



## MEMO

TO: City Council

FROM: Mark Goodman, Chief of Police

DATE: February 18, 2026

RE: Proposed Amendments to City Code – Sidewalk Use and Pedestrian Safety

Use of bicycles and electric mobility devices has grown significantly within the city, particularly along arterial roadways where vehicle speeds are higher and bicycle infrastructure is limited. Officers frequently observe riders choosing sidewalks over traffic lanes due to perceived safety risks. At the same time, unsafe pedestrian behavior, such as mid-block crossings between signalized intersections and standing in medians or travel lanes, have increased the potential for vehicle collisions. Current City Code relies on broad prohibitions that are difficult to enforce consistently and do not distinguish between cautious behavior and unsafe conduct.

The proposed amendments modernize the code by shifting from location-based prohibitions to behavior-based safety standards. The revisions would designate sidewalks as multiuse paths and allow bicycles and certain low-power electric devices to operate on sidewalks, provided they travel at reasonable speeds, yield to pedestrians, and operate in a careful manner. Gas-powered devices would remain prohibited. The amendments also clarify that pedestrians must use crosswalks or signalized intersections where available, prohibit crossing between adjacent controlled intersections, and restrict standing or remaining in vehicular travel lanes or non-designated medians except when actively crossing.

These changes are intended to reduce exposure to high-speed traffic, promote predictable roadway behavior, and provide officers with clear, articulable enforcement standards focused on unsafe actions rather than technical violations. Overall, the amendments provide a balanced, safety-focused framework that reflects current mobility trends and responds to community concerns while improving traffic safety throughout the city.

Staff recommends approval to move forward with amendments to City Code addressing sidewalk use by bicycles and electric mobility devices, pedestrian roadway crossings, and pedestrian presence in travel lanes. These proposed updates are intended to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists while addressing practical enforcement challenges created by increased use of e-bikes, scooters, and similar devices.