



Legislative Update: New Mobility Laws in 2023

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
FACILITIES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

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New Mobility Laws Enacted in 2023 AB 1909 is Groundbreaking



- Must cross intersections with cars
- Bicyclists required to register in some cities
- No motor vehicles allowed in a bicycle lane (e.g., e-bikes)

Bicycles previously had to follow the rules of the road for automobiles (vehicular cycling)

- CVC §231 now states that an "electric bicycle is a bicycle" when it meets the following:
 - operable pedals
 - electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 horsepower)
 - falls into one of following 3 classes



New Definition for E-Bikes



Class 1: low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle

Class 2: low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle

Class 3: speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle

3 Classes of E-Bikes

- Other motorized vehicles (e.g., scooters, mopeds) must follow the laws established for automobile use
- Pedicabs can be considered electric bicycles, but local authority can impose operating or equipment requirements



Other Motorized Vehicles

1. Creates a Margin of Safety for Passing Vehicles

- Current 3-foot passing rule difficult to enforce
- New law drivers must pass bikes going into the next lane, if possible



OmniBike Bill Has 5 Components

2. Clarifies E-Bike Access on bikeways, bicycle lanes, equestrian trails, hiking trails and recreational trails

- Previous laws:
 - ❑ prohibited Class 3 e-bikes on all bicycle paths without posting signage
 - ❑ allowed prohibition of any class of e-bikes on any of these facilities with signage
- New laws:
 - ❑ e-bikes allowed to bike anywhere a bike is allowed unless a sign is posted
 - ❑ can prohibit Class 3 e-bikes on bikeways, bike paths, bike lanes with a posted sign
 - ❑ can prohibit any class of e-bikes on equestrian, hiking trail, or recreational trail



OmniBike Bill Has 5 Components (con't)

3. Walk Signals Are For Bikes Too

- Advance walk signals for pedestrians allows pedestrians to start crossing the street 3 to 7 seconds before cars are allowed to move
- Its now legal for bicyclists to start crossing the street during advanced walk phase
- Now the Caltrans default and will lead a trend in California



OmniBike Bill Has 5 Components (con't)

4. No More Bicycle Licensing Ordinances:

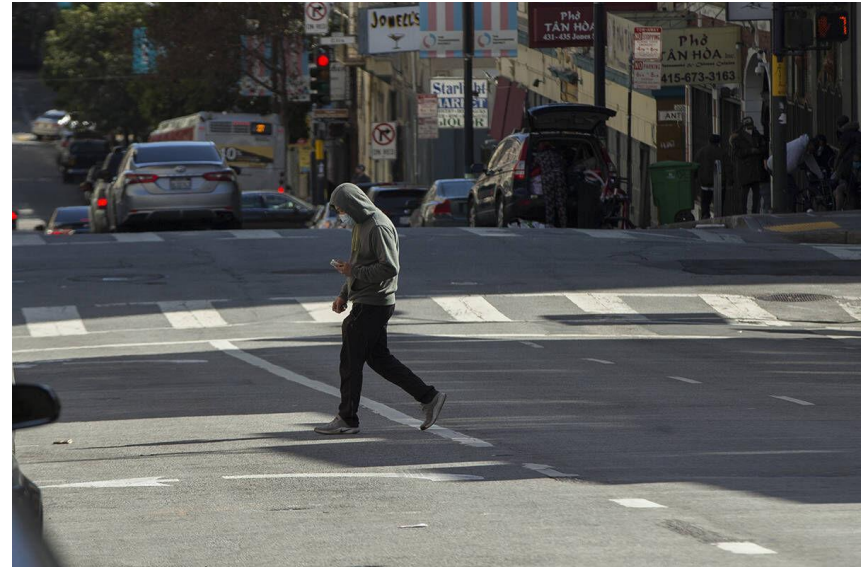
- previous ordinances required bike registration (or license)
- Many bicyclists rode illegally unaware of these laws
- Can no longer prohibit operation of unlicensed bike



OmniBike Bill Has 5 Components (con't)

5. Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing is allowed

- Police can no longer ticket midblock "jaywalking" when it's safe
- Can ticket "jaywalking" where there is immediate danger of crash



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Questions