase of accidents involving electric bicycles, scooters and other motorized mobility devices took effect Thursday in Carlsbad.



- First e-bike ordinance in San Diego County in spring 2022
- Increased enforcement
- Public education efforts



THE COAST NEWS GROUP

THE COAST NEWS | THE INLAND EDITION

NS ▾ EVENT CALENDAR LEGAL NOTICES ▾ SPECIAL SECTIONS ▾ DIGITAL EDITIONS SUPPORT



City of Carlsbad to review State of Emergency declared for bike and e-bike safety



If the council ratifies the emergency declaration, it would then need to be reviewed by the council until it ends the state of emergency



The San Diego Union-Tribune

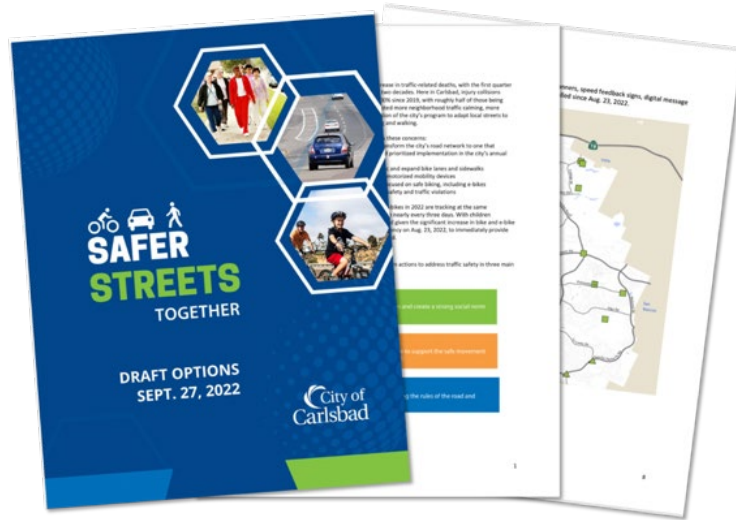
Carlsbad declares local emergency after increase in bicycle collisions, fatalities



A cyclist rides north on Carlsbad Boulevard near Encina Avenue. (Phil Diehl / The San Diego Union-Tribune)



SAFER STREETS TOGETHER PLAN



EDUCATION

Raise awareness of traffic safety rules and create a strong social norm around traffic safety behaviors.



