

Moore, Tania

From: Fikes, Cathy
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:48 PM
To: Agenda Alerts
Subject: FW: Ebike path closure

-----Original Message-----

From: cganvan@gmail.com <cganvan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:23 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Ebike path closure

City council members,

I'm writing to you to state my objection to the bike path closure to Ebikes. I'm a below knee amputee and I get extreme enjoyment of riding my Ebike alone the bike path. I'm very limited to walking and riding a standard bike. Please don't take this enjoyment from me, I lost a lot already! Please reconsider this decision.

Thank you,

Huntington Beach resident

Charles Gangitano

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 3/1/2021
Agenda Item No.: 8 (21-179)

Moore, Tania

From: christopher.j.varga@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:28 AM
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: CC Mtg 3/1/21 - Agenda Item 8

I am writing in regards to Agenda Item 8. E-Bike Enforcement Practices on the Beach Pedestrian Path.

I would like to support enforcement of existing laws on the bike path including speed enforcement and no motorized bikes, skateboards, scooters, etc. We don't need new laws, we just need enforcement on laws already on the books. I utilize the bike path every day for either a non-motorized bike ride or walking. The proliferation of electric bike and their speed is out of control. On the weekend you are risking serious injury. People are going way to fast and trying the thread a needle trying to avoid others. Accidents waiting to happen and actually happening. My wife got struck by one that didn't even stop, just kept going. I question people that say they need the motor for whatever reason. If this is the case, well maybe they also shouldn't risk balancing on two wheels. If you can't pedal power it, maybe it's time to give it up. The problem has been bad for some time and it is only get worse as the popularity of these bikes continues to grow. Enforcement is needed.

Chris Varga
508 18th St,
HB, CA 92648

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 3/1/2021

Agenda Item No.: 8 (21-179)

Moore, Tania

From: Fikes, Cathy
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:36 PM
To: Agenda Alerts
Subject: FW: Agenda Item #8 E-Bike Enforcement Practices on the Beach Path

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

From: Vikki Farnsworth <my2dawgz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:17 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Agenda Item #8 E-Bike Enforcement Practices on the Beach Path

Meeting Date: 3/1/2021

Agenda Item No.: 8 (21-179)

Dear City Council,

The purpose of my comment is to request that the City Council not prohibit e-bikes on our beach boardwalk.

As parents and grandparents, we were absolutely heartbroken to hear of the beach path accident between a 3-yr. old boy and a bike rider. Our prayers are with this little boy and his family and we pray for full healing!! As a community, we need to do everything we can to ensure this doesn't happen again. However, I think prohibiting e-recreational activity (I'm assuming it includes e-skateboards, e-scooters, the one-wheel things, etc as well as bikes) is not the answer. If we want to completely protect our pedestrians, we would also need to prohibit anything with wheels, i.e all types and sizes of traditional bicycles and scooters.

My husband and I are in our mid-sixties and while it's very hard to admit, we are just not as agile as we used to be. When we purchased our pedal-assist e-bikes almost a year ago, it allowed us to experience again the joy of riding bikes from our HB home down to our beautiful city beach path. If you've ever ridden west on a breezy afternoon, you'll understand how a strong headwind can make you feel your age in a hurry and pedal-assist bikes have been a blessing to our outdoor lifestyle☺. We have always tried to be very cognizant of our responsibility to share the beach boardwalk with others along the Huntington/Newport Beach path. Maintaining the 10-m.p.h. speed limit, riding single file, not weaving in-between pedestrians/other bikes, and stopping for pedestrians so they can cross the path from the parking lot to the beach are just of the few "bicycle safety" rules the majority of our fellow pedal-assist owners follow.

