



Legislative  
Update:  
New Mobility  
Laws in 2023

TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2, 2023



# 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 requires drivers to pass bikes going into the next lane, if available



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 (leading pedestrian interval) allows peds to start crossing the street 3-7 seconds before cars are allowed to move
- Its now legal for bicyclists to start crossing the street during advanced walk phase
- Now the Caltrans standard unless not allowed in CA MUTCD



OmniBike Bill Has 5 Components (con't)

## 4. No More Bicycle Licensing Ordinances:

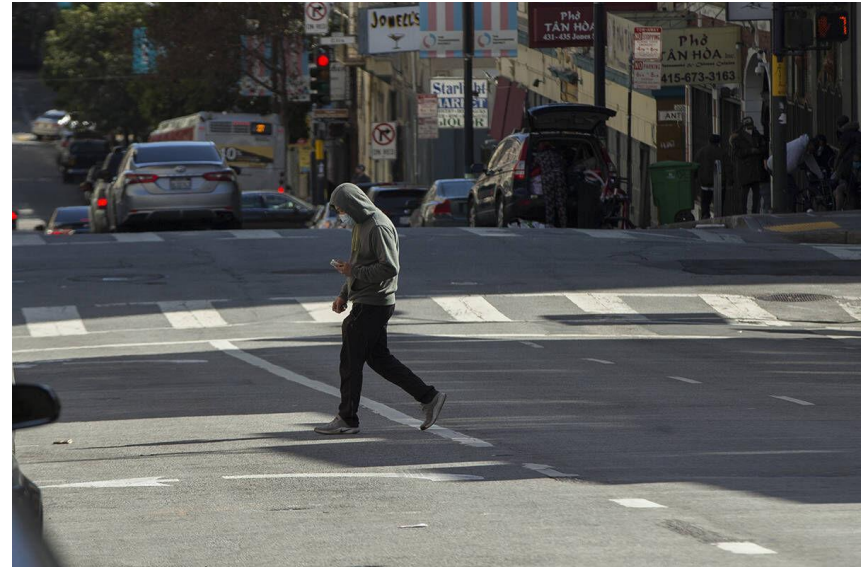
- previous ordinances required bike registration (or license)
- Many bicyclists rode illegally unaware of these laws
- Can no longer prohibit operation of unlicensed bike



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



OmniBike Bill Has 5 Components (con't)



# Questions