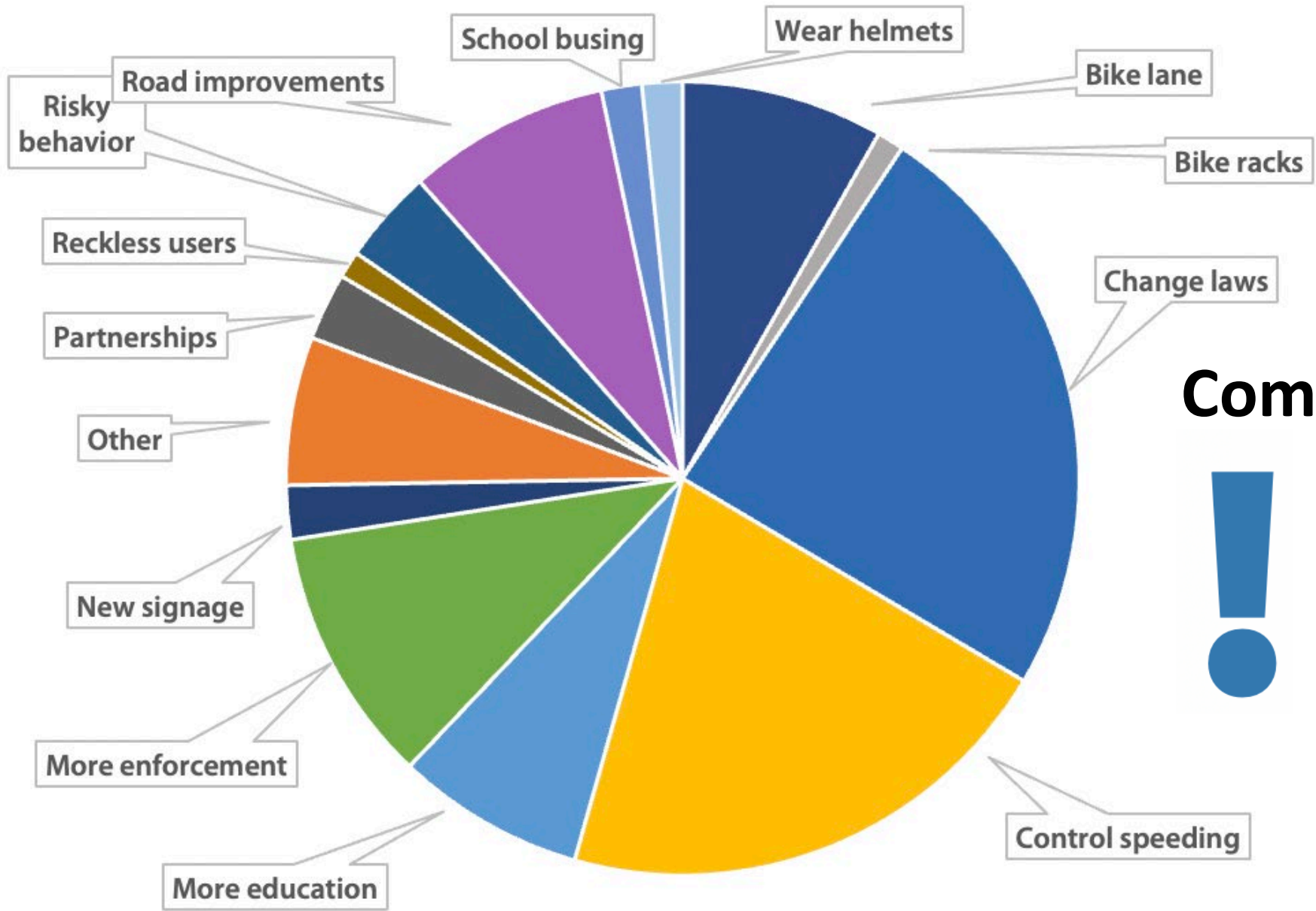
ENGINEERING

Design roads and other infrastructure to support the safe movement of people through all modes of travel.



ENFORCEMENT

Hold all users accountable for following the rules of the road and engaging in safe behaviors.



Community input



Change laws

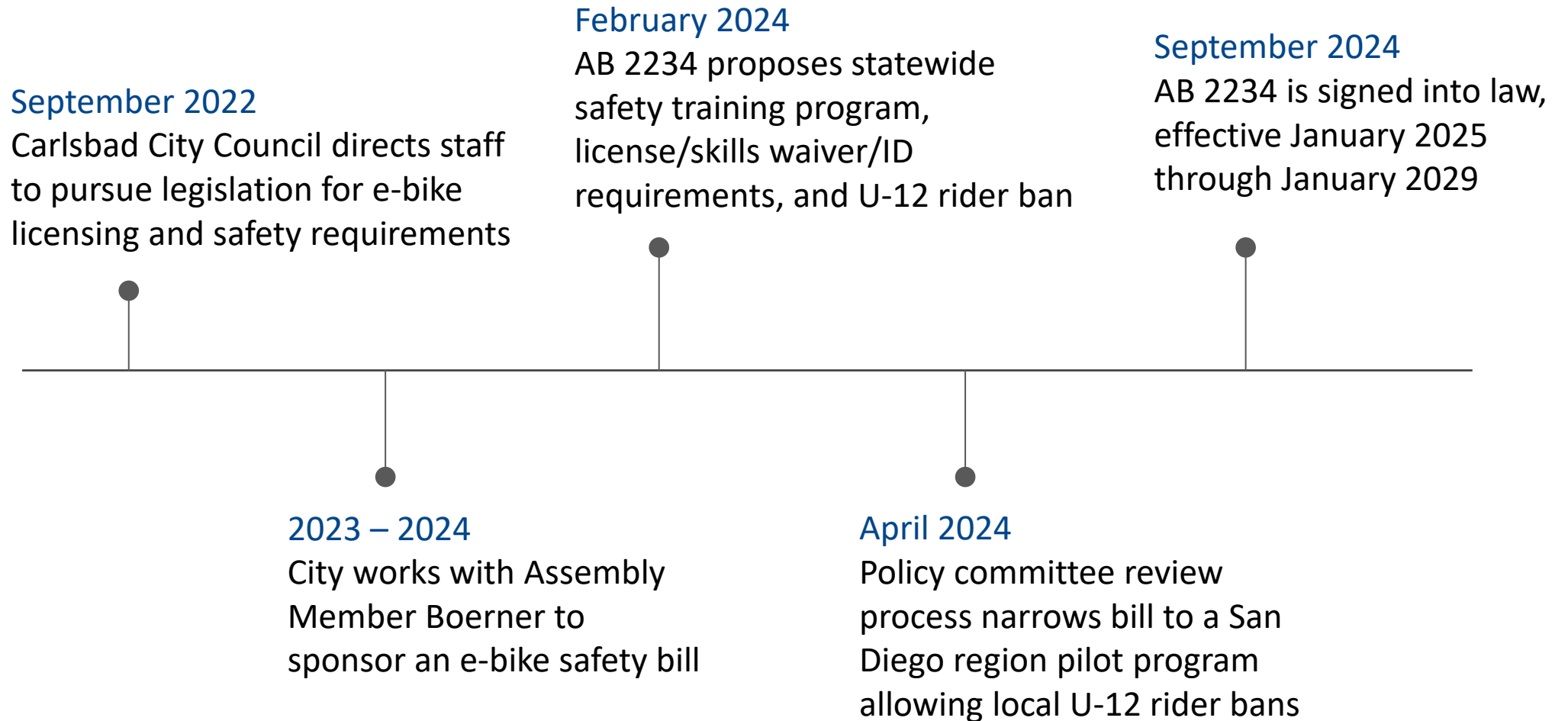
Require licenses

Set a minimum age

RECENT LEGISLATION AND A REGIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