It is hard not to notice that there are always those few who abuse the responsibility of sharing the path with others however. This is true of traditional bicycle riders, pedal-assist bike riders and pedestrians alike. Folks on their traditional beach cruisers or long-distance bicycles are quite often passing us as we travel along the beach path. Pedestrians often walk 4+ people across on the path blocking the flow of traffic. Folks have their dogs on a long leash and they are running back and forth across the path (as dogs love to do). And yes, there are pedal-assist bike riders who abuse the privilege as well. If one were to sit anywhere along the path and watch folks go by, one notices that people of all ages on all types of "moving things" are guilty, but the majority of us follow the "rules of the road."

Riding and walking on our boardwalk is a privilege and a safety responsibility all users of the path need to share and be aware of. Perhaps our city could launch a public safety awareness program much like we did with COVID. Several more of the type of units identifying how fast anything with wheels goes would be an excellent

reminder. We might also consider speed limiters on any e-bike rentals, and/or perhaps identifying pedestrian cross walks from the parking lot to the sand where foot traffic has the right of way?

I ask you please not to prohibit beach path activity for those of us that follow "beach safety" protocols. I just know there is a way we can all share our beautiful beach path safely together.

Thank you so very much!!

Vikki Farnsworth

Moore, Tania

From: Fikes, Cathy
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Agenda Alerts
Subject: FW: ELECTRIC BIKES

-----Original Message-----

From: Craig Bradford <cbradford343@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 8:44 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: ELECTRIC BIKES

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 3/1/2021

Agenda Item No.: 8(21)-179

Council Members,

I delivered two letters to each of you at city hall with no response so I will email you now with hopes I will get a response.

My name is Craig Bradford and I have been a proud resident of HB for nearly 30 years. I have coached in the community for 12 of those years with SHB fast pitch softball, AYSO Region 143 and NHB Futbol Club. At times I coached up to 4 teams a year. In addition, I was the HB High boys basketball booster president. I recently retired from the fire dept after 33 years of service. I have put a lot into this city and plan on being here for years to come.

I have revived a flyer that states that electric bikes will be banned on the bike paths. I strongly urge you to reconsider. My friends and I that range from the ages of 50-80 ride our electric bikes to the beach nearly every day. We ride in a safe manner. I invite any of you to com sit with us at the bottom of pier plaza to get a better perspective. It is NOT the bikes that are the problem, but the rider.

I have seen erratic bike riding by people on electric and non-electric bikes as well. Last summer I witnessed a guy on a road (non-electric) bike it a pedestrian. Once agai not the bike, but the rider. I have road bikes pass me every day I am down there.

If this law passes you will be pushing us up on PCH and in the parking lot from th south. Are you going to remove the metered parking on PCH and add a bike path? Or will you take the chance of adding more fatalities and bad accidents on PCH? I have seen numerous accidents with cars not paying attention and pulling into parking spots, opening doors and abruptly stopping.

What about businesses? Zacks at the beach recently purchased over 20 electric bikes to rent. This IS NOT very business friendly, especially after being hit by the pandemic. My friends and I routinely visit the dining establishments on Main Street. Part of the allure is riding our bikes down th bike path before enjoying or food and/or drinks. Not allowing us to ride our electric bikes in a safe manner IS NOT very business friendly of you. As I stated, many in our group are older and require their electric bikes to get to the beach. You are taking away their ability to continue their lifestyle. That is just NOT right of you.

In addition, how many speeding violations did you give out in 2020? I suggest you start there. One suggestion is to keep the flashing lights on near the pier to remind riders of their speed. You can put a zigzag barrier there as well. These would be good reminders and I believe would be very effective.

In closing , I was a firefighter/paramedic for 33 years and am well aware of what can happen to pedestrians and bicyclists in accidents. You are crating a bigger problem by putting us up on PCH and in the parking lot. Also, with all due respect I have. A greater knowledge of what happens down on the bike path than each of you. My friends and I have spent a lot of time down there. I for one will continue riding my electric bike in a safe manner on the bike path. I strongly urge each of you to reconsider this. If not this is not the last you will hear from me and thousands of other residents.

