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TO: Citizens' Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)
FROM: Alex McKenzie, Associate Transportation Planner
RE: E-Bikes, E-Scooters and E-Motos - Community Discussion
DATE: Nov. 5, 2026

Electric bicycles (e-bikes), electric scooters (e-scooters), and electric motorcycles (e-motos) are becoming increasingly common on streets, trails, and in neighborhoods throughout the Saint Cloud area. These devices can provide additional transportation options, improve mobility, and offer new opportunities for recreation. However, their growing popularity has also raised questions about safety, appropriate use, and public understanding of existing laws.

One particular concern is the confusion between legal e-bikes and higher-powered electric motorcycles, often referred to as e-motos. Although these devices can look similar, they are subject to different laws and operating requirements. There are also important differences in the rules governing e-bikes and e-scooters, particularly regarding age requirements and where they may be operated.

The Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) is currently working on a public education and safety awareness campaign, with an emphasis on reaching students, parents, and caregivers through local schools. The APO is also participating in discussions with area cities and counties about potential regional approaches to e-bike and e-scooter safety, including whether more consistent local regulations may be beneficial. These conversations are ongoing, and no decisions have been made regarding a regional ordinance.

CTAC Discussion

At our upcoming meeting, we will explore the benefits, challenges, and community experiences associated with e-bikes, e-scooters, and e-motos.

The discussion will focus on several questions:

- **Benefits and opportunities:** How do these devices improve transportation choices, accessibility, independence, and recreation in our communities?
- **Community experiences and safety:** What concerns or challenges have members observed on local streets, trails, and near schools?
- **Education and awareness:** What information do residents need to better understand these devices, existing laws, and safe riding practices?
- **Public outreach:** How effective are the APO's proposed educational messages and social media graphics? How could they be improved or shared more widely?
- **Regional coordination:** What should local governments consider as they explore consistent approaches to education, safety, and potential regulations?

The meeting will include a brief overview of Minnesota laws, interactive Mentimeter questions, and opportunities for group discussion. Members will also be asked to review

examples of the APO's educational materials and provide feedback on their clarity and effectiveness.

Purpose of CTAC Input

The goal of this discussion is to better understand community perspectives and identify opportunities to improve education, safety, and regional coordination.

CTAC is not being asked to recommend or approve an ordinance. Instead, the discussion will help APO staff identify community concerns, consider the potential benefits and unintended consequences of different approaches, and determine what additional information or outreach may be needed.

APO staff will summarize the discussion and share key themes with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to help inform future regional transportation planning and coordination efforts.

No prior knowledge of e-bike or e-scooter laws is necessary. Members are encouraged to bring their experiences, observations, and perspectives to the conversation.