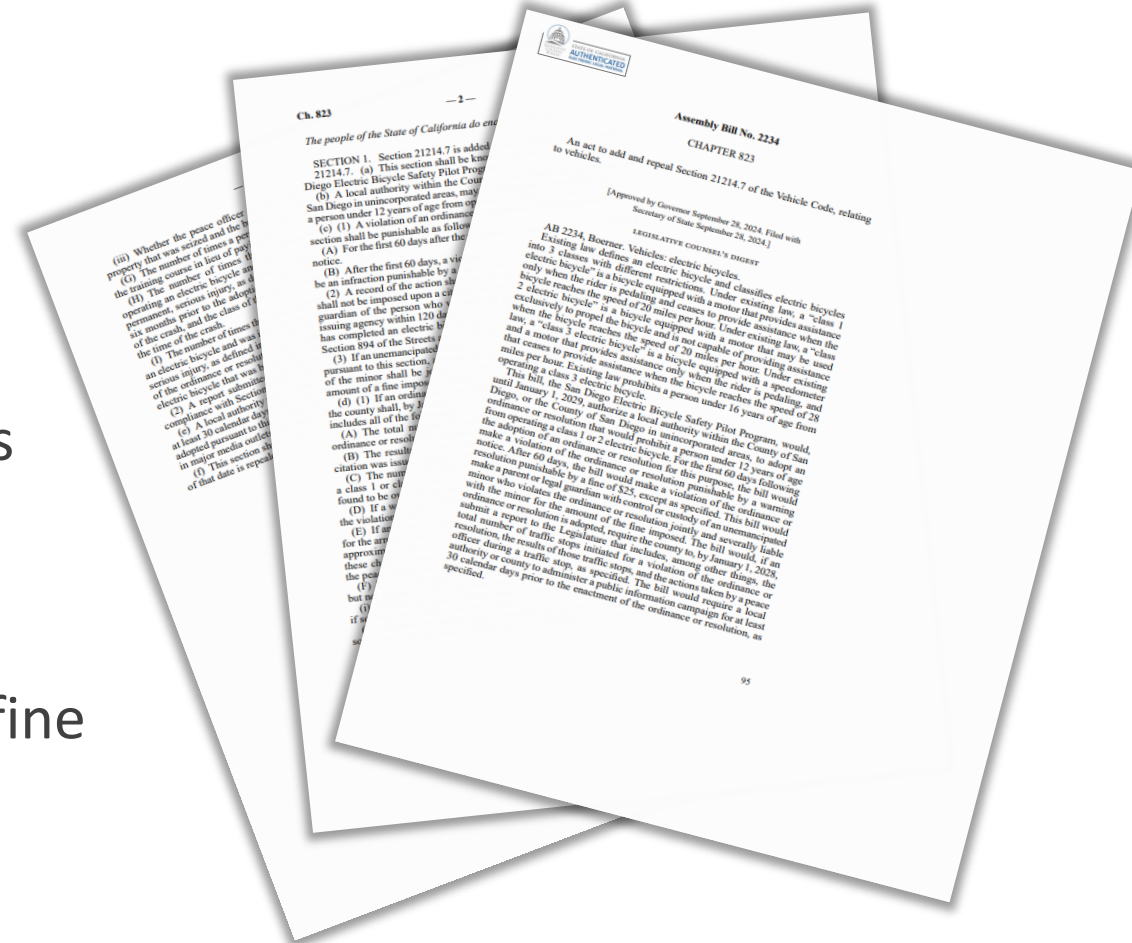


BACKGROUND



ASSEMBLY BILL 2234

- All San Diego County agencies authorized to adopt the pilot program
- Allows agencies to prohibit people younger than 12 from riding Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes
- Requires 30-day public information campaign
- 60-day warning period, then implementation
- Opportunity to take a class instead of paying fine
- Parents/guardians liable for violations
- Pilot program sunsets January 1, 2029



DEVELOPING A NEW ORDINANCE



BUILDING THE TEAM



City Attorney's Office
Police Department
Intergovernmental Affairs
Transportation
Communication &
Engagement