Thank you for your time,

Craig Bradford
714 717-0837

Sent from my iPad

Moore, Tania

From: Fikes, Cathy
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Agenda Alerts
Subject: FW: Public Comments - HB City Council Meeting 1/Mar/2021 - Agenda Item 8
Attachments: 2021-03-01 Letter HB City Council - FA Varga Public Comments.pdf

From: Fran Varga <fgioia@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:53 AM
To: SupplementalComm@Surfcityhb.org; CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Cc: Fikes, Cathy <CFikes@surfcity-hb.org>; Slama, Chris <CSlama@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Public Comments - HB City Council Meeting 1/Mar/2021 - Agenda Item 8

Dear Mayor Carr and City Council of Huntington Beach,

I wish to express my concern for the lack of enforcement of the prohibition of motorized vehicles on the City beach bike path. I wish to support strong enforcement of the municipal code governing use of bike paths and offer my personal observations.

The path is overrun with e-bikes and other types of electric vehicles, and has become very unsafe for pedestrians and other bike riders. I was hit by an e-bike rider in January while I was running on the beach bike path near Seapoint, and I am still dealing with an elbow injury. There have been many other collisions and mishaps and it's only a matter of time for serious injuries or worse accidents.

Please see my detailed comments regarding the risks to public safety and liability in the attached letter in PDF format

Thank you and best regards,
Fran Varga
508 18th Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Email: fgioia@earthlink.net

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 3/1/2021

Agenda Item No.: 8(21-179)

Frances A. Varga
508 18th Street • Huntington Beach, CA 92648

01/March/2021 – Via Email

Regarding: City Council Meeting on 01/Mar/2021 - Council Agenda Item 8 -"E-Bike Enforcement Practices on the Beach Pedestrian Path"

Dear Mayor Carr and City Council,

I wish to express my concern regarding the current lack of enforcement of existing HB Municipal Code 10.84.270 - Vehicular Traffic in Bicycle Lanes or Paths. The code is explicit: **the only powered vehicles that should be allowed on the beach bike path are motorized wheelchairs for visitors who need them for mobility.**

So called e-bikes have become prevalent along the beach bike path, even though they are expressly prohibited by City Municipal Code. The e-bike riders are so numerous that they are becoming a menace and safety hazard to all who currently use the bike path, especially on weekends when the path is often very crowded.

I am on the beach bike path almost every day, and I often see many instances of e-bikes speeding in excess of 20 miles per hour, and with no regard for pedestrians and other bike riders. These e-bikes are very heavy, and their momentum and force are staggering. I know how heavy they are - I was hit by an e-bike six weeks ago while jogging on a Saturday afternoon in January. The rider did not stop to assist, and just kept going. His heavy bike at full speed did not even wobble. It felt like I was hit by a truck; it was a very painful injury to my elbow which took more than a month to abate and normal movement to return. I am still dealing with the effects of this injury and I was lucky that I did not break my arm. I know others who also have been hit by e-bikes.

There are also many other types of motorized vehicles commonly on the beach path, including powered skateboards, scooters, and large single wheeled conveyances with riders in full motorcycle suits. This situation is getting out of control and very dangerous. There are many young children who come to the beach with their families and are erratic in their movements and dart into the path suddenly. It's a disaster waiting to happen.

It is also astounding to me that the City allows commercial tenants along the bike path to make e-bikes and other powered vehicles available for rentals when these are expressly prohibited on the path by City code. Many of these rental bikes do not even have pedals.

HB Police and other public safety officials are aware of the problem and choose not to enforce the law regarding motorized vehicles on the path. I have often asked police officers patrolling the path to warn or cite e-bike riders who are posing a danger, but

Frances A. Varga
508 18th Street • Huntington Beach, CA 92648

they just shrug and give some excuse why they can't enforce the law. I even had one HBPD officer try to explain to me that e-bikes don't have motors because they are electric and have batteries, and are therefore allowed on the path. This is blatantly false on multiple levels – A: a battery powered vehicle has a motor for propulsion, and B: they are not permitted per municipal code.

