

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner Laura Dominguez
DATE: February 3, 2025
TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE REGULATION OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES IN PUBLIC SPACES WITHIN THE CITY.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

Please place on the February 3, 2025 agenda a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee to discuss the regulation of electric bicycles in public spaces within the City and any supplemental regulations that may be necessary.

The City has implemented various regulations to ensure the safe and equitable use of public spaces, including those regarding electric bicycles. Presently, electric bicycles are prohibited on the Beachwalk, the Baywalk, sidewalks, and the interior pathways of certain parks. These measures aim to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and e-bike riders, address safety concerns, and maintain the peaceful enjoyment of public areas. However, with the growing popularity of electric bicycles, particularly among younger riders, there is increasing debate about whether additional regulations are necessary to further restrict their use in parks and other public spaces. To that end, I have received resident complaints concerning the reckless and careless usage of electric bicycles in various public spaces.

While electric bicycles and other micromobility options are often favored for their convenience, sustainability, and role in reducing vehicular (car) dependency and associated traffic congestion, their integration into public spaces is not without challenges. Younger riders, who may lack experience or adhere to safety practices, can inadvertently create dangerous situations for themselves and others, particularly in spaces where pedestrians and families gather. The potential for accidents underscores the need for careful consideration of potentially expanded restrictions in parks and other recreational areas. Striking a balance between promoting alternative transportation and protecting public safety requires thoughtful planning, including better enforcement of existing rules, public education on electric bicycle use, and the continued creation of designated riding zones to ensure harmonious coexistence in Miami Beach's shared spaces.

Accordingly, I would request that the City Administration be prepared at Committee to discuss the regulation of electric bicycles in public spaces within the City, along with any supplemental regulations that may be necessary to enhance the usability of the City's parks and public spaces, while maintaining a safe environment for all.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:
See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Office of Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Laura Dominguez
Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: PSNQLC - Regulation of Electric Bicycles in Public Spaces. (Dominguez/Bhatt)

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)