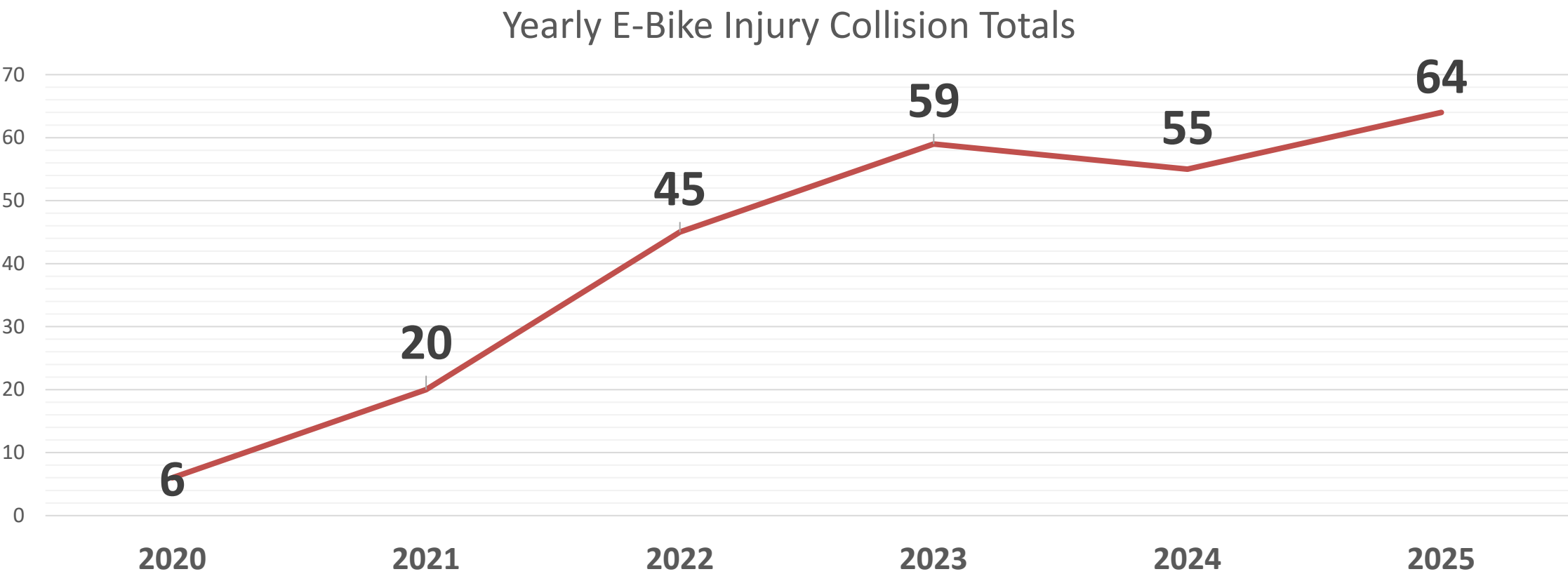


City Council
City & Schools Committee
Legislative Subcommittee
Transportation Commission