This blatant disregard for our laws and the risks to the safety of beach path users must be stopped. Regardless of posted signs warning visitors that that they use the beach path at their own risk, our City has liability for injuries caused by e-bikes when it is proven that public officials are aware of the problems and there is willful lack of enforcement of city codes. If I am hit and injured again by an e-bike rider on the beach bike path, I would be within my rights to seek legal remedy against the City.

Joy riding is not a prescriptive use of the beach path. The purpose of the beach bike path is to provide maximum access to the beach and for the public to enjoy walking, jogging, cycling, or walking their dogs **AND TO GET SOME EXERCISE** in proximity to the beach **WITH THE SAFETY OF A PATHWAY THAT IS FREE OF MOTOR VEHICLES**. This is a matter of public safety, and we are all responsible for ensuring that the privilege of safe use of this amenity continues for all Huntington Beach residents and visitors, and that the proliferation of motorized vehicles on the beach bike path is ended.

Best Regards,



Mrs. Frances A. Varga
50818th Street
Huntington Beach, CA 38648
Email: fgioia@earthlink.net

Cc:

SupplementalComm@Surfcityhb.org	barbara.delgleize@surfcity-hb.org
City.Council@surfcity-hb.org	erik.peterson@surfcity-hb.org
Kim.Carr@surfcity-hb.org	mike.posey@surfcity-hb.org
Tito.Ortiz@surfcity-hb.org	Dan.Kalmick@surfcity-hb.org
CFikes@surfcity-hb.org	Natalie.Moser@surfcity-hb.org
cslama@surfcity-hb.org	

Moore, Tania

From: Steven C. Shepherd, Architect <steve@shepherdarchitects.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:49 PM
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: City Council Meeting Agenda Item #8: E-Bike Enforcement Practices on the Beach Pedestrian Path

Dear City Council & City Manager Chi -

Recently, there has been considerable discussion about the matter of Ebike on multi-use pathways both in Huntington Beach and in Newport Beach, and I appreciate having this issue elevated to the attention of City Manager Chi.

First, regardless of the mode of transportation, excessive speed is always going to present a danger. Whether we are discussing our streets and thoroughfares or the multi-use pathways along our beaches and the Santa Ana River Trail, the threat posed by excessive speed is very real.

However, to specifically target E-bikes by banning their use on multi-use pathways completely missed the point. It is not the mode of transportation that presents the danger, but rather the dangerously reckless behavior of the individual piloting the car, truck, bicycle, Ebike, skateboard, or scooter that is at fault. If we were to apply the ban of Ebikes on multi-use trail logic to our streets, we would be attempting to police our streets by banning vehicles rather than penalizing reckless individuals with citations.

The popularity of Ebikes has been slowly expanding for years and has recently exploded during the pandemic. Ebikes are responsible for encouraging thousands of new cyclists to take the cycling plunge and empowering those who have been unable to cycle due to physical limitations to finally experience the joy that is unique to a ride at the beach. Given our city's need to jump-start tourism in Huntington Beach, it would seem unwise to exclude a machine that literally transports people to our downtown.

While I strongly support public safety, an outright ban of Ebikes on our beach-front multi-use path is the wrong approach. The vigorous enforcement of speed limits and responsible bicycling is a far better course.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Steve Shepherd
Huntington Beach, Ca 92646

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 3/1/2021

Agenda Item No.: 8(21-179)

Moore, Tania

From: Fikes, Cathy
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Agenda Alerts
Subject: FW: E Bikes in parks

-----Original Message-----

From: steve engel <steve.w.engel@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:36 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: E Bikes in parks

Hello City Council,

When considering the usage of E-bikes on the beach pathways please consider the use of these electric vehicles on our walking paths in our parks. The bikes and scooters are too fast and powerful for our walking paths. We've seen way too many close calls with our children and elderly walkers.

Thank you for considering banning E-bikes from our park walking paths.

Thanks for everything!

Steve Engel

Sent from my iPhone

**SUPPLEMENTAL
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 3/1/2021

Agenda Item No.: 8(21-179)