School districts
Mobility groups
Interested community
members

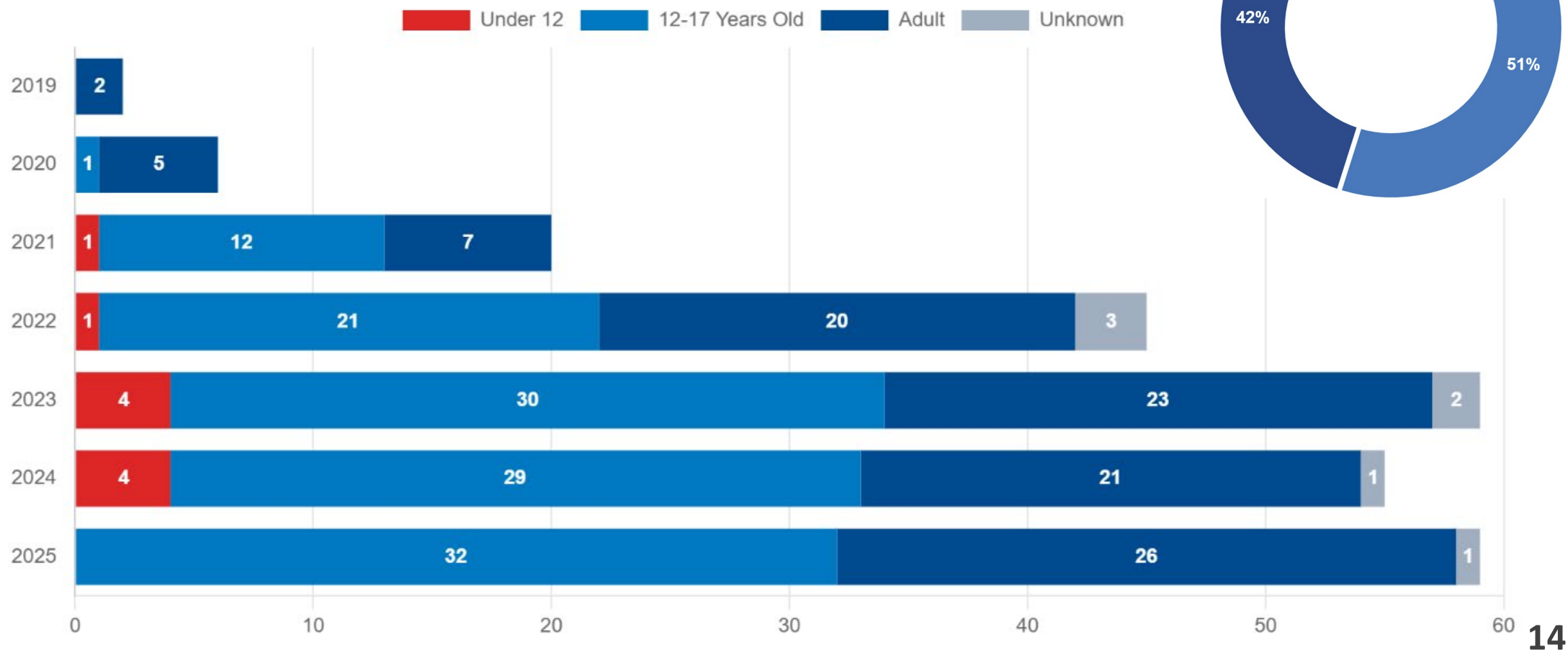
E-BIKE COLLISION DATA



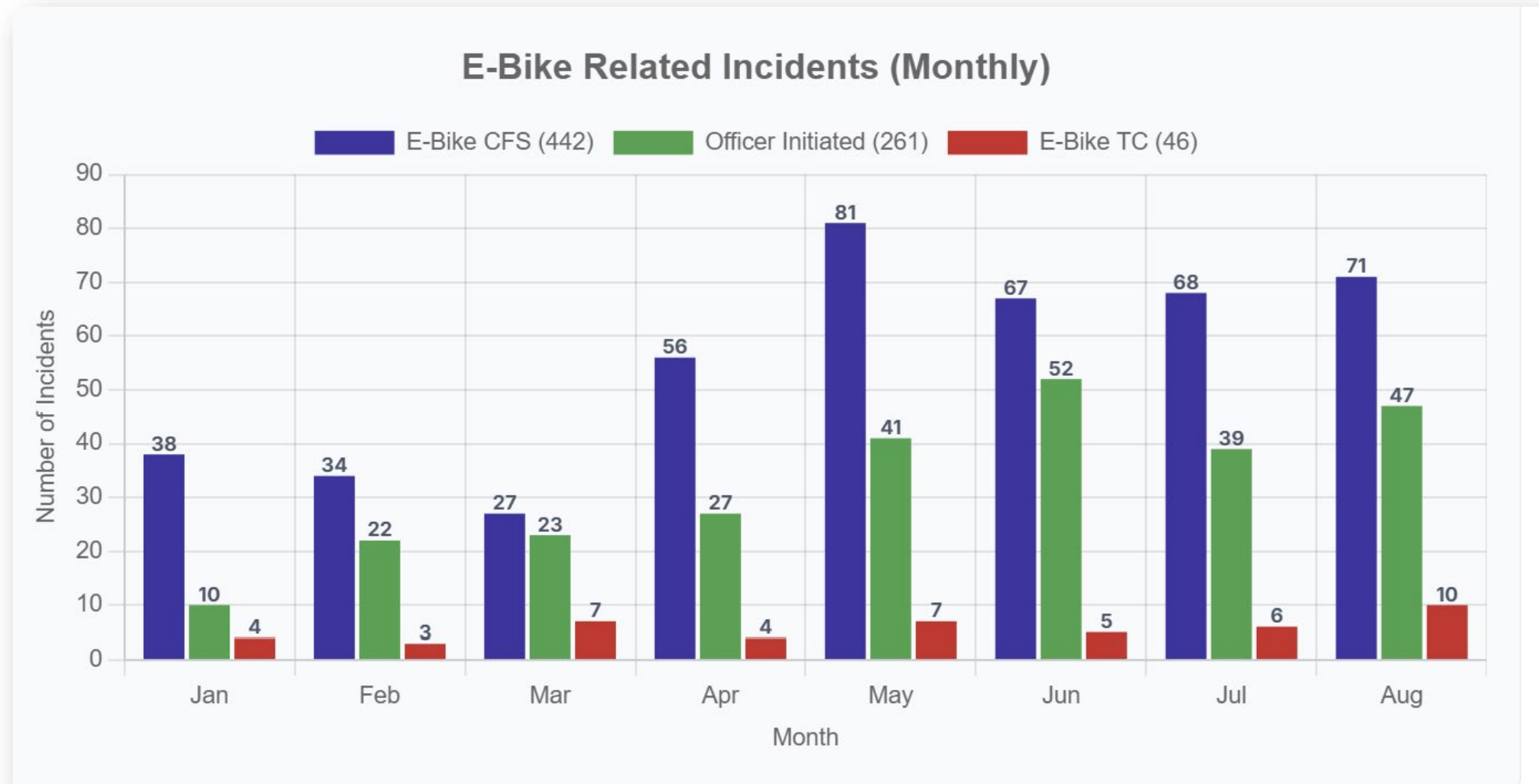
E-BIKE COLLISION DATA

Detailed Yearly E-Bike Injury Breakdown by Age

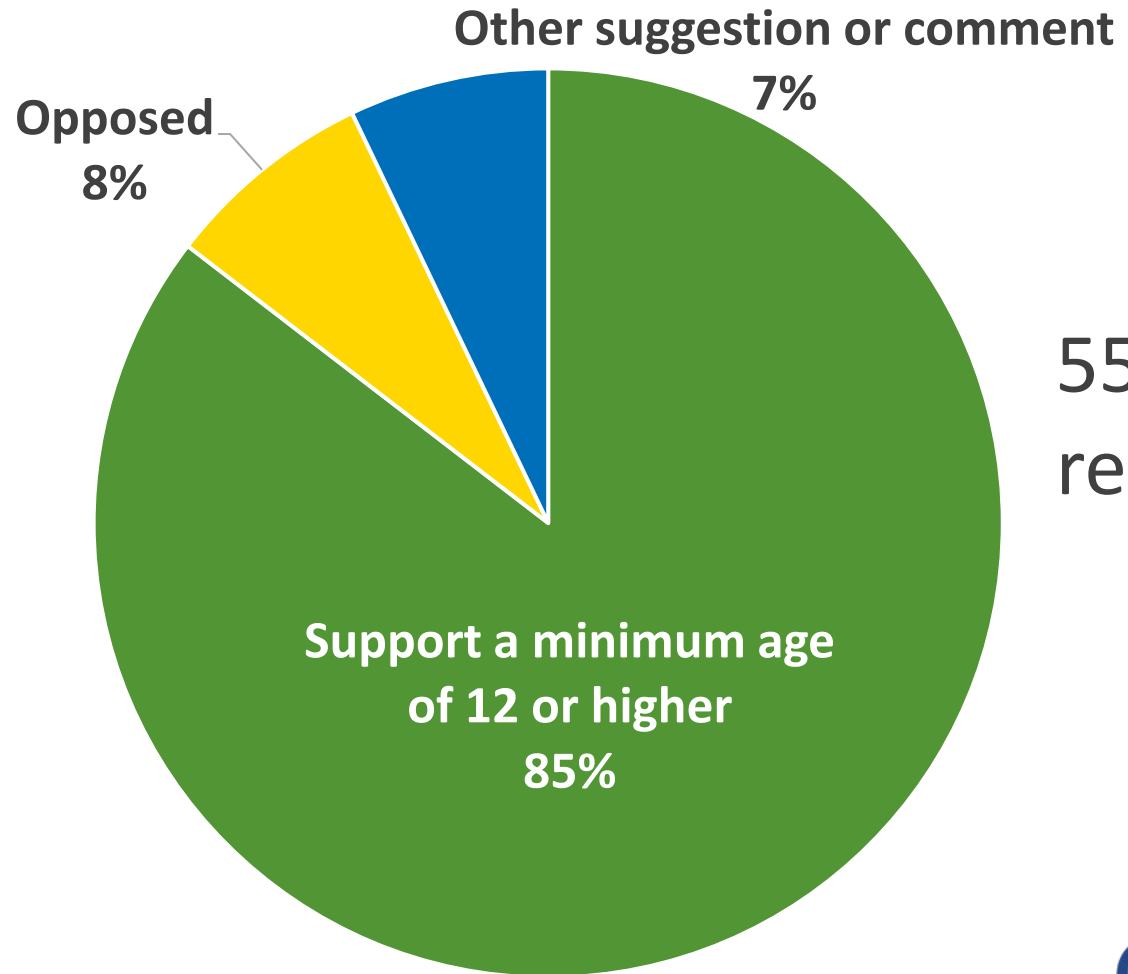
This chart breaks down 246 collisions by age group for each year through Oct. 31, 2025.



ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY (2025)



COMMUNITY INPUT



550 emails
received

COMMUNITY INPUT

Several comments also shared support for measures beyond the scope of AB 2234, including:



Rider licensing or education (29%)



Minimum age higher than 12 (35%)

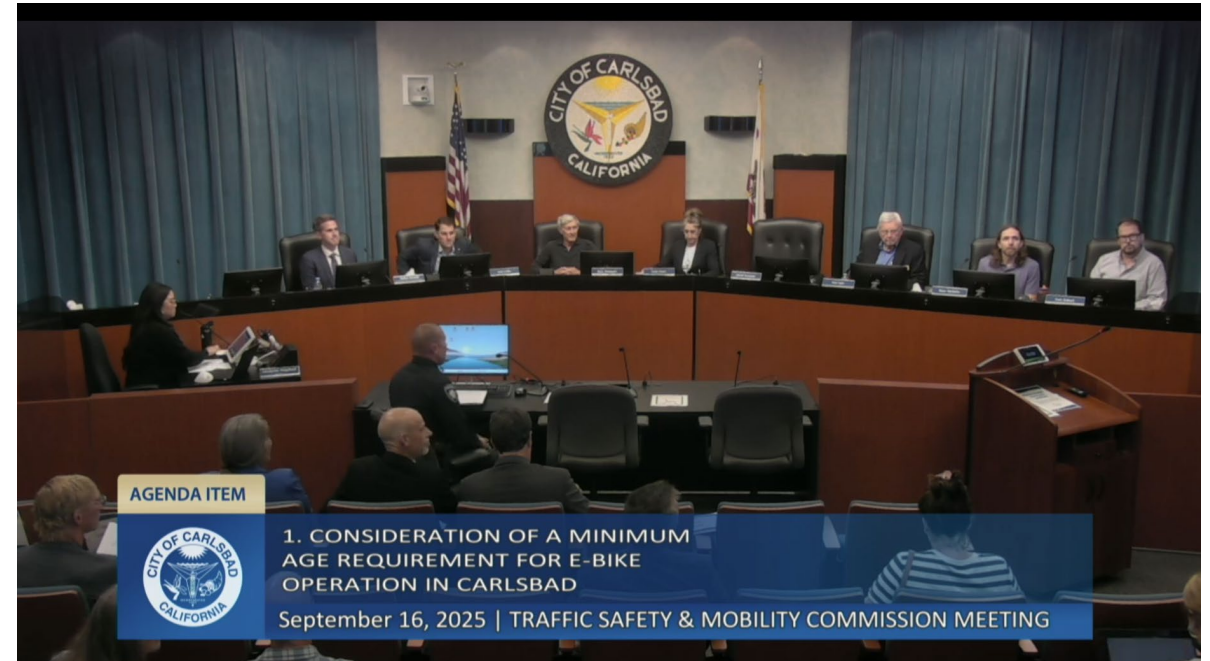


Other additional requirements (21%)

TRAFFIC SAFETY & MOBILITY COMMISSION

Recommendations

- Adopt AB 2234
- Pursue legislation adding Carlsbad to the authority found in AB 1778
- Adopt an ordinance prohibiting e-bike riders under 16 from carrying passengers



EVALUATING PREVIOUS REGULATIONS

- Analyzed existing laws
- Reviewed commission recommendations and existing state law
- Identified potential gaps
- Analyzed risks
- Additional considerations



ORDINANCE SUMMARY

Modernized Regulations

- Updated definitions aligned with state law
- Clearly identified unsafe riding behaviors

Minimum Age Framework (AB 2234 Pilot)

- Under-12 prohibition for Class 1 & 2 e-bikes
- Education-based enforcement with parental accountability

Targeted Enforcement Tools

- Authority to impound e-bikes when there is an immediate safety risk to a minor rider
- Administrative cost recovery for state-authorized impounds

Park Safety Measures

- E-bike prohibition in Pine and Poinsettia Community Parks
- Preserves pedestrian access and recreational use

PHASED INTRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION



TIMELINE

March 25, 2025

City Council directed the Traffic Safety & Mobility Commission to seek public input on prohibiting e-bike riding under age 12

Sep. 16, 2025

Special commission meeting scheduled to avoid busy back-to-school season

Ongoing

Safety reminders and community engagement

July 29, 2025

Council directed staff to develop enhanced e-bike enforcement recommendations in addition to minimum age

Dec. 2, 2025

City Council received update and commission feedback before school winter breaks

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

February 24, 2026

- Ordinance adopted
- 30-Day public information campaign
- launched on Feb. 25, 2026

May 25, 2026 (Memorial Day)

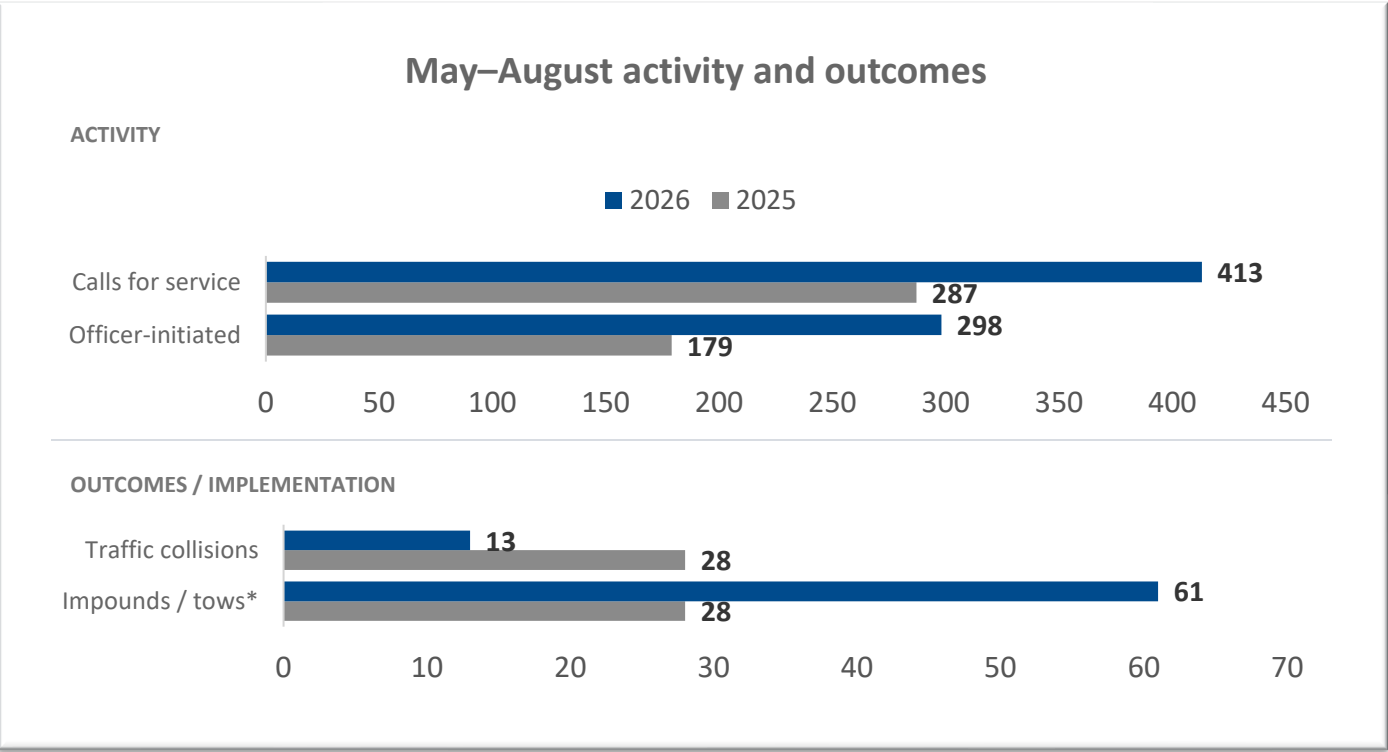
- Standard enforcement began after the warning period concludes



March 26, 2026

- Effective Date & 60-Day Warning Period
Ordinance became effective after the outreach phase
- Officers focus on awareness, education and safety guidance
- Spring break season

SUMMER PRE/POST RESULTS



May to August 2025 vs. 2026

- **+44% calls for service**
287 → 413
- **+66% officer-initiated activity**
179 → 298
- **–54% traffic collisions**
28 → 13
- **61 impounds in 2026**
Expanded ordinance authority

**Not directly comparable. The 2025 figure covers illegal e-motorcycles only; the 2026 figure also includes e-bike impounds.*

WHAT'S NEXT



LEGISLATION IN THE WORKS

- AB 1569 (Davies): CDE/CHP to develop student e-bike safety training program by March 2028
- AB 1614 (Dixon): Prohibits riders and passengers on a bicycle without a separate dedicated seat upon a Class I bikeway
- AB 2346 (Wilson): Speedometer (class 2) and front/rear lights required (January 2029), class/speed disclosures, local speed limit authority
- AB 2595 (Pappan): San Mateo E-Bike Safety Pilot Program, U-12 rider ban
- SB 1167 (Blakespear): Prohibits marketing of non-compliant vehicles as e-bikes

ONGOING EFFORTS



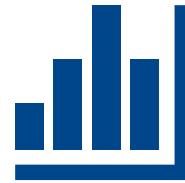
Community
outreach



Reporting
portal



Enforcement



Data
analysis



Legislative
advocacy



Constant
feedback loop



